



ROTTERDAM.CLIMATE.INITIATIVE

Press release

City of Rotterdam appoints first Climate Director

25 February 2009 - The City of Rotterdam is one of the first large Dutch cities to appoint a Climate Director, in an effort to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change faster and more efficiently, and to take full advantage of the commercial opportunities. The name of the new Climate Director is Paula Verhoeven. Until she takes office on 1 March 2009, she will remain active in her current position as Director of External Space for the Municipal Public Works Department.

The Programme Director for Climate Affairs will be responsible for the further structuring and implementation of the municipal contribution to the Rotterdam Climate Initiative (RCI, the City of Rotterdam is one of the four partners in this initiative), Rotterdam Climate Proof (RCP, the climate adaptation programme of the RCI) and the Rotterdam pavilion at the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai. This will enhance the correlation of the entire climate file and accelerate its realization and implementation. Opportunities for the further expansion of the climate file will be explored. Paula Verhoeven: 'Climate-consciousness should constantly be on people's minds in the municipal organization.'

The appointment of a Programme Director for Climate Affairs will ensure that the City's entire climate file will be managed and controlled by one single project office. Paula Verhoeven: 'I am proud of Rotterdam for its vision and courage to aspire to a leading position in terms of climate-consciousness. We face major challenges, but there are certainly also many opportunities for the further development of our city and port, especially since Rotterdam is tackling the entire climate file. We work hard to influence the causes *as well as* the consequences of climate change. The result will be a healthy city and an enjoyable home for its residents. Moreover, our approach of the climate file also leads to additional economic opportunities.' The City of Rotterdam has reserved over 80 million euros for climate-related projects.

By the end of 2010, once the World Expo is over and the climate file enters a new phase, the allocation of responsibilities for the climate file will be reconsidered for optimal effectiveness.