

To Mr Kamleh  
[Jonas.Kamleh@malmo.se](mailto:Jonas.Kamleh@malmo.se)

Place and date: The Hague, December 22, 2015  
Concerning: Invitation to participate in a panel session at the Interparliamentary Conference on Energy, Innovation and Circular Economy on Monday April 4, 2016, The Hague, The Netherlands

Dear Mr Kamleh

Recently you have been in touch with Mr Mathijs Duyx, one of our staff members, concerning the upcoming Interparliamentary Conference on Energy in the Netherlands. I hereby send you the official invitation to this conference.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 2016, the Netherlands will hold the biannual rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union. As part of the parliamentary dimension of the EU Presidency, the Dutch Parliament will organise an Interparliamentary Conference (IPC) on Energy and Innovation with a special focus on Circular Economy in The Hague from Sunday 3 until Monday 4 April 2016. The conference will be attended by approximately 100 key legislators: national parliamentarians dealing with energy and climate change from the 28 national parliaments in the EU as well as members of the European Parliament. The key question the conference will address is: *How to speed up the cost-effective transition towards a clean, competitive and secure Energy Future?*

The Monday morning programme opens with contributions from Vice-President Sefčovič (Energy Union) of the European Commission and Commissioner Vella (Environment) from the European Commission, followed by a speech by the Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr. Kamp. After the opening statements there will be a plenary panel discussion with four renowned experts. This panel discussion will take place from 11.00h – 12.30h.

The afternoon programme consists of parallel sessions on four different topics: Energy infrastructure and security of supply; Energy conservation – Energy-saving cities; Sustainable energy sources and Circular economy.

As chair of the political preparatory group that organizes this conference, I would like to kindly invite you to participate in the panel discussion on Energy conservation – Energy-saving cities. Each session will have three panel members who will hold a 'Ted Talk-style' introduction. After these short presentations, there will be a discussion between the participants and the panel members. The other two speakers on this panel on Energy conservation – Energy-saving cities, Ms Anke van Hal, professor of Sustainable Building & Development at Nyenrode Business University and Mr Tom Jongen, vice-president BAM housing, have confirmed their participation.

I would therefore be most grateful if you would be willing and available to be on the panel in The Hague. Travel expenses will be covered by the Dutch Parliament.

We very much look forward to working with you and your staff in the preparation of this panel discussion. For further information please refer to the clerk of the conference [parleu2016@staten-generaal.nl](mailto:parleu2016@staten-generaal.nl), tel. +31-70-3182388

I am looking forward to receiving your response.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Michiel VAN VEEN  
Chair of the Political preparatory group Interparliamentary Conference on Energy, Innovation and Circular Economy  
States General of the Netherlands

### **Subsidiary session B “Energy conservation – Energy-saving cities”**

#### **Subject**

The subject of the subsidiary session on energy conservation will be energy-saving cities. The overarching concept of smart cities involves an integrated approach to challenges facing society (including safety/security, infrastructure and quality of life in the area). Energy conservation is an important part of smart cities. Cities that focus on this aspect in particular are sometimes referred to as energy-saving cities. Practical examples of techniques used in the cities include street lights that switch on automatically when a pedestrian walks across the pavement, or the use of what are known as domotics in houses and buildings to keep track of how much energy is being consumed at a specific time (and take action in response).

An important aspect of energy-saving cities is the construction or renovation of homes and buildings with a view to making them as energy-efficient as possible. There is a lot to be gained in terms of energy conservation in such areas. ‘(Nearly) zero-energy buildings’ is a frequently-used term that describes homes or buildings that consume the net equivalent of no energy at all. The central question in this subsidiary session will be: Can projects like this be appropriately and cost-effectively implemented as part of an accelerated transition towards the use of sustainable energy sources?

This involves a number of important practical issues (derived from the website of the ZenN-project (Nearly Zero-Energy Neighbourhoods), which focuses on the renovation of buildings and homes at district level according to the principle of nearly zero-energy buildings). These issues can be divided into four groups:

- problems of a technical nature;
- problems of a financial nature;
- problems of a social nature, and
- problems with regard to ownership.

Technical issues include the fact that the use of innovative methods must become self-financing as quickly as possible. This will also facilitate acceptance by users. What technologies are suitable for this? How can new technologies be prepared for the market and how can the right market incentives be put in place? Financial aspects also play a role in this. Who will pay and how much will each individual pay? Consider, for example, deprived areas where residents do not have much money to spend. Is the government prepared to provide subsidies?

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In the case of renovation projects, there is also the issue of whether the users of the homes or buildings accept the renovations: do they really want (nearly) zero-energy buildings? There is also the issue of preserving the appearance of monumental buildings after renovation. Finally, in the case of renovation projects that involve entire neighbourhoods, the issue of legal ownership of buildings and homes is an important factor. Complicated agreements will need to be reached on such issues. A building's owner is actually financially responsible for making improvements to the building, but the user, for example a tenant, pays the energy consumption charges.

What is the best way of solving these issues? What issues do businesses, citizens and governments face? What should be the responsibility of government and what should be left to private parties themselves? In which areas can the two work together? One of the most important questions is perhaps this: what role can Europe play in tackling these issues? At this subsidiary session, examples of best practice with regard to energy-saving cities can be discussed. Based on the above, a selection has been made of potential speakers for the subsidiary session. It includes speakers from the world of science and academia and the business community. Several speakers have also been selected from the public sector. The speakers will be able to inspire those present to start work on the phenomenon of energy-saving cities or build on progress already made, finding cost-effective ways of solving the issues highlighted above in the process.