



PSI Local and Regional Government Panel at COP 21

Trade Union Forum on Climate and Jobs

'Cities, the Key to Climate Justice'

4 December 2015

12:30 – 14:00

Espace Générations Climat (Salle 2)

Parc des Expositions - Le Bourget, Paris

ENGLISH – FRENCH – SPANISH interpretation available



BACKGROUND

Local and regional government (LRG) workers are especially critical for both mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as more than half of humanity now lives in cities, and the rate of urbanization is accelerating. Changes are needed to make our cities equitable, safe and environmentally sustainable. Urban residents need universal access to core public services, such as waste collection and recycling, water and sanitation, transport, energy, health and social services, education. And, any sustainable solution must address the issues of migration/refugees and the problems of slums, which trap hundreds of millions in conditions of desperation.

One of the key issues for local and regional governments is finance. The 20-year experiment with decentralization has brought decisions about services closer to the people who receive them, however, this process has not been accompanied by decentralized tax powers or guaranteed financing. Thus, many city and municipal governments are starved for funds. This will be further aggravated by the investment needs for moving to low or zero carbon communities. As it stands, the majority of so-called "green funds" appear to be oriented towards market-based solutions. Which funds can be adapted to the needs of cities and public services? Just Transition for municipal workers is an essential part of the deal, and will be part of the Million Climate Jobs.

PANEL SPEAKERS

- Ms **Eva Joly**, Member of the European Parliament (Verts-ALE), Vice-Chair of the Special Committee on Tax rulings of the Justice et Affaires Commission, Member of the International Commission on the Reform of Corporate Taxation (ICRCT).
- Hon **Ian Hunter MLC**, Minister for Climate Change, South Australian Government
- Mr **Dave Green**, National Officer, Fire Brigades Union, UK
- Mr **Mansour Cherni**, Gas and Electricity Trade Union Federation of Tunisia, PSI MENA Region Coordinator
- Mr **Robert Kehew**, Leader, Climate Change Planning Unit, Urban Planning and Design Branch, UN-HABITAT

PANEL MODERATOR

- Ms **Daria Cibrario**, Policy Officer, Local and Regional Government & Multinational Enterprises, Public Services International (PSI)

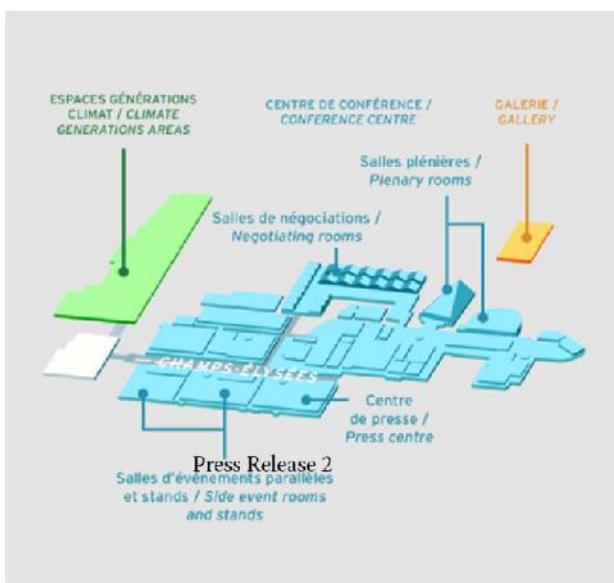
PANEL OBJECTIVES

Illustrate and grasp the challenges of the local and city dimension of climate change and its consequences faced by local governments, civil society as well as municipal workers and their trade unions. Explore solutions and current practices for confronting such challenges, including financing for preparedness, mitigation and adaptation measures as well as social dialogue mechanisms.

ROOM 2, ESPACE GENERATIONS CLIMAT



PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE CONFERENCE



ACCESS TO THE VENUE

By train:

To travel from Paris to Le Bourget, you are strongly advised to use public transport serving the site. You can take the northbound regional express railway (RER) line B train (in the direction of Charles de Gaulle Airport - Mitry Claye) and get off at the "Le Bourget" station. Exceptionally, throughout the COP21 Conference, all trains will stop at the Le Bourget station. A special shuttle bus will take you from there to the COP21 site.

You can also take **Metro line 7** to the "Fort d'Aubervilliers" station. You can also take a special shuttle bus from there to the conference site.

By bus:

The site can also be accessed by regular bus routes:

- **bus 152** departing from Metro line 7 at the Porte de la Villette - get off at the "Parc des expositions du Bourget" stop;
- **bus 350** departing from the Gare de l'Est, the Gare du Nord or the Porte de la Chapelle (Metro line 12) - get off at the "Parc des expositions du Bourget" stop;

There will be a special bus link operating 24 hours a day from the Roissy-Charles-de-Gaulle hotel zone to the conference site. Lastly, several special bus links will run at night only from the conference site to the principal hotel zones in Paris.

By Car:

The Paris-Le Bourget site can be accessed by car on the A86, A1 and A3 motorways, but you may not be able to park and the very dense traffic on these roads makes this a very unreliable method of transport.

MORE INFORMATION

on access and events:

<http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/come/>

ABOUT PSI

Public Services International is a global trade union federation representing 20 million working women and men who deliver vital public services in 150 countries. PSI champions human rights, advocates for social justice and promotes universal access to quality public services. PSI works with the United Nations system and in partnership with labour, civil society and other organizations.

www.world-psi.org