

Brussels, 3 May 2010

EU conference: 500 cities pledge to reduce CO2 by more than 20%

More than 500 European mayors will commit tomorrow to cut CO2 emissions by more than 20% by 2020. By signing the Covenant of Mayors, they pledge to save energy, foster renewable energy and raise awareness among their citizens. They will sign the declaration in the presence of EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso and José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, Prime Minister of Spain. The Covenant of Mayors is a Commission initiative, supported both by the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions.

Günther Oettinger, Commissioner responsible for energy said: "*The Covenant of Mayors has become a key element of the EU sustainable energy policy. Regions and cities are demonstrating that climate mitigation is one of the best economic recovery strategies. Investment into the reduction of CO2 emissions and energy efficiency creates jobs which by their nature cannot be delocalised.*"

At the Covenant of Mayors Ceremony in the European Parliament, more than 500 mayors will sign the declaration. The Declaration commits them to analyse how much CO2 they emit at the moment, outline how they will reach the goal and evaluate their actions. They also commit themselves to raise awareness among citizens and to share best practice. The city of Heidelberg for example has reduced its Co2 emissions by nearly 40% in public buildings through energy monitoring stations and the 'Energy Teams' in the city's schools. The City of Riga utilises the methane gas produced in the city's waste tip to produce electricity and Antwerp uses a refurbished industrial warehouse as showcases sustainable building and demonstration centre for citizens.

Local authorities have a key role in mitigating climate change. Over half of greenhouse gas emissions are created in and by cities. 80% of the population lives and works in cities, where up to 80% of energy is consumed.

Background:

The Covenant of Mayors is an annual conference that has been initiated by the European Commission in 2009. With more than 500 Mayors signing the declaration this year, the number of signatories will raise to more than 1600 signatories in 36 countries representing 120 million citizens.

The European Commission is supporting the initiative by organizing the conference, fostering best practice on the website and helping local authorities to finance their energy actions through programmes such as ELENA which provides funding of Euro 15 million in 2010.

More information on the Covenant of Mayors and the ceremony:

<http://www.eumayors.eu/>

Annex:

List of Mayors singing the declaration



Local Authorities Signing the Covenant of Mayors

Austria

LAXENBURG
WOLFURT

Belgium

ANTWERPEN
BRUXELLES-REGION
GENK
GENT
HASSELT

Bosnia and Herzegovina

SARAJEVO

Bulgaria

BALCHIK
VARNA

Croatia

ZAGREB
DUGA RESA
JASTREBARSKO
KLANJEC
RIJEKA
VELIKA GORICA
ZAPRESIC

Cyprus

LARNACA
LEFKARA
PARALIMNI

Czech Republic

JESENÍK

Estonia

KURESSAARE
RAKVERE

France

BREST MÉTROPOLE OCÉANE
CHAMONIX MONT-BLANC
COUDEKERQUE-BRANCHE
COULAINES
ECHIROLLES
METZ
BAYONNE
CAEN
CHAMBERY
ECHIROLLES
GENEVE
GRAND-DOLE
GRANDE-SYNTHE
GRENOBLE
LA BASTIDONNE
L'HAÏ-LES-ROSES

SÈTE

Germany

BÖHL-IGGELHEIM
FÜRSTENFELDBRUCK
LÖRRACH
MUNICH
TELTOW
WILLICH

Greece

PATRAS
ACHARNES
AGIA VARVARA
AGIOI ANARGYROI
AGIOS DIMITRIOS
AGIOS STEFANOS
ANO LIOSIA
ASPROPYRGOS
THERMI
NEA VYSSA
PAIANIA
PALAIO FALIRO
PANORAMA
SERRES
SYKIES
YMITTOS

Italy

ABBIATEGRASSO
AGRATE BRIANZA
ALBANO S. ALESSANDRO
ALBINO
ALTINO
ALZANO LOMBARDO
ATESSA
ATRI
AVERARA
BAGNATICA
BARBARIGA
BEDULITA
BELLUSCO

BERGAMO
BERZO SAN FERMO
BIANZANO
BLELLO
BOLGARE
BOMBA
BORGIO DI TERZO
BORRELLO
BOSSICO
BOTTICINO
BRACCA
BRANDICO
BREMBATE DI SOPRA
BREMBILLA
BRUGHERIO
BRUMANO
CALICE AL CORNOVIGLIO
CALVENZANO
CAMERATA CORNELLO
CANEGRATE
CANOSA SANNITA
CARNATE
CARONA
CARONNO PERTUSELLA
CARUNCHIO
CASALBORDINO
CASALINCONTRADA
CASAZZA
CASNIGO
CASOLI
CASSIGLIO
CASTEL FRENTANO
CASTELFRANCO EMILIA
CASTELNUOVO MAGRA
CASTELNUOVO RANGONE
CASTIGLIONE MESSER MARINO
CASTRO
CAZZANO DI TRAMIGNA
CAZZANO S. ANDREA
CELENZA SUL TRIGNO

CENATE SOPRA
CERISANO
CESENATICO
CHIETI
CINISELLO BALSAMO
CIVITALUP ARELLA
CIVITELLA MESSER RAIMONDO
COLLEDIMEZZO
COMISO
COMUN NUOVO
CONCORDIA SULLA SECCHIA
CORTENUOVA
CORZANO
COSTA SERINA
CRECCHIO
CREDARO
CUSIO
DELLO
DOGLIOLA
DOSSENA
ENDINE GAIANO
ENTRATICO
FALLO
FARA SAN MARTINO
FILETTO
FOGGIA
FOPPOLO
FORMIGINE
FOSSACESIA
FRANCAVILLA AL MARE
FRESAGRANDINARIA
GAMBERALE
GANDINO
GAVARDO
GAVERINA TERME
GENOVA
GEROSA
GISSI
GIULIANOVA
GRONE

GUALDO TADINO
GUARDIAGRELE
LANCIANO
LENNA
LENTELLA
LONGHENA
LUZZANA
MACLODIO
MAIRANO
MARANELLO
MARANO PRINCIPATO
MARCALLO CON CASONE
MEDOLLA
MEZZOLDO
MIGLIANICO
MOIO DE CALVI
MONASTEROLO DEL CASTELLO
MONTAZZOLI
MONTEFERRANTE
MONTELAPIANO
MONTENERODOMO
MONTEODORISIO
MORENGO
MORNICO AL SERIO
MOZZAGROGNA
ODOLO
OLMO AL BREMBO
OLTRE IL COLLE
ONETA
ORNICA
ORSOGNA
ORZINUOVI
ORZIVECCHI
OSTRA VETERE
PAGLIETA
PARZANICA
PEDRENGO
PEIA
PENNADOMO
PERANO

PESCARA
PESSANO CON BORNAGO
PIAZZA BREMBANA
PIAZZATORRE
PIAZZOLO
PIETRAMONTECORVINO
POGGIOFIORITO
POLLUTRI
POMPIANO
PONTE NOSSA
PONTERANICA
PRESEZZO
QUADRI
RANZANICO
REZZATO
RIPA TEATINA
ROCCASPINALVETI
RONCOBELLO
RONCOLA
ROTA D'IMAGNA
SAN BONIFACIO
SAN DONATO MILANESE
SAN FELICE SUL PANARO
SAN GIOVANNI ILARIONE
SAN GIOVANNI LIPIONI
SAN PAOLO D'ARGON
SAN PELLEGRINO TERME
SAN POSSIDONIO
SAN SALVO
SAN VITO CHIETINO
SANTA BRIGIDA
SANTA MARIA IMBARO
SANTO STEFANO DI MAGRA
SARNICO
SCANZOROSCIATE
SCHIAVI DI ABRUZZO
SEDRINA
SOAVE
SOLIERA
SOLTO COLLINA

SPINONE AL LAGO
SULBIATE
TALEGGIO
TAVERNOLA BERGAMASCA
TORNARECCIO
TORREBRUNA
TORTORETO
TRAVEDONA MONATE
TREGLIO
TRESORE BALNEARIO
TUFILLO
UBIALE CLANEZZO
UBOLDO
VACRI
VALBREMBO
VALLEVE
VALTORTA
VARESE LIGURE
VEDESETA
VIGANO SAN MARTINO
VILLA DI SERIO
VILLA SANTA MARIA
VILLACHIARA
VILLALFONSINA
VILLANUOVA SUL CLISI
VILLONGO
VIMERCATE
VITTUONE
VOBARNO
ZANDOBBIO
ZEVIO
ZOGNO

Latvia

JEKABPILS CITY COUNCIL

Lithuania

KAUNAS
PANEVEZYS
VILKAVIŠKIS REGION

Macedonia

SKOPJE

Malta

BALZAN
BIRKIRKARA
GHARGHUR
IKLIN
KALKARA
MARSASKALA
MDINA
PEMBROKE
QRENDI
SAN GILJAN
SAN LAWRENZ
SANTA LUCIJA
SANTA VENERA
SWIEQI
SAN PAWL IL-BAHAR
SLIEMA
TA' XBIEX
XAGHRA, GOZO
XEWKIJA

Montenegro

PODGORICA

Netherlands

HEERHUGOWAARD

Norway

STAVANGER

Poland

DZIERŻONIÓW
LUBIANKA
RACIECHOWICE

Portugal

BEJA
FERREIRA DO ALENTEJO

SANTIAGO DO CACÉM
SANTO AMADOR

Romania

CRAIOVA
GIURGIU
AVRIG
BISTRITA
VASLUI

Slovakia

MOLDAVA NAD BODVOU

Spain

ABRERA
AGRES
AGUILAR DE SEGARRA
ALCALALI
ALCOCER DE PLANES
ALQUERIA DE AZNAR
ARENYS DE MAR
ASPE
BARCELONA
BENIARRES
BENIDORM
BENIFALLIM
BENIFATO
BENIMARFULL
BENISSA
BERGA
BIAR
BURRIANA
CALDES DE MONTBUI
CALDES D'ESTRAC
CALLOSA DE SEGURA
CALP
CANYELLES
CARDEDEU
CASTELLÓN DE LA PLANA
CENTELLES

CORBERA DE LLOBREGAT
DAYA VIEJA
EL CAMPELLO
EL RAFOL D'ALMUNIA
ESPARTINAS
ESPLUGUES DE LLOBREGAT
FAMORCA
FIGUERES
GARGANTILLA DE LOZOYA
GATA DE GORGOS
GAVÀ
GELIDA
GRANOLLERS
LA ROMANA
LES FRANQUESES DEL VALLÈS
LES MASIES DE VOLTREGA
LLEIDA
LLIÇÀ D'AMUNT
LOS MONTESINOS
MARTORELL
MONTORNÈS DEL VALLÈS
MURO DE ALCOY
NAVÀS
ONDARA
ORBA
ORDIS
ORIHUELA
PALAU-SOLITÀ I PLEGAMANS
PALLEJÀ
PARCENT
PARETS DEL VALLÈS
PEDREGUER
PINOSO
PREMIÀ DE MAR
PUERTO LUMBRERAS
REUS
RIBESALBES
RIUDECANYES
SALINAS

SANT CUGAT DEL VALLES
SANT CUGAT SESGARRIGUES
SANT JOAN DESPÍ
SANT LLUÍS (MENORCA)
SANT QUIRZE DEL VALLÈS
SANTA COLOMA DE
GRAMENET
SANTA EUGENIA
SANTA MARIA DEL CAMÍ
SANTANDER
SELLA
SENTMENAT
TERRASSA
TOLLOS
VALENCIA
VILADECANS
VILA-REAL
VILASSAR DE DALT
VILASSAR DE MAR
VILLENA
VITORIA-GASTEIZ

Sweden

BORÅS
FINSPÅNG
JOKKMOKK
VÄXJÖ

Switzerland

GENEVA

Ukraine

LUTSK
MOHYLIV-PODILSKY

United Kingdom

ABERDEEN

Supporting Structures signing the Covenant of Mayors

CLIMATE ALLIANCE
COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS
ENERGY-CITIES
EUROCITIES
FEDARENE
ASSOCIATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENT CITIES OF UKRAINE
ASSOCIATION COORDINAMENTO AGENDE 21 LOCALI ITALIANE (ITALY)
ASSOCIAZIONE BORGHI AUTENTICI D'ITALIA (ITALY)
BALEARIC ISLAND GOVERNMENT (SPAIN)
CITTASLOW INTERNATIONAL (ITALY)
EUROPEAN NEW TOWNS PLATFORM
LOCAL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION (MALTA)
PROVINCE OF ALICANTE (SPAIN)
PROVINCE OF BARCELONA (SPAIN)
PROVINCE OF CASTELLÓN (SPAIN)
PROVINCE OF BERGAMO (ITALY)
PROVINCE OF CHIETI (ITALY)
PROVINCE OF LA SPEZIA (ITALY)
PROVINCE OF MILANO (ITALY)
PROVINCE OF MODENA (ITALY)
PROVINCE OF PESCARA (ITALY)
PROVINCE OF ROME (ITALY)
PROVINCE OF TERAMO (ITALY)
PROVINCE OF TORINO (ITALY)
PROVINCIA DI BENEVENTO (ITALY)
REGION ABRUZZO (ITALY)
REGION SJÆLLAND (DENMARK)
UNION OF BULGARIAN BLACK SEA LOCAL AUTHORITIES (BULGARIA)
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN CROATIA
VERBAND REGION RHEIN-NECKAR (GERMANY)