



Consolato Generale  
della Repubblica Federale di Germania  
Milano

**LAND**



Press Release

## **“Climate Talks”: the German Consulate General in Milan and LAND discuss climate adaptation between Milan and Frankfurt**

**Milan, May 15, 2025** – The German Consulate General in Milan, in collaboration with LAND, is bringing the ‘Climate Talks’ to the Lombard capital. This format, created by the Federal Foreign Office and already implemented by various German representations around the world, aims to explore and share strategies toward climate neutrality. Last night at the “Talent Garden” on Via Arcivescovo Calabiana 6, the virtuous models of Milan and Frankfurt am Main in urban resilience were compared, addressing future design challenges with an increasing focus on people’s well-being.

How can major cities respond to the challenges of climate change while becoming more sustainable and resilient? This is the question that inspired “**Climate Talks: Cities and climate change. The case of Frankfurt am Main and Milan**”, a conference organized by the **German Consulate General in Milan in collaboration with LAND**. The event brought together experts in landscape architecture and sustainability, along with institutional representatives from the two twin cities.

The evening was opened by **Susanne Welter**, German Consul General in Milan, who examined Germany’s political commitment to climate adaptation and the prospects ahead under the country’s new government. The event opened with a brief greeting from Architect **Marino Bottini** of the Municipality of Milan. The panel discussion was preceded by a keynote speech from Professor **Gabriele Kiefer**, German landscape architect and curator of the German Pavilion at the ongoing Venice Biennale, who explored the role of architecture and urban planning in the fight against global warming.

**Andreas Kipar**, CEO and founder of LAND, introduced and moderated the roundtable between **Hans-Georg Dannert**, Head of the Climate Department for the City of Frankfurt, and **engineer Carmen Salvaggio** from the General Urban Planning Department of the Municipality of Milan. The panel explored how future cities can become greener, improve quality of life, and involve local administrations in the design process, paving the way for a **more equitable and sustainable urban landscape**.

This vision is at the core of Milan’s **Raggi Verdi** (Green Rays) urban strategy, which sparks from the city’s neighborhoods, interconnects them, and reclaims space through slow mobility, transforming these spaces into **multifunctional public areas**. These **green and blue infrastructures act as symbols of climate resilience** and serve as **social catalysts for citizens**. Similarly, in Frankfurt am Main, the **GrünGürtel**—a more than 65-kilometer Green Belt encircling the city—works in synergy with **a network of parks that are reshaping the historic center**. Together, they form a unified ecological infrastructure, a model of climate adaptation that could be replicated throughout Germany and Europe.

*“The climate crisis is the ultimate global challenge,” stated Consul General Susanne Welter. “We must act now to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. Addressing this challenge requires international cooperation at all levels. Milan and Frankfurt am Main, as pioneers of forward-looking urban development, can demonstrate the opportunities for increased German-Italian collaboration in this field.”*

*“From Milan’s Raggi Verdi to Frankfurt’s GrünGürtel, nature becomes a mediator in the relationship between humans and the city. The result is a Nature-Positive City, which integrates landscape elements between built environments and open spaces to support climate adaptation. This productive urban landscape emerges from a rethinking of public space—through the removal of barriers, the creation of new multifunctional areas, more trees and less asphalt—in order to meet the social needs of citizens,” added Andreas Kipar, CEO of LAND.*

By **giving open spaces a new identity**, the environmental system is transformed into a **territorial strategy that can also be replicated on a larger scale**: productive urban landscapes become essential for climate adaptation,

sustainable water reuse, and the enhancement of biodiversity. These **ecosystem services—now measurable—**are vital for citizens' well-being and must be integrated into urban planning to ensure a climate-resilient future for all of us, built on **Natural Capital**.

On the sidelines of the meeting, a commentary by **Alessandra Zampieri**, Director of Sustainable Resources at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra, highlighted the need for **dedicated policies for urban climate adaptation** to be at the core of European Union strategies and national legislation. She emphasized the urgency of promoting **collaborative initiatives** that bring together stakeholders from all sectors to foster dialogue and concrete action, following the model of the New European Bauhaus, and called for **a rigorous and democratic use of technology** to ensure data-driven decisions and measurable progress.

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#### **LAND**

LAND – an acronym for Landscape, Architecture, Nature, and Development – is an international landscape consultancy with offices in Austria, Canada, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, and Switzerland. Andreas Kipar and a Team of 200 landscape architects, architects, urban planners, agronomists, engineers, and researchers are dedicated to the regeneration of regions, cities, and places since 1990.

LAND's consulting, planning, and design activities aim to improve people's well-being and environment through the implementation of climate-positive solutions and participatory processes that lead to sustainable development.

We provide consultancy to public and private clients on how to innovate with nature, applying international policies and promoting collaborative planning procedures. Together with our clients and our extensive network of partners, we leverage the opportunities of the green transition for our communities.

Among our main projects: Green Rays strategy, Porta Nuova, Piazzale Loreto, and the re-development of the former EXPO site MIND in Milan; Essen's Urban Open Space Strategy and Krupp Park, comprising ThyssenKrupp HQ, and the Freiheit Emscher in Essen; Ruhr Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy; the renaturation of the Airolo valley and Cassarate River Park in Switzerland; Saint-Laurent biodiversity Corridor in Montreal; Al Urubah Park in Riyadh and EXPO 2020 Dubai in the UAE; strategic consulting in landscaping, infrastructure, and renewable energy through, among other things, Landscape Information Modeling LIM©, as well as the research and innovation projects UrbAlytics and T-Factor funded by the European Commission. LAND's work has been recognized through numerous prestigious international awards, amongst them Premio Mercurio, MIPIM, Wan Awards, Biennale Pisa, Passive and Low Energy Architecture Award (PLEA), European Garden Award 2023.

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