

EU regions and cities leading the way **against** climate change

ON THE ROAD TO LIMA AND PARIS



EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions



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The Committee of the Regions of the European Union

■ TWO EVENTS IN LIMA:

- “The importance of local action and multi-level governance in reducing greenhouse gas emission”, 8th December 2014, 1.pm - 3.pm, EU Pavillion, Brussels room,, co-organised with Climate Alliance
- “Renewable energy as a local development opportunity”, 9th December 2014, 10.30 - 12.30pm am, EU Pavillion, Brussels room, co-organised with the European Economic Social Committee.

www.cor.europa.eu/cop20

Created in 1994, the Committee of the Regions is the European Union’s political assembly of regional and local government representatives.

Its 353 members ensure that regions, cities and municipalities are given a voice within the EU. Its mission is to involve subnational governments in the European Union’s decision-making process increasing the participation and involvement of the EU’s citizens.

Members – governors, regional presidents, mayors or elected representatives of EU regions and cities – must be elected or be politically accountable to an elected assembly, so those who lose office at home automatically lose their seat in the Committee of the Regions. While being active in their own constituencies, members meet regularly at the European level to prepare and vote on recommendations helping shape EU policy and legislation.

This brochure sets out the Committee’s recommendations and position on how Europe’s local and regional governments are contributing to tackling climate change.





Foreword by Michel Lebrun,

President of the EU Committee of the Regions

The two most recent reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) offer stark reading: unless we – as a global community - take drastic steps to end our reliance on fossil fuels, temperatures could rise as much as 5° C by 2100 which could have a “severe, widespread, and irreversible impact” on communities and our natural environment.

Europe’s cities and regions understand the urgency and are taking action to lower their greenhouse gases emissions. They are also pushing national leaders to uphold their promises and adopt a truly ambitious agreement during the UN global climate change talks in Paris in 2015.

In 2013 during the last round of international negotiations in Warsaw, there were positive signs as local and regional governments were recognised as crucial actors in tackling climate change. It was agreed they would be consulted during the preparatory meetings for the UN conference in Lima in the lead up to the Paris talks. Yet we were disappointed to see no clear indications that the future agreement would be based on a model of multi-level governance – involving all levels of governments as equal partners in our shared fight against climate change.

Effective global climate governance and meaningful objectives holds the key to a better future. Europe’s cities and regions have already demonstrated that their involvement in the decision-making process brings success. This European model needs to be translated at global level and included within a new global climate governance.

This years’ 20th UN Conference in Lima, will be decisive moment as countries start to unveil their contributions and prepare the draft global agreement.

As President of the Committee of the Regions representing the voice of European local and regional governments in the EU, I will be present in Lima. I will support the EU to take the lead on our shared fight against climate change and stir up ambition among negotiating countries. In doing so, I will share best practices with cities and regions of the world, to further raise the potential for a new level of ambition. For the sake of our planet and future generations, I will insist people – through local government - must be at the centre of the negotiations.





Foreword by Miguel Arias Cañete, European Commissioner for Climate action and Energy

As the world gathers in Lima for COP20, there is a renewed sense of hope that we can reach a global deal on climate change at Paris in 2015. Yet as we focus our efforts on achieving that deal, we must not forget that to avoid the worst effects of climate change, we need not just one international agreement, but a transformation at every single level of society.

In October this year, EU leaders agreed ambitious climate and energy targets for 2030, including a binding domestic greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of at least 40%, and EU-wide targets of 27% for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Our announcement injected a new momentum into the global climate negotiations, and helped spur the US and China to declare their own intended targets.

At Lima, we must build on this momentum, and lay the groundwork for an ambitious deal in Paris. It will be an opportunity to encourage all countries, particularly the other members of the G20, to join the US, China and the EU and come forward with their own pledges. The sooner they do this, the more time we will all have to assess if the commitments add up to what scientists tell us is required to keep global warming to below 2°C.

In Europe, we know our commitments are underpinned by ambitious steps being taken by cities and regions throughout the EU, coordinated through the work of the Committee of Regions. Already measures such as the ‘Covenant of Mayors’, and the more recent ‘Mayors Adapt’, are helping Europe to deliver our climate goals.

The EU’s targets for 2030 are ambitious and we will not be able to reach them without the continuing commitment of local administrations to tackling climate change. Through measures ranging from energy efficiency in local buildings, to promotion of sustainable transport choices, cities must remain at the vanguard of the fight against climate change.

And if the world is going to meet its climate targets, it is vital that EU regions and cities keep working and sharing their experience with their counterparts across the world. This is why the Committee of Regions will form a critical part of the EU delegation to Lima this year.





Foreword by Giovanni La Via,

Chair of the Committee on the Environment,
Public Health and Food Safety,
European Parliament

This year again, the European Union is determined to make a difference at the COP20. It aims at significantly advancing the negotiations towards a global agreement which will put the climate threat at bay.

The EU is committed to lead by example by communicating to the world its recently adopted ambitious emission reduction targets. The other negotiating parties need also to upscale their level of ambition and give the planet the working climate governance it needs.

I have the conviction that everyone has a part to play in this endeavour. Climate change is a global problem and we need to solve it together. All communities have to be involved for the international climate process to be a success. Businesses and civil society have to participate. Regions and cities have to be included in the global policy process. This is so because it is not only about climate. It is about our societies and economies of tomorrow, and the mobilisation of a considerable amount of funding.

Regions and cities in particular are instrumental to implement successfully climate policy, define tailor-made action, create ownership among the public and aggregate talents and funds at local level. They integrate all different policies which have an impact on climate: mobility, biodiversity, energy, behaviour change. They are also in direct contact with businesses and populations.

Moreover, however different they are, they have responded to the climate challenge. They developed plans and strategies, some of them going beyond current legislation, and acquired an invaluable expertise to help to act quicker and with citizens' support.

This invaluable contribution should not be lost to negotiating parties. We need the engagement and coordination of all actors to succeed.

As the Chair of the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament, I will be in Lima leading the European Parliament delegation in order to support the EU and its Member states during the negotiations with other parties. Together with the Committee of the Regions and other EU institutions we will be supporting the EU position for an ambitious and inclusive agreement which will build a better world for all.





Foreword by Joachim Lorenz,

President of Climate Alliance and Permanent
City Councillor for Health and Environment,
City of Munich, Germany

Local action on energy saving, energy efficiency and renewable energy contributes to achievement of the climate and energy targets set in Europe for 2020. The members of Climate Alliance are actively taking action, as well as the Covenant of Mayors signatory local authorities, already an impressive number of more than 6000, going beyond the 20% CO₂ emission reduction target proposed by the European Commission by 2020.

In October this year the European leaders agreed on a 2030 framework on climate and energy with a binding greenhouse gas emission reduction target of 40%. Even if this target has resulted in reactions from US and China, the overall framework is less ambitious than before, and thus influencing Europe's leading role in the international negotiations. In its resolution adopted earlier this year, Climate Alliance advocates, at the European level, the importance of three binding targets, 50 % less CO₂, 40% increase in energy savings and 40% increase in the share of renewable energy. Ambitious climate action by local authorities will be crucial for international climate process and can convey positive message – even if the national governments struggle to agree on a global climate change agreement. In fact the commitment and enthusiasm of local authorities should be used as an example during COP 20 in Peru and for setting the global deal next year in Paris, during COP21.

We are proud to co-organise an event together with Committee of the Regions on “The importance of local action and multi-level governance in reducing greenhouse gas emissions”. Only by joining forces the voice of local authorities can be stronger and heard in the international context. Our messages to the representatives of the world's governments, international organisations and civil society which meet now in Peru to decide on the next steps of the international climate agreement are as follows:

- Recognition of local authorities as important actors in climate mitigation and adaptation
- Taking into account the greenhouse gas emission reductions of local and regional authorities
- Keeping forests outside of the carbon markets and recognising the crucial role of indigenous peoples in forest protection
- Creating and improving of legal and financial frameworks in partnership with local and regional authorities to enable achievement of ambitious CO₂ reduction targets.



Representing more than 1,700 local authorities in 24 European countries, Climate Alliance is a large knowledge sharing platform for sustainability. Its members are committed to take local climate action, to preserve tropical rainforests and to reduce their CO₂ emissions by 10% every five years and halving per capita emissions by 2030. Their partners in this endeavour are the Indigenous Peoples of the rainforests in the Amazon Basin.



Why cities and regions offer the solution to climate change

Local and regional authorities are the level of government which implement policies decided at higher levels. In Europe they are responsible for delivering as much as 70% of EU policy.

They turn a strategy, a vision, into a true action plan demonstrating tangible results to citizens.

They simply go beyond implementation.

In the European Union, local and regional authorities take three main steps to protecting our climate:

They act as a role model by greening their investments and their initiatives. They draw up contracts based on green procurement principles; they retrofit/renovate public buildings, hospitals, schools and infrastructures for a better use of energy and water and public lighting.

In doing so, they create a multiplier effect stirring up private capital towards green technologies and projects.

They also can create green cities by intervening on mobility and biodiversity with the promotion of soft mobility and green spaces for instance. They find appropriate solutions such as putting public roofs at disposal of the public for green roofs, or promoting vertical greening through green walls if there is no space available for green roofs.

These are concrete measures people can see and benefit from in their daily lives.



“In Ireland, local authorities are at the forefront in terms of delivering energy and climate change targets. One of our authorities, Tipperary County Council has recently installed 800 photovoltaic (PV) solar panels on public buildings such as fire stations, libraries, civic offices and public recreation centres. This project alone has increased Ireland’s total PV capacity by 44% and means that Tipperary is six years ahead of achieving its renewable energy target for 2020. The local authority will continue its efforts on developing renewable energies but is also seeking to maximise energy efficiency in public buildings. Other local authorities in Ireland see this as a model and are putting in place their own measures to deliver on the EU targets”

Mr. Declan McDonnell (Galway City Council and West Regional Authority and Member of the CoR)



“We succeeded in giving a true territorial dimension to the environmental policies, through innovation, democratic participation, multilevel partnership and integration as leading principles for our action. Life quality is the outcome for initiatives like the PAIR (the Emilia-Romagna Regions Integrated Plan for the quality of the air within the regional territory), and the AIR (Air Quality Initiative of Regions), representing 12 regions, the 22% of the EU GDP and the 18% of the EU population: Baden-Württemberg, Catalunya, Emilia-Romagna, Greater London, Hessen, Lombardia, North Rhine-Westphalia, Piemonte, Randstad, Steiermark, Veneto and Vlaanderen.”

Mrs. Simonetta Saliera (Vice-President of the Emilia Romagna Region and Member of the CoR)



Mayors and governors also have leverage to aggregate and support stakeholders in order to transform good ideas into local initiatives. This can take the form of energy cooperatives. This approach brings together businesses and local communities in partnership to produce, for example, their own clean and affordable energy.

The scale of action needed is considerable and our economic and societal models need to change though. For this change to be possible, not only all levels of government and businesses have to be involved, but all tiers of society too.

This change must begin and end with people: in our communities results and successes come with public backing. Education, information and pedagogy are tools used by local and regional leaders to secure acceptance and behavioural change. Too often people are forgotten during global negotiations over climate policies. Citizens' trust of their government continues to erode yet local and regional authorities are in a position to place citizens at the centre of their action showing concrete results to move towards a sustainable future.



“The optimization of transport flow, new by-passes and bridge built in the city of Riga has decreased the number of cars in the city centre by 8%, as well as the reduction of nitrogen dioxide concentration in the city centre.

The biggest cities of Latvia are among the few ones doing the air quality monitoring in the streets with the highest possible pollution: near the industrial territories. Riga city council also offers the public access to the pollution data in the webpage.”

Mr. Edvins Bartkevics (Chairman of Ogre Amalgamated Municipality Council and Member of the CoR)



“Since 2011, my Region is the first of the 28 French regions for photovoltaic panels”

Mrs. Annabelle Jaeger
(Member of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council and Member of the CoR)



Cities and regions getting involved in global climate negotiations

In 1992 the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was launched which set out a clear international process and platform to tackle climate change. Since then, cities and regions have slowly emerged as indispensable stakeholders during global climate talks.

The initial conference which created the UNFCCC concluded that sustainable development could not happen if implemented by national government alone. However, regions and cities were not formally recognised as a level of government within UN fora but instead as a civil society group. Consequently they could not influence the decision-making process even though they have the expertise on better policy making.

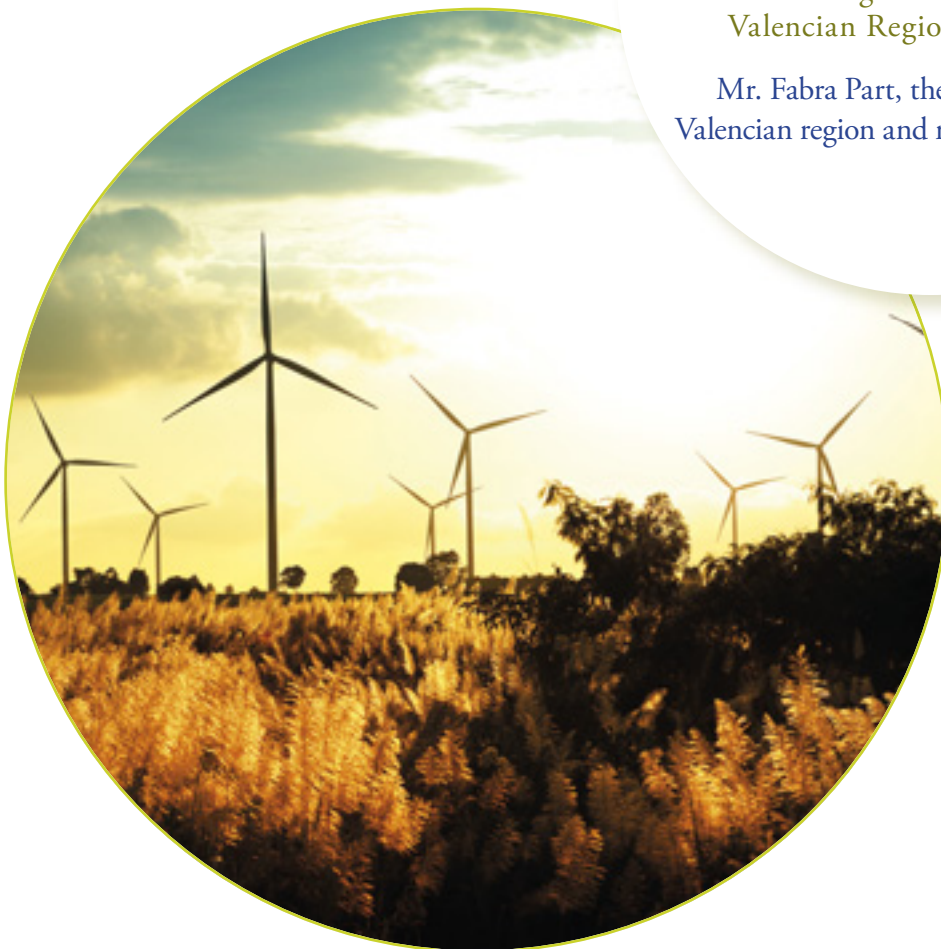
Since then the world's regions and cities have started to work together in a far more structured manner in order to voice their position and perspective.

They have further exploited the opportunity to exchange best practice and knowledge on local climate policy as well as promote local achievements as global solutions for climate change when international negotiations between states had stalled.



“As a result of the implementation of the Valencian Strategy against Climate Change 2008-2012, emissions of greenhouse gases in the Valencian Region fell by 23%”

Mr. Fabra Part, the President of the Valencian region and member of the CoR.





Cities and regions are now recognised for their commitments and role as climate champions even though they struggle to be recognised as a true governmental partner.

In the lead up to 2015 where governments hope to sign a new global agreement on climate change, regions and cities are increasingly getting more active to demonstrate that solutions do exist. Some of the initiatives include:

- The **Local Government Climate Roadmap** and its Nantes Declaration of Mayors and Subnational Leaders on climate change (27 - 28 September 2013, Nantes, France),



The Local Government Climate Roadmap is an advocacy process that began in 2007, aiming at recognizing, engaging and empowering local governments within the global climate regime.



The Nantes Declaration of Mayors and Subnational Leaders on Climate Change was adopted with the support of over 50 mayors from 30 countries, and more than 20 regional and global networks of local and subnational governments.

- The **World Summit of the Regions for Climate** with the corresponding Paris Declaration (10-11 October 2014, Paris, France).



The Paris Declaration is a cross-sector initiative founded by R20 and World Climate Ltd. It is a declaration from subnational governments, business and finance to support an international climate deal during the UN COP21 in 2015. At the World Summit of Regions for Climate (WSRC) in Paris 2014, Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Founder of R20, invited a coalition of governments, businesses and investors to sign it.



The Road to Paris 2015: the Committee of the Regions' contribution to Lima

There are high hopes for the climate talks in Paris in 2015. The EU's Committee of the Regions will participate during the climate negotiations bringing the voice of EU cities and regions. It participates in international conferences on climate and support the EU ambitious position. It shares its good practice cases proving that climate and economy can go hand in hand.

This year, the Committee of the Regions will be joining, as observer, the EU delegation to the 20th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC.

Michel Lebrun, president of the EU Committee of the Regions, and Annabelle Jaeger, rapporteur for our latest recommendations on climate, will be representing the EU Committee of the Regions.

Together they will showcase the vision of European cities and regions on both climate mitigation and adaptation.



**Annabelle
JAEGER:**

regional
councillor of
the Provence-
Alpes-Côte
d'Azur in France
and President of the
regional environment agency.



**Michel
LEBRUN:**

President
of the EU
Committee of
the Regions (CoR)



A new global approach to climate change: what Europe's local and regional authorities want

■ THE EU COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS:

- fully supports the EU's position and its ambition to close the gap between pledges already made by countries and the level of action needed to tackle the global climate threat;

■ A HIGHER LEVEL OF AMBITION

- calls all negotiating parties to look at the work undertaken by cities and regions of the EU, notably under the EU Covenant of Mayors (the mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories) and the Mayors Adapt (The Covenant of Mayors Initiative on adaptation to climate change) initiatives;
- asks for countries of the world to upscale their contribution to climate mitigation and adaptation, and look at subnational level for viable solutions integrating both variables;

■ AN INCLUSIVE CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

- supports the creation of a climate governance based on a multi-level governance approach in order to maximise the contributions of all communities to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change;
- asks for negotiating parties to recognise formally that cities and regions are part of the solutions and can provide essential input to optimise climate action;
- stresses the need for local and regional authorities to have access to global climate finance in order to maximise the world contribution to cut greenhouse gas emissions;
- calls for the UNFCCC to adopt a plan similar to the "Action Plan for Subnational Governments, cities and other local authorities on climate change" adopted by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in its decision X/22;
- will continue its work with cities and regions and calls them to go beyond fixed objectives to tackle climate change.



The position of the European Union:

The EU outlines the urgency and need for global action, which should be reflected in an ambitious, legally binding agreement in Paris in 2015. It also recalls the actions already undertaken by the EU and member states, which are likely to jointly overachieve on their 2020 targets.



Mitigating climate change: the EU 2030 Framework on climate and energy

The EU has already formalised its commitments for an ambitious global agreement to be signed in 2015. It includes a 40% decrease of its greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels and a reform of the European carbon market to have a viable carbon price. President of the Committee of the Regions, Michel Lebrun, declared “Though not matching the ambition set out by the Committee of the Regions, the EU 2030 Framework offer Europe’s local and regional authorities a basis to build from and a platform to launch negotiations in Lima”.

The Committee of the Regions asked the EU to go further and recommended the adoption of a winning trio of binding climate and energy goals for 2030:

- a 50% decrease of greenhouse gas emissions;
- 40% of renewables in the energy mix;
- 40% increase in energy efficiency compared with 2005.

Countries should accordingly base their approach on regional and local strategies.

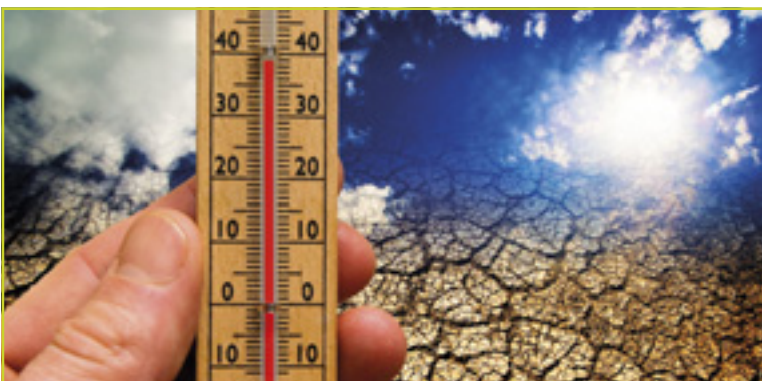
The EU Committee of the Regions also addressed cities and regions asking them to rise even further to the climate challenge by setting their own ambitious targets for 2030 and taking forward initiatives together.

It particularly drew attention to the importance of clean local energy and the role of cities and regions in encouraging small scale production and behaviour change of citizens.



“Local authorities, representing 20% of the regional population, are committed to divide their emissions by 4% by 2050”

Mrs. Annabelle Jaeger
(Member of Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Regional Council and Member of the CoR)





Adapting to climate change: the EU's strategy

In 2013 the European Commission adopted the first EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change. The Committee of the Regions strongly supported the recognition that both mitigation and adaptation measures were needed to respond to climate change and advocates an integrated approach combining these measures.

Such an approach is only feasible at local and regional level so the EU calls on Member States to adopt a national adaptation plan. The EU is now supporting cities and regions to make and implement their own adaptation measures.

This takes the form of the Mayors Adapt initiative described on page 20 of this brochure.

With this initiative and the EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change, the key role of mayors and governors in preparing their territory to climate related episodes is recognised.

The EU's Committee of the Regions also recommended building climate resilience of all territories, particularly among the poorest and most vulnerable nations of the world. Accordingly it calls for the future agreement on climate to be equitable.



"I'm particularly impressed that Climate Alliance is going to manage both the Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt. There is a great potential for a synergy between the Covenant of Mayors and Climate Alliance to work together such that local authorities, who already signed up for the Covenant, see it as the next logical step to be part of Mayors Adapt."

Neil Swannick

(Greater Manchester, UK, rapporteur for the EU Committee of the Regions' Opinion on the EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change)



Two lighthouse initiatives of the EU supporting cities and regions

Europe's cities and regions tackling climate change, locally

Covenant of Mayors & Mayors Adapt



■ OVERVIEW

‘Covenant of Mayors’ and ‘Mayors Adapt’ are two initiatives...

- Set up by the European Commission to engage cities and support them in taking action against climate change,
- Benefitting from EU endorsement and support,
- Shaped through consultation to make sure they best respond to EU cities’ needs,
- Built on the same fundamental principles: voluntary engagement, a step-by-step roadmap followed by supporting authorities, multi-level support offered by a range of different stakeholders
- Open to all **European local authorities regardless of size** whatever the stage of implementation of their energy and climate policies.

The Covenant of Mayors concentrates on efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions (i.e. **climate change mitigation**) whilst Mayors Adapt focus on measures to enhance the resilience of our territories to climate change (i.e. **climate change adaptation**).

■ HOW THE EU SUPPORTS FOR SIGNATORIES

- **Europe-wide visibility on cities’ commitment**
- **Practical support** in the form of a helpdesk, information and engagement with the initiative,
- **Networking and capacity building opportunities** through regular events and online engagement,
- **Knowledge support** through guidance materials and tools for cities,
- **Synergies** with relevant stakeholders & other EU initiatives.

■ THE BENEFITS

- **Raise the local authorities’ profile as leaders** in climate action,
- **Showcase** their activities and achievements,
- **Learn from peers**, and
- **Access ‘excellence know-how’ and inspiring case studies.**

THE COVENANT OF MAYORS

THE INITIATIVE IN BRIEF

Launched in 2008 by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy, the **Covenant of Mayors** is a European movement that encourages local authorities to take the lead in mitigating the effects of climate change through the development and implementation of sustainable energy policies. By signing up local authorities **voluntarily commit** to meet and, if possible, exceed cutting CO2 in their city or region by **20% by 2020** through increased energy efficiency and development of renewable energy.

SIGNATORIES' COMMITMENTS

In order to meet the CO2 reduction targets, signatories prepare and submit, within the year following their signature, a **Sustainable Energy Action Plan** outlining the key actions they plan to deliver. Signatories also commit to reporting their achievements every second year.

THE COVENANT IN FIGURES

By the end of 2014 over 6,000 EU cities and regions representing over **190 million** citizens has signed-up to the initiatives backed by **250** coordinators, supporters and **25** associated partners. Over **4,000** Sustainable Energy Action Plans were adopted which aim to reduce by more than **20%** CO2 emissions by 2020.



“Worms wants to meet the objectives of the Covenant and to reduce its CO2 emissions by at least 20% by 2020. The exchange of information with other Covenant Signatories is of great significance for us.”

Michael Kissel, Mayor of
Worms, Germany



■ MULTI-LEVEL & MULTI-STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

The Covenant of Mayors owes a great deal of its success to the active participation of the following actors who have offered their resources and know-how:

Covenant Coordinators	Provinces, regions and national authorities who provide strategic guidance, financial and technical support to signatories
Covenant Supporters	Network of European, national and regional networks and associations local authorities who commit to maximize the impact of the initiative through promotional activities, liaison with their members and experience-sharing platforms
The Covenant of Mayors Office	Promotional, technical and administrative assistance is provided on a daily basis to Covenant signatories, Covenant Coordinators and Covenant Supporters by the Covenant of Mayors Office, managed by a consortium of networks representing local and regional authorities
The Joint Research Centre	Assist signatories with scientific and technical questions, mostly related to emission inventories and action plans

The Covenant has managed to mobilise various stakeholders around a common objective, standing out as an **unprecedented model of multi-level governance** in Europe.



“The Covenant of Mayors has established a common framework which has had a mobilising effect on municipalities across the province. This has allowed municipalities with very different characteristics to all play their part in the fight against climate change. In particular, the Covenant has been instrumental in helping small-sized municipalities with limited technical and financial resources to address these challenges.”

Salvador Esteve, President of the Barcelona Provincial Council, Spain

■ MAIN SERVICES OFFERED TO PARTICIPATING CITIES

The Covenant of Mayors Office (CoMO) runs a helpdesk and provides signatories with information and guidance on the elaboration and implementation of their SEAPs. The CoMO has developed – together with the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre, a comprehensive methodological and reporting framework. It also proposes various capacity-building tools and events (e.g. webinars, workshops, online forums) on various topics of relevance for signatories.

■ CONTACT

www.covenantofmayors.eu

info@eumayors.eu



■ THE INITIATIVE IN BRIEF

Launched in March 2014 by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action, **Mayors Adapt** is the first pan-European initiative to support local authorities in leading the way on adaptation to climate change.

It has been implemented within the framework of the Covenant of Mayors, the flagship European initiative for cities and regions to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

■ SIGNATORIES' COMMITMENTS

Cities signing up to the initiative commit to contributing to the overall aim of the EU Adaptation Strategy by developing a local adaptation strategy and/or integrating adaptation to climate change into relevant existing plans within two years after joining. The resulting plan(s) should include main outcomes for a risk and vulnerability assessment. Mayors Adapt signatories also commit to reporting on progress every second year according to the framework of the initiative.

■ 'MAYORS ADAPT' IN FIGURES

More than **100** cities around Europe have already committed to taking action on climate change adaptation through 'Mayors Adapt'. Some provinces and networks have also expressed their willingness to be part of the game and become Mayors Adapt Coordinators or Supporters.

■ MAIN SERVICES OFFERED TO PARTICIPATING CITIES

Mayors Adapt supports local adaptation action via a dedicated helpdesk and provide various opportunities for sharing knowledge, facilitating networking and peer-to-peer learning through events. The initiative also offers an '[Urban Adaptation Support Tool](#)', which provides guidance and links to relevant resources (studies, tools etc.) specifically targeting local authorities.

■ CONTACT

www.mayors-adapt.eu
helpdesk@mayors-ada



"If Ghent wants to comply to its mission to remain a safe, healthy and attractive city, climate change has to be taken into account and our resilience needs to be strengthened. Ghent decided to take up a frontrunner role and wants to become a climate proof city by 2030. Initiatives such as Mayors Adapt support us to introduce no-regret measures like integrated water management, green roofs and green walls, less soil sealing and the usage of correct materials"

Tine Heyse, Deputy Mayor
of Ghent, Belgium



"The coastal city of Cascais has been working hard on both adaptation and mitigation since the local impacts of climate change have been assessed. We are convinced that we have to tackle our vulnerabilities to become more resilient and to provide the local population with a safer environment. The Mayors Adapt initiative will provide signatory municipalities with a valuable and comprehensive work basis for European cities to jointly tackle adaptation. It already provides a wide range of tools and an exchange platform to push forward our adaptation strategies."

João Dinis, Climate Change Project Manager,
City of Cascais - Portugal



The importance of local action and multi-level governance in reducing greenhouse gas emissions



AGENDA

COP 20 Lima, Peru
8th December 2014,
1.p.m - 3.p.m
Venue: EU Pavilion,
Brussels room

■ WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Annabelle Jaeger, EU Committee of the Regions and member of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council (France)

■ THE COVENANT OF MAYORS AS THE UMBRELLA INITIATIVE FOR LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION AT THE EU LEVEL

Pedro Ballesteros, DG Energy, European Commission

■ COVENANT OF MAYORS ACHIEVEMENTS IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION AND MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

Miguel Morcillo, Project Director, Climate Alliance & member of the Covenant of Mayors Office

■ THE CLIMATE PACT IN LUXEMBOURG: NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TEAMING UP FOR CHANGE

Camille Gira, State Secretary for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

■ THE COVENANT OF MAYORS IN THE REGION OF ABRUZZO TOWARDS 2020 – AND BEYOND

Mario Mazzocca, Commissioner for the Environment, Region of Abruzzo, Italy

■ THE ROLE OF PROVINCES IN REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – THE EXAMPLE OF PROVINCE OF BARCELONA

Mercè Rius i Serra, Deputy President for Environment, Province of Barcelona, Spain

■ THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE: AN IMPACT STUDY ACROSS SIX EU STATES

Lutz Ribbe, European Economic and Social Committee, Head of the Sustainable Development Observatory

■ DISCUSSION AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

Michel Lebrun, President of the EU Committee of the Regions

Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate action and Energy, European Commission TBC



The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions
have the pleasure of inviting you to a debate on:

RENEWABLE ENERGY AS A LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Side event in the framework of the UNFCCC COP 20 in Lima, Peru
10:30-12:30, 9 December 2014, EU Pavilion

The event will highlight local development opportunities linked to decentralized civic renewable energy production, and the need to support and unfold this potential. It will present good practice and models from different parts of the world and stimulate a debate on the role of civil society in decentralised energy production and the importance of national support frameworks.

■ DRAFT AGENDA

Opening

Lutz Ribbe, President of the EESC Sustainable Development Observatory

Miguel Arias Cañete, EU Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy (tbc)

The power of local initiatives: case studies from the Covenant of Mayors

Michel Lebrun, President of the EU Committee of the Regions

Izabella Teixeira, Brazil Environment Minister (tbc)

Local renewables model communities in Brazil

Representative of the ICLEI Local Renewables Network (tbc)

Community renewable energy in the PACA Region

Annabelle Jaeger, CoR Member, President of the Regional Environmental Agency of Provence-Alps-Cote d'Azur (PACA), France

Sustainable energy for the development of indigenous Andean communities

Alejandro Argumedo, Asociacion Andes (Cusco), Peru

Financing community sustainable energy initiatives

Juan Alario, Associate Director, Senior Energy Advisor, European Investment Bank (EIB)

■ DEBATE

Conclusions by **Isabel Cano Aguilar**, Vice-President, EESC Sustainable Development Observatory



EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

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