

## PRESS RELEASE

# 10 Years of Fairtrade Towns

Fourth International Fairtrade Towns Conference in  
Bonn/Germany



9 delegates from Ireland attended the 4<sup>th</sup> International Fairtrade Towns Conference in Bonn, the 7 towns and cities represented were Ballymun, Galway, Kinsale, Rathfarnham, Thurles, Waterford and Wexford along with 2 staff from Fairtrade Mark Ireland

Ireland joined the Fairtrade Towns Campaign in 2003 and now has 46 Fairtrade towns and cities with another 30 working towards status.

In 2010, the 10-year anniversary celebrations are under way for the international Fairtrade Towns Campaign. And it keeps on kicking up a gear: Over 850 towns in 20 countries have already been awarded Fairtrade Town status, and several hundred are on the waiting list. Since 2009, Germany has been part of the campaign and hosted the fourth International Fairtrade Towns Conference in Bonn, Guests from 18 countries discussed the future development of the global campaign.

### **Highlight:** Bonn is Fairtrade Town

As a highlight of the conference, Bonn was awarded the title Fairtrade Town on 5 November all 18 countries were present to celebrate Bonn's new title.

*'It is a very exciting time for Germany to be hosting the 4th international Fairtrade Towns Conference and for Bonn to receive the title of Fairtrade Town at the same time' This is an international grassroots movement of people who all care passionately about the poorest producers in the world. We are now on our way to celebrating 1,000 Towns worldwide in 2011 – this is a fantastic achievement for volunteers all over the world. 'Melanie Drea, Project Manager Fairtrade Mark Ireland' [www.fairtrade.ie](http://www.fairtrade.ie)*

During the conference, initiatives from the Czech Republic, Poland and Nigeria, among others signed up to start the Fairtrade Towns Campaigns in their countries. There were presentations on projects implemented in partner communities in countries of the North and South, and opportunities were discussed how Fairtrade can be even more included in community-based sourcing and procurement.

**Here in Ireland we are looking forward to lots more towns receiving Fairtrade status in 2011 and very big congratulations to Bonn Fairtrade City!!**



### **The delegates from Ireland**

Back Row (L-R):

Noel Kennedy (Thurles Fairtrade)  
Mary Ann Sullivan (Galway Fairtrade)  
Andy Wilson (Ballymun Fairtrade)  
Emilia Main (Fairtrade Mark Ireland)  
Alan Clayton (Kinsale Fairtrade)

Front Row (L-R)

Deirdre Kelly (Rathfarnham Fairtrade)  
Lucy Whittle (Waterford Fairtrade)  
Mairead Cairbre (Wexford Fairtrade)  
Melanie Drea (Fairtrade Mark Ireland)