



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONFERENCE OF THE REGIONS OF  
EUROPE- **ENCORE**  
AND  
THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF  
CITIES WHERE LIVING IS EASY-  
**CITTASLOW**

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## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE OF THE REGIONS OF EUROPE- **ENCORE**

AND

THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF CITIES WHERE LIVING IS EASY- **CITTASLOW**

FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND FOR STRENGTHENING SUB-NATIONAL POLICIES WHICH ENCOURAGE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

### BACKGROUND:

The **Environmental Conference of the Regions of Europe**, from now on: **ENCORE**, is a political platform established in **1993** with the aim of gathering the highest level -below the national level- of political leaders in the field of environment within the **European Union**. The network allows to share and exchange experiences and good practices in environmental matters among the regions of Europe, as well as to exert collective influence on the formulation of EU environmental policy.

The **ENCORE** network meets biennially at high level **Conferences**, in which not only the political leaders of the European regions participate, but also the highest authorities of EU institutions and organizations. At technical level, the network holds two yearly meetings called **Steering Group** and, at political level, it organizes one yearly meeting called **Steering Committee**, gathering regional environment ministers of **ENCORE** regions.

By virtue of **ENCORE's** Terms of Reference, the network is co-chaired by the highest political leaders of the regions that have hosted the last **ENCORE** Conference and will host the next **ENCORE** Conference, respectively. Currently, these **Co-Presidents**, whose tasks are to manage, promote and represent **ENCORE** at political level, are:

- Tanja Klip-Martin, Minister for the Environment of the Dutch province of Drenthe (**ENCORE** period 2010-2014),
- Jarosław Słoma, Vice-Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship, Minister of the Polish province of Warmia and Mazury (**ENCORE** period 2008-2012).

In addition, **ENCORE** network counts with a permanent body, which ensures that work is done on a regular basis. This **General Secretariat** is currently run by the region of Aragon (Spain), appointed to that task by Ministers' consensus at the 2010 **ENCORE** Conference.

ENCORE network is open to all European regions. Participation in its activities is voluntary and without any fees. At present, the network has **111 member regions**.

The **international network of cities where living is easy**, from now on: **Cittaslow**, is a movement founded in Italy in **1999**. Its inspiration was the Slow Food organization and its goals include improving the **quality of life in towns** while resisting "the fast-lane, homogenized world so often seen in other cities throughout the world". Celebrating and supporting diversity of culture and the specialties of a town and its hinterland are core Cittaslow values.

As a rule and in compliance with Cittaslow charter, Cittaslow Network meets 3 times a year: 2 times with the Coordinating Committee that is the body that governs and deliberates on different matters regarding the Association, 1 time with the International Assembly which as such, represents and is made up of all Cittaslow towns/cities members.

The organizational structure of Cittaslow movement includes a **co-ordinating committee** with decision-making tasks, a **scientific committee** with the office of indicating guidelines for the movement, The Board of Guarantors an **organ control** and a secretariat which deals with all the operational part of activities, both on the National territory and within the International network.

At international level, Cittaslow is **chaired** by Mr. Gian Luca Marconi, mayor of Castelnovo ne' Monti (Italian province of Reggio Emilia). Moreover, the network currently counts with 9 Vice-Presidents.

Cittaslow is a network which is open to all cities of the world that agree to accept the guidelines of Slow Food and work to improve conviviality and conserve the local environment. Joining the network requires the one-off payment for certification amounting to 600.00 Euro. After the acceptance each Cittaslow town pays annually the membership fee which, in accordance with the Cittaslow Charter, is calculated on the inhabitant number of the town itself. At present, Cittaslow has **161 member cities**.

#### **PARTIES:**

Of the first part, Tanja Klip-Martin and Jarosław Słoma, as Co-Presidents of the ENCORE network.

Of the second part, Gian Luca Marconi, as President of the Cittaslow network.

#### **HAVING IN MIND THAT:**

Both networks seek **international recognition** of the contribution and importance of **sub-national governments** with regard to sustainable development.

Both networks work in the field of **environment and sustainable development**.

It is necessary to **join forces** and avoid duplicity of efforts.

The **voice of the sub-national governments will be heard louder** if the networks commit themselves to coordinate their efforts in the field of environment and sustainable development as much as possible.

The regions of both the Co-Presidents and the secretary general of the ENCORE network are represented in the Cittaslow network, respectively the municipalities of Borger-Odoorn (Drenthe), Region of Warmia and Mazury and Rubielos de Mora (Aragon).

Warmia and Mazury, a Polish region represented in ENCORE by minister Jarosław Słoma, is a Cittaslow Supporter of the Polish National Cittaslow Network which is coordinated by Mr Artur Wajs, mayor of Lidzbark Warmiński.

#### **IT WAS AGREED:**

To explore possibilities of collaboration between both networks, which could result in the following actions:

- To share **general information**, as well as to exchange **experiences and good practices** in the field of environment and sustainable development.
- To give mutual support during **international events and forums**, organized by international organizations working in the networks' field of activity.
- To participate in the **events in which the other network participates or which is organized by the other network**.
- To establish a **regular contact** between the networks, so that they are duly coordinated and they can maximize their efforts.
- To **identify areas of collaboration or projects** which could be jointly carried out and from which both would benefit.

That this MoU would not lead to any financial obligations.

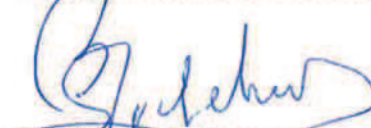
All the above stated without dismissing the possibility that other areas of common interest could be identified within the framework of cooperation and that those could be expanded.

FOR ENCORE NETWORK



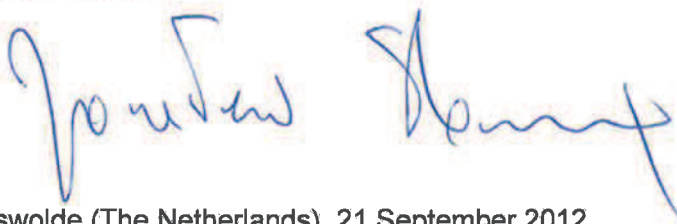
Ms. Tanja Klip-Martin

FOR CITTASLOW NETWORK



Mr. A.J. Rodenburg

Mr. Jarosław Stoma



Paterswolde (The Netherlands), 21 September 2012