Sustainable IT is on the rise in Brussels

Brussels, Wednesday, November 10, 2021

The Belgian Institute for Sustainable IT ASBL/VZW organised yesterday the 2nd Belgian signing ceremony of the Sustainable IT Charter, in the presence of Bernard Clerfayt, Brussels Minister for the Digital Transition, and Fabian Maingain, Alderman for IT at the City of Brussels. By committing its administrations to a Sustainable IT initiative, Brussels is the first region and city in Belgium to join French leaders in this field, such as the Eurometropole of Strasbourg or the Region of Brittany. Nicolas Locoge, Director General of the Brussels Regional Informatics Centre (BRIC), detailed the five priority areas of work: equipment, eco-design of digital services, infrastructure, uses and IT for Green.

Already signed by more than 200 French and Belgian organisations, the Charter commits its signatories – large companies as well as SMEs, associations of all sizes, public institutions – signatories to work towards more ethical, inclusive and environmentally-friendly digital services.

Faced with the fast growth of digital technologies, it is becoming imperative to rethink our practices in order to reduce its negative impacts while maximizing the societal and environmental benefits that new technologies can bring us. "Combining the 3 Ps of sustainable development - People, Planet & Prosperity - in all activities, including IT, is essential for the future of our society, but also for the future competitiveness of our companies. This is the purpose of the Sustainable IT Charter, to encourage organisations and their employees to adopt good practices on a daily basis, for IT professionals as well as for users." explains Olivier Vergeynst, director of the Belgian Institute for Sustainable IT.

If 35 Belgian organisations had already signed it at the beginning of 2021, they are now 20 more to commit to a continuous improvement approach in favour of a more Sustainable IT.

"For organisations that want to go further, our association offers them a network of exchanges, tools, guides and trainings, in close collaboration with the French and Swiss Institutes for Sustainable IT. By having 17 administrations joining our association, the Brussels Region has made a strong gesture to help them reduce their environmental footprint while accelerating their digital transformation." continues Olivier Vergeynst.

"Digital pollution is not just about electricity consumption. It's also about the manufacturing of equipment, the lifespan of components, the recycling of electrical waste, etc. By changing our behaviors, we can have a major positive impact on our environment. I want to support the administrations that are committed to this approach. The establishment of a network of best practices
is crucial to develop a Sustainable IT region." says Bernard Clerfayt, Brussels Minister for the Digital Transition.

Several other organisations, large and small, have joined the non-profit organisation and signed the Charter.

Raphaël Copis, Ageas Group Technology Development Director, explains: "At Ageas, sustainability is at the heart of our strategy. As an insurer, we provide our clients with solutions that address environmental and societal issues and help them make the transition to a more sustainable lifestyle. We are also constantly looking at how we can make our own operations more sustainable. Signing the Charter reinforces this commitment."

Simon Uyttendaele, CEO of Aeonics SRL, adds: “Aeonics was born with Sustainable IT as its mantra, to integrate the environmental and societal aspect from the design of our products. Beyond more efficient and better managed machines, the software architecture plays a key role in our needs. By signing the Charter, we reiterate our commitment to a Digital more effective, efficient and inclusive.”

If you have any questions, please contact Olivier Vergeynst, director of the Belgian Institute for Sustainable IT (olivier.vergeynst@isit-be.org or 0032 474 99 00 01) or Thierry Chappé, Service Manager at the Brussels Regional Informatics Centre (tchappe@cirb.brussels or 0033 646041327).

The website of the Belgian Institute for Sustainable IT: https://isit-be.org

More information on the Sustainable IT Charter: https://isit-be.org/the-charter
Appendix 1: List of Belgian signatories of the Sustainable IT Charter

Accenture NV/SA
Aeonics
Ageas
aSmartWorld
Axxiss
Bastogne en Transition
Belfius
Bruxelles Environnement

Bruxelles Formation
Cap Numérique
CETIC Asbl
CIRB
Circular.Brussels
Climact
Commission Justice et Paix
Corporate reGeneration
Croix-Rouge de Belgique
EPHEC
fiscalité.brussels
Fondation pour l’Inclusion Digitale
GreenWin
HEC Liège
HiCircular
Homaro
House of Codesign Brussels
IBA
i-CITY (informatique de la Ville de Bruxelles)
Igneos
IKISQUARE
in BW
Intraco Consulting
IRISnet
Jeudimatin
Kanal
LCL Data Centres
Luminus
ngage
Parallaxe Cabinet d’Avocats
port.brussels
Pour La Solidarité asbl
Smart2Circle
SOCIALware
Spade

* in bold, the 20 new signatories
Appendix 2: List of the members of the Belgian Institute for Sustainable IT

Accenture Belgium
Actiris
Aeonics
Ageas
Agence de Stimulation Economique de Wallonie Picarde asbl - Entreprendre WAPI
aSmartWorld
Atmosfair production
Belfius
BruPartners
Bruxelles ConnectIT (SPRB)
Bruxelles environnement
Bruxelles Formation
Bruxelles Prévention & Sécurité
Bruxelles Propreté
CIRB - Centre Informatique de la Région bruxelloise
Circular.Brussels
COCOF - Commission Communautaire Française
Corporate reGeneration
EPHEC
fiscalité.brussels
Fondation pour l’Inclusion Digitale
fonds.brussels
HEC Liège
HiCircular
Homaro
Homegrade
hub.brussels - Agence Bruxelloise pour l’Accompagnement de l’Entreprise
IBA - Ion Beam Applications
inBW
innoviris.brussels
Kanal
La Croix Rouge de Belgique
Luminus
MIC (My Innovation Centre) Brussels
ngage
port.brussels
Société des transports intercommunaux de Bruxelles - STIB
Université Libre de Bruxelles
visit.brussels

* in bold, the 17 administrations of the Brussels Region
ISIT-BE: 39 members and counting!