

Irizar sponsors the 8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns to be held in April in the Basque Country

- Irizar, the Basque company which manufactures buses and coaches, has joined the European network of public and private sector entities that will turn the Basque Country into a meeting point for local sustainability policies in Europe, from 27 to 29 April.
- Irizar will sponsor this international event organised by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, the Basque Government, the Bizkaia County Council and the Bilbao City Council, with the involvement of Udalsarea 21.

Vitoria-Gasteiz, 29/01/2016

Irizar, the Basque company which designs and manufactures buses and coaches, will sponsor the 8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns to be held in the Basque Country from 27 to 29 April 2016. The involvement of Irizar in this event highlights the commitment of the private sector to sustainable urban development and the effective deployment of transformative actions.

The participation of Irizar as a sponsor of the 8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns is further proof of the company's commitment to sustainable mobility and the development of innovative projects on energy efficiency applicable to urban environments.

Irizar is noted for its design of the i2e urban bus, the company's first 100% electrically powered vehicle, both in terms of traction and its heating-cooling system. The project is the result of the collaboration between Irizar Group companies and technology centres of the Basque Technology Network. As Hector Olabegogeoaskoetxea, Head of Irizar's Electromobility Programme, explains: "Innovative factors of the i2e model include an 86% reduction in carbon footprint levels when compared to traditional diesel buses, and the fact that it was designed to enable over 90% of its materials to be recovered or recycled. This bus showcases the effort being made in the Basque Country to contribute to the consolidation of sustainable and responsible urban mobility in Europe".

Additionally, the inclusion of Irizar as a conference sponsor showcases the public-private partnership model for sustainable urban development, in which companies take on a role as key drivers of transformative actions. In the words of Ana Oregi, Minister for Environment and Territorial Policy of the Basque Government: "The support of Irizar for the 8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns is testament to the commitment of Basque companies to the fight against climate change and the potential of the model of public-private collaboration to promote more efficient, competitive and accessible cities and towns, providing a better quality of life for their citizens".



The Basque commitment to urban sustainability

Over 1,000 representatives from regional governments, European and international institutions, multilateral organisations, members of the research community, private sector and civil society are expected to take part in the 8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns. Together with around 100 speakers and international experts, those attending the conference will have the chance to exchange experiences and discuss issues such as local governance, urban potential, the productive city and the new Urban Agenda for Europe.

Following the UN Summit Meeting for adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the CoP21 Paris Climate Summit, this conference will be the flagship event in Europe in 2016 for discussion and experience exchange on local sustainability.

The 8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns is organised by ICLEI – Network of Local Governments for Sustainability, the Basque Government, the Bizkaia County Council and the Bilbao City Council, with the involvement of Udalsarea 21 – Basque Network of Municipalities for Sustainability, and the support of the Araba County Council, the Gipuzkoa County Council, the Donostia/San Sebastián City Council and the Vitoria-Gasteiz City Council.

Further information and full details about the event are available at the official 8th ESCT website: www.basquecountry2016.eu