INTRODUCTION: WHY A VIRTUAL ROUND TABLE ON SMART CITIES?

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Regardless the source, energy is a major factor for development. It is needed for transport, industrial and commercial activities, buildings and infrastructures, water distribution and food production - to quote a few. As a matter of fact, most of these activities take place in or around cities, which are responsible - on average - for more than 75% of a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and can therefore be considered as the main engines of global economic growth. To run their activities, cities require an uninterrupted supply of energy. A sustainable urban energy system needs low carbon technologies on the supply side and an efficient distribution infrastructure as well as lower consumption on the end-user side.

The aim of this Virtual Round Table[1] is to present the perspectives of representatives of selected stakeholder groups we consider as key actors for urban development.

According to the above scheme, the Virtual Round Table Editorial Board[2] have identified four main stakeholder groups: Governmental Stakeholders; Research Stakeholder; Design/ Construction and Real Estate Stakeholders; Social/Civil Society Stakeholders. For each group the Editorial Board elaborated a set of questions; each stakeholder group is introduced by a member of the Editorial Board, who - at the end of the contribution - identify the main findings.

Highlights on the topic are provided in the Foreword by Magdalena Andreea Strachinescu Olteanu - Head of Unit, New Energy Technologies, Innovation and Clean Coal, Directorate General for Energy, European Commission - and by Eddy Hartog - Head of Unit Smart Mobility and Living, Directorate General Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission. I would like to thank them and express my sincere appreciation for their contribution.

NOTES

[1] The Virtual Round Table on Smart Cities is more than a collection of points of view. A Round Table asks for selected speakers to present in depth - and discuss - at their best, a set of given questions.
Our Virtual Round Table is a Round Table in the sense that a set of questions have been given, then the answer - among the same Stakeholder Group - have been circulated for fine tuning. Then it is Virtual as the most of our key note speakers didn't have the opportunity to meet.

[2] Paola Clerici Maestosi, Paolo Civiero, Elena Guarneri.

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Government Stakeholders	🏛
Research and Innovation Stakeholders	🔬
Design/Construction Stakeholders	⛑
Real Estate Stakeholders	🏠€
Urban Services Stakeholder	
eCommerce Stakeholders	
Analyst, IT project and Big Data Stakeholders	
BPM Stakeholders	
Financial/funding Stakeholders	
Social/Civil Society Stakeholders	

07 | Urban Stakeholder, from RdS, SCC solutions
    for Smart Urban District, PAR2016/033