



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

**Meeting of the Second Chamber of the Covenant of Mayors Political Board**  
*CoR National Ambassadors*

**Cities and regions paving the way towards climate neutrality:  
synergies and alliances for an accelerated transition**

30 March 2023 | 15.00 - 18.00 (CET) | Room: JDE 53 and Atrium 5

**Concept**

Cities and regions are considered as key implementation grounds for the European Green Deal roadmap and objectives. At the same time, the EU's upgraded climate and energy objectives and the current energy crisis have changed the context in which local and regional authorities operate. More than ever, the local implementation of the energy and climate transition needs to be accelerated.

EU initiatives supporting local and regional authorities, like the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and the EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, are gaining more importance. The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is the world's largest movement for local climate and energy actions, bringing together 11 000+ local and regional authorities voluntarily committed to implementing EU climate and energy objectives in their territory. The Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities was launched as part of the Horizon Europe programme and involves 112 selected cities to (i) deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030, and (ii) ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050.

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) has supported the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy initiative since its creation in 2008. With a view to enhancing the work at national level, a Second Chamber of the Covenant Political Board was created, composed of 27 CoR Members acting as Covenant [National Ambassadors](#) in all EU Member States.

Following the Covenant of Mayors 2023 [high-level event on the energy crisis](#), the Covenant National Ambassadors and the Mayors of the Mission Cities will come together to discuss local and regional priorities on key issues including the revision of National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) and the support needed to accelerate the transition to climate neutrality by 2030 and beyond. The meeting will also be an opportunity to follow up on the key points of the recently adopted CoR Resolution on "Cities and regions responding to the energy crisis: towards a real European Energy Union".

## Agenda

<b>15:00</b> <u>Atrium 5</u>	<b>High-level opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Adina VĂLEAN, Commissioner for Transport</i></li><li>▪ <i>Rafal TRZASKOWSKI, Mayor of Warsaw (PL) and CoR ENVE commission Chair and Covenant Political Board member</i></li><li>▪ <i>Emil BOC, Mayor of Cluj-Napoca (RO) and CoR COTER commission Chair</i></li></ul>
<b>15:15</b> <u>JDE 53</u>	<b>The Covenant of Mayors in times of crisis: taking stock and looking ahead</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Rafal TRZASKOWSKI, Mayor of Warsaw (PL), CoR ENVE commission Chair and Covenant Political Board member</i></li><li>▪ <i>Paula PINHO, Director for Just Transition, Consumers, Energy Efficiency &amp; Innovation, DG ENER</i></li></ul> Debate with ambassadors with opening statement by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Andries GRYFFROY, member of the Flemish Parliament, CoR rapporteur on "Fostering the potential and synergies of EU Green Deal initiatives for regions and cities"</i></li></ul>
<b>16:00</b> <u>JDE 53</u>	<b>Building synergies towards climate neutrality: the Covenant of Mayors and the EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Patrick CHILD, Deputy Director-General, DG ENV, European Commission</i></li><li>▪ <i>Emil BOC, Mayor of Cluj-Napoca (RO) and CoR COTER commission Chair</i></li></ul> Debate with ambassadors with opening statement by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Markku MARKKULA, President of the Helsinki Region (FI) and CoR rapporteur on "European Missions"</i></li></ul>
<b>16:45</b> <u>JDE 53</u>	<b>Enhancing multi-level governance: the Covenant of Mayors and the National Energy and Climate Plans</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Pierre SCHELLEKENS, Director Energy policy: Strategy and Coordination, DG ENER, European Commission</i></li><li>▪ <i>Elina BARDRAM, Director Adaptation &amp; Resilience, Communication and Civil Society Relations, DG CLIMA, European Commission</i></li></ul> Debate with ambassadors with opening statement by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Joško KLISOVIĆ, rapporteur on the CoR opinion on "Towards a multilevel Green Deal governance: the revision of the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action Regulation"</i></li></ul>
<b>17:30</b> <u>Atrium 5</u>	<b>Networking cocktail</b>