



**Title: First European-wide Citizens' Conference about Urban Sustainable Development**

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**Text:** On 9-10 September 2005, the first European-wide citizens' conference about sustainable development in the urban area was held in Vienna. A group of 26 European citizens – one representative from each EU Member State, including Romania, who were selected from a total of 570 applicants – met to discuss the acceptability and usability of EU research results and recommendations for a better quality of life in cities. Controversial but important issues like urban transport measures, housing and built environment, cultural heritage as well as citizen participation have been examined. The basis of discussion are the outcomes of research projects funded under the European Commission's key action "City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage".

The conference in Vienna was the first of three citizens' conferences to be held between September and October 2005. The citizens' conferences are organised by the team of the research project "RAISE". The second citizens' conference will be held in Rome on 30 September – 1 October 2005, the third one in Brussels on 21-22 October 2005. The objective of the citizens' conferences is to come up with a "Citizens' Declaration on the City of Tomorrow" which is drafted by the 26 participants. This declaration will then be presented before the European Parliament on 5 December 2005. The declaration will also be submitted to other important EU institutions like the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee.

More information about the conferences and outcomes of the project can be found on the project website: [www.raise-eu.org](http://www.raise-eu.org).

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