

Local actions are key to European energy security

Declaration of European Networks of local and regional authorities committed to the Covenant of Mayors¹

Brussels, 24 June 2014

Energy Security is of increasing relevance in Europe. Recent geopolitical turmoils show the vulnerability and high dependence of Europe on a few suppliers. Energy security is of increasing relevance and a responsibility shared by everyone, whatever their level of governance or sector, including citizens.

Local and regional authorities are voluntarily committed to EU climate and energy objectives through the Covenant of Mayors and other engagements, hence contributing to Europe's energy independence.

We welcome the Energy Security Strategy issued by the European Commission on 28 May 2014, which recommends that Member States *support an "accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Energy Action Plans submitted by municipalities participating to the Covenant of Mayors"*, hence recognising the initiative as an instrument to improve energy security in Europe.

The main victims of disruptions to energy supply in the upcoming winter period will be citizens, and local and regional authorities will be in the front line to meet their needs and demands. Therefore, we believe that local and regional authorities are key to contribute to Europe's energy security in the short, medium and long term by:

- Taking immediate actions aimed at moderating energy demand notably through efficient energy management of their municipal assets, using more efficient means of producing and distributing energy, and communicating with citizens;
- Accelerating the implementation of their Sustainable Energy Action Plans, including measures for higher energy efficiency in sectors such as buildings and transport and more decentralised energy production, which contribute to making their territory more energy autonomous.

We, European networks of local and regional authorities, will:

- Launch a campaign of information towards cities, towns and regions across Europe to take immediate action on energy savings in the context of energy security;
- Empower local communities by providing them with good examples and practical solutions for sustainable energy actions;
- Monitor short, medium and long-term actions implemented in the framework of the Covenant of Mayors and disseminate the results in order to boost their replication;
- Continue reinforcing relationships with the European institutions and national governments in order to accelerate the implementation of the action plans, particularly of short-term actions;
- Support, where applicable, initiatives and policies that can further enhance local and regional capacities for action, including the EU 2030 framework for climate and energy policies or the international negotiations on climate change.

¹ www.eumayors.eu



Climate Alliance

Climate Alliance unites 1,700 cities and municipalities in Europe committed to global climate change mitigation.

www.climatealliance.eu



The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) represents the interests of European local authorities and their associations in more than 40 countries.

www.ccre.org



energycities

Energy Cities is the European association of local authorities in energy transition.

www.energy-cities.eu



EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities. Our members are the elected local and municipal governments of major European cities.

www.eurocities.eu



European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and the Environment.

www.fedarene.org



ICLEI is a global network of more than 1,100 local and regional governments in 86 countries dedicated to sustainable development.

www.iclei.org