

Joint Press Release

Brussels, 24 June 2014



Six major European associations pledge support to local action for energy security

« Local actions are key to European energy security”. This is the title of a [joint declaration](#) co-signed by the 6 major EU networks of local and regional authorities¹, which have pledged to undertake five strategic sets of actions to support their member cities and regions in contributing to energy security in the EU.

According to one of the declaration’s opening observations, « *Energy security is of increasing relevance and a responsibility shared by everyone*”, whatever the level of governance or sector, including citizens. With this in mind, the declaration goes on to welcome the European Commission’s recent recognition of the Covenant of Mayors as a “key action” of its Energy Security Strategy, as the Covenant now brings together close to 6,000 local authorities, working hand in hand with the private sectors, NGOs, regions, national bodies and citizens to meet and even exceed EU climate and energy objectives.

With the winter season looming, there is increasing concern about potential energy supply disruptions, which will be felt most acutely by citizens, with local authorities “*in the front line to meet their needs and demands*”. By taking immediate short term actions to moderate energy demand (raising citizens’ awareness and improving the energy efficiency of public services) and accelerating the implementation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans (sustainable buildings and transport; decentralised energy production), local authorities can make a crucial contribution to Europe’s energy security.

In light of this, Climate Alliance, CEMR, Energy Cities, EURO CITIES, FEDARENE and ICLEI have jointly pledged to:

1. Launch a campaign of information towards cities, towns and regions to take immediate action on energy savings;
2. Empower local communities through examples and solutions for sustainable energy actions;
3. Disseminate the results of short, medium and long-term actions implemented in the framework of the Covenant of Mayors in order to boost their replication;
4. Reinforce relationships with the European institutions and national governments in order to accelerate the implementation of the action plans, particularly of short-term actions;
5. Support initiatives and policies that 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 Climate Alliance, CEMR, Energy Cities, EURO CITIES, FEDARENE and ICLEI



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



Association of over 1,200 local governments driving positive change on a global scale through programmes and campaigns on local sustainability.

www.iclei.org