



## Press Release

Brussels, 31 October 2014

### Vila Nova de Gaia: First EU city to report CO<sub>2</sub> reduction progress to European Commission

As a member of the European Covenant of Mayors city movement, Vila Nova de Gaia committed itself in 2011 to reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions emitted on its territory by 25% by 2020. As part of the Covenant of Mayors process, the city adopted a [Sustainable Energy Action Plan](#) outlining the large package of measures that would support this objective. Having now made significant strides in the implementation of the plan, Vila Nova de Gaia was the first among over 6, 000 European participating cities to use the EU-monitored system to report progress on CO<sub>2</sub> reductions.

According to the progress report, Vila Nova de Gaia emits 16% less CO<sub>2</sub> emissions today than it did in 2005. The greatest reductions were observed in the transport sector, with actions focusing on municipal fleet renovation and subway line expansion.

Despite the fact that the economic crisis also gave its contribution to the drop in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, significant reductions were achieved through the implementation of measures such as landfill biogas recovery for electricity production. With the Ukrainian crisis having propelled security of supplies and indigenous energy production to the top of the EU political agenda, there is no denying the added value of such investment.

Another key component of Vila Nova de Gaia's action plan is its "Vila d'Este" social housing scheme. Some 17, 000 inhabitants are to benefit from the refurbishment programme which the project coordinators have hailed as "the largest of its kind in Europe". Co-financed by European and national funds, it will lead to the improvement of the energy performance of buildings through measures such as thermal insulation, glazing improvement and the introduction of shading.

Other measures are also funded directly from the local authority's budget, such as the municipal regulations for sustainability, which foresee tax incentives for eco-friendly urban operations and new policies related to building renovations.

With most EU capitals and frontrunner cities having signed the Covenant of Mayors, it is all the more impressive that the medium-sized Portuguese municipality of Vila Nova de Gaia was the first of its European counterparts to report progress through the European Commission monitoring system.

In the meantime, some other 10 cities have followed suit and the European Commission expects the number to grow very quickly in the months to come.

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