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## Press release

### While Doha talks global, cities act local

Today over 2,000 out of some 4,500 European cities and towns signatories to the Covenant of Mayors have submitted their Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) and are implementing tangible actions within a common methodological framework. This impressive figure shows the concrete impacts of this EU initiative in boosting integrated energy planning across municipalities in Europe.

When signing up to the Covenant of Mayors, local authorities voluntarily commit to reducing their CO2 emissions by at least 20% by 2020 via the implementation of sustainable energy measures, which are outlined in a comprehensive action plan. The 2,000-plus Covenant Signatories that have so far submitted their SEAP have gone even beyond the initial 20% EU target. They expect to achieve an estimated 29% CO2 emissions reduction by 2020, which corresponds to approximately 150 million tonnes of CO2. This amount represents more than the overall annual emissions of a country like Belgium.

SEAPs include concrete and innovative actions aimed at increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy use across different key sectors of the economy in the territory of local authorities. The methodological framework behind the SEAP development is flexible, allowing signatories to choose their own approach to address territorial specificities. In the 2,000 SEAPs already submitted, the greatest CO2 reductions are expected to come from the buildings sector (municipal, residential and/or tertiary), followed by transport and local renewable energy production.

Over two thirds of these SEAPs come from small-sized municipalities, which in close collaboration with their respective provinces and/or regions are able to deliver their commitments. These results show the exemplary multilevel cooperation model of the Covenant of Mayors which has proven to be very effective in building capacity and steering action in energy sustainability across local and regional levels of government.

The multilevel governance model of the Covenant of Mayors has been inspirational in and outside Europe and will be showcased in a [workshop](#) in Doha during the UN Climate Conference COP 18.

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The Covenant of Mayors is the mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories. By their commitment, Covenant Signatories aim to meet and exceed the European Union 20% CO2 reduction objective by 2020. More information: <http://www.eumayors.eu/>

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