



## Press release, Brussels, 25 June 2012

### Local authorities as laboratories for green growth: the Covenant of Mayors enhances cooperation with the private sector - EESC launches a “Covenant of Companies”

**Working in partnership is the only way to achieve the EU sustainable energy targets, boost green growth and get out of the crisis. This is the key message from the event “Covenant of Mayors signatories meet business to convert plans into actions”, held last Friday 22 June during the EU Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels.**

The event, hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and co-organised by the Covenant of Mayors Office, brought together representatives of major European industrial associations, European employers and workers groups, the cities of Sunderland and Helsinki and the Province of Barcelona, to discuss how the cooperation between local authorities and the private sector can be further enhanced and lead to green growth and job creation.

Henri Malosse, President of the EESC Employer’s group, declared that “a Covenant of Companies associated to the Covenant of Mayors will be an engine for recovery, growth and jobs.” Indeed, “green economy represents a huge opportunity for the private sector and SMEs are the real protagonists of the green revolution” said Diego Canga Fano, Head of Cabinet of Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for industry and entrepreneurship.

So far twenty Associated Partners - ranging from international financial institutions to European industrial associations of energy service providers and local energy companies - have pledged to support Covenant signatories with innovative partnerships, and their number is growing. As stated by Paul Voss, Head of European Affairs at DANFOSS, representing Euroheat and Power, “mayors need solutions from private companies to improve the performance of their cities”.

Building on the model and success of the Covenant of Mayors, the EESC proposes to create a *Covenant of Companies*. Antonello Pezzini, Member of the EESC Employers’ group and mentor of the idea, states that this new platform geared towards companies “will be responsible for collecting and coordinating industry-specific energy efficiency action plans and for allocation of funding”.

The Covenant of Mayors, as a voluntary commitment taken by over 4,000 local and regional authorities demonstrating cooperation between different levels of governance offers indeed an excellent model for an enhanced involvement of the private sector to boost green growth and jobs in European cities.

#### **More information:**

Covenant of Mayors initiative: [http://www.eumayors.eu/index\\_en.html](http://www.eumayors.eu/index_en.html)

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