

Climate change left out in the cold at the Mayor's Thames Festival

Spectacular ice installation on public display 12th – 13th September 2009

As part of the 2009 Mayor's Thames Festival – a celebration of London and its river – the European Commission (EC) has produced an ambitious ice installation to raise awareness of climate change and the EC's *Climate Action* initiative.

Displayed over the weekend of **12th and 13th September**, two giant ice cubes – each weighing over a tonne – will be stacked on top of cityscape silhouettes. One cube, measuring 2.2metres high represents the scenario should we take action now; the other – measuring just 1.6metres high – depicts the environmental disaster that will result from inaction. Information about *Climate Action* will be provided to festival visitors at the installation.

Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the European Commission said: "The care for our environment and the fight against climate change unites Europeans. It is a field where citizens have often expressed a wish for stronger EU action. We need to act now, and bring citizens in the picture."

The ice installation will be in the festival's *Blue Ribbon Village* in **Potters Fields Park** on 12th and 13th September. **Representatives from *Climate Action* will be present and available for interview.**

About Climate Action – Energy for a Changing World

Climate Action is a European initiative to involve citizens and bolster Europe's efforts to secure an agreement to fight climate change at the crucial UN Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen in December 2009. *Climate Action* launched when EU leaders agreed to an ambitious climate and energy package committing Europe to the following measures: **'20, 20, 20 by the year 2020'**:

- Cut greenhouse gas emissions by **20%** of 1990 levels.
- Increase the use of renewables to **20%** of total energy production.
- Cut energy consumption by **20%** by improving energy efficiency.

For more information, visit <http://ec.europa.eu/climateaction>

Addressing young people in Europe

Raising climate change awareness among young people is essential. EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas says, *'Today's young people will bear the brunt of the impacts of climate change. The Copenhagen conference is our last chance to tackle climate change before it spirals out of control. We have to sustain the momentum for an agreement to be reached. Events like this are vital, because young people are a tremendously important pressure group. They will be most affected by climate change – so their voices are the most important.'*

Within the Climate Action campaign, the Commission has also launched 'Play to Stop – Europe for Climate' in partnership with MTV, targeting young people between 15 and 35. The campaign is structured around a series of three concerts. The first took place in Stockholm in August and was performed by American singer Moby. The next will present British band Editors in Budapest on 19 September during the European Mobility Week.

For more information, visit <http://www.play4climate.eu/>



About the Mayor's Thames Festival

The Mayor's Thames Festival is a free celebration of London and its river which takes place on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September 2009. The Festival commissions high-profile, cutting-edge arts events for unique environments on and around the river. It also showcases the best in street arts, with pyrotechnics, performance, illuminations, art installations, river events, street theatre, massed choirs, circus and music. The Festival takes place on riverside walkways, roads, bridges, docks and public open spaces from London Eye to Tower Bridge and beyond.

Education and Outreach work - The Festival has four key ongoing education projects with schools and community groups focussing on art/design, the environment, music education and food growing. In 2008 the Festival worked with 306 schools from both inner and outer London. For more details, visit www.thamesfestival.org

**For further details on the ice installation please contact
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**For details on the "Climate Action" and "Play to Stop. Europe for Climate" campaigns,
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