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## Press release

### EPAD suggests ten commitments for Sustainable Development in Business Districts

La Défense, 8th november 2007

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For the first time ever, business districts are claiming their role in the sustainable and harmonious development of their environment under the aegis of EPAD (the French public company responsible for developing the La Défense business district close to Paris) and its President, Patrick Devedjian.

In February 2008, EPAD will invite Business Districts at La Défense for the 1<sup>st</sup> World Business Districts Summit for Sustainable Development.

During this Summit, the Sustainable Development Agreement for Business Districts will be endorsed by major business districts.

Under the direction of the EPAD's Director General, Bernard Bled, a college of experts gathered together have ratified on this Thursday 08<sup>th</sup> November 2007, the Agreement's text in 10 points.

#### **10 commitments in favour of sustainable development for business districts**

##### **I. Responsible resources management**

- 1 – Increase medium- and long-term energy efficiency
- 2 – Control the water cycle, air quality and use of materials
- 3 – Reduce and recycle waste
- 4 – Develop a sustainable transport plan

##### **II. Making human beings the heart of the Business District**

- 5 – Facilitate desegregation in terms of space and uses
  - 6 – Guarantee a high quality of life and secure surroundings
  - 7 – Increase knowledge and make it easier to share
  - 8 – Create a dynamic and stimulating professional environment
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### **III. For responsible new practices**

9 – Apply the notion of governance to Business Districts

10 – Encourage cooperation between Business Districts

As a logical continuation of the issues addressed by the French National Environmental Summit (Le Grenelle de l'environnement), the Agreement will be amended by ten quantifiable, realist and universal objectives reflecting knowledge, technique evolutions and most exemplary practices.

**On 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2008, at La Défense, this text will be ratified by attendees at the first World Business Districts Summit for Sustainable Development. This Agreement will make La Défense a benchmark for business districts worldwide.**

### **Business districts and sustainable development**

The announcement of climate change and of its consequences now places environmental issues at the top of the list of priorities for the majority of the world's political, economic and social players.

In response to an EPAD initiative, and in order to participate in this rising awareness and in the tremendous international movement that it has created, Business Districts representatives now wish to commit to a determined, enlightened and daring policy in terms of care for the environment and humankind's place in these complex living spaces.

As major advantages for the world's great cities, business districts contribute to creating and sustaining wealth, trade and employment. However, they are also the source of some of the problems that hinder sustainable and harmonious development.

Whether they are located in the heart or on the outskirts of cities, business districts now want to play their full part as major actors in Sustainable Development.

### **La Défense, urban regeneration on the march**

Plans for regeneration of the La Défense district were drawn up back in 2005 and, in February 2007, legislation was enacted to ensure that these plans become reality. Redevelopment plans include:  
450 000 m<sup>2</sup> of new office space, including 150 000 m<sup>2</sup> as part of demolition-reconstruction projects.

100 000 m<sup>2</sup> of housing, renovation of the ring road (Boulevard Circulaire), development of public transportation infrastructures, creation of a public management agency and the birth of a new image with the overarching requirement of becoming an exemplary business district in terms of sustainable development.

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At a time when work on the T1 and Granite buildings is nearing completion, and when renovation work on the Axa Tower is starting, further projects are about to be launched with the first among them being work on the Générali-Vinci Tower and the Unibail Phare Tower.

In 2008, as Europe's foremost business district, La Défense will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary under the sign of renewed ambition.

websites : [www.wbdsummit.org](http://www.wbdsummit.org) - [www.ladefense.fr](http://www.ladefense.fr)

**Press contacts**

**Publicis Consultants |**

Isabelle Rivière - Tél. : 01 44 43 79 48

[isabelle.riviere@consultants.publicis.fr](mailto:isabelle.riviere@consultants.publicis.fr)

Anne-Catherine Hehl – Tél. : 01 44 43 79 31

[anne-catherine.hehl@consultants.publicis.fr](mailto:anne-catherine.hehl@consultants.publicis.fr)

