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Energymed: Naples smart city, De Magistris

We will unite development, labour and environment, mayor

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(ANSAmед) NAPLES, MARCH 22 - Naples will take the lead in the spread of solar energy in Italy and aims to join the restricted group of Smart Cities, which have access to European funding for the sustainable development of public buildings, the development of electric transport systems and for urban lighting. This are some of the projects of the De Magistris administration, presented on the first day of EnergyMed, the fifth renewable energy fair that was opened today in Naples and will be close on Saturday. Mayor De Magistris said during a visit to the event that this year's fair "continues for one more day than in the previous years and will now be organised each year, where it used to be a biennial event." The expo is meant to represent "our commitment to making Naples a point of reference in the sector of renewable and alternative energy sources," the mayor explained, "not only focusing on waste, but also on solar energy, development, labour and environmental protection." The initiative should make Naples a solar city thanks to a decision that will be approved in the coming days. The installation of solar panels on the roofs of schools, together with "several other initiatives we are developing in cooperation with associations", will make Naples a symbol in the development of solar energy, De Magistris continued. "We are also thinking of celebrating a solar energy day in the city, involving as many people as we can, and we are waiting for the regional law on people's initiatives regarding solar energy, which I support and which I hope the Regional Council will approve as soon as possible." An important goal is to obtain the status of Smart City, part of the new 2007-2013 inter-regional renewable energy and energy conservation programme, funded by the EU with one billion six hundred thousand euros. "There is a fund for smart cities in particular," explains Giuseppe Guerrini of the board that manages the programme, "which can multiply the resources by a factor two or three: we allocate 70 million but banks make additional investments." Several projects have been initiated to make Naples part of the group of Smart Cities: projects "to make public structures more efficient," Guerrini continues, "street lighting, electric transport and the development or recharging points. Cities have to present themselves in an integrated project. There are many ideas, what is lacking is sufficient planning, while the selection criteria are focused on planning skills." (ANSAmед).