

## MANIFESTO

### Reforming Europe through its Energy Union

Dear Presidents, Heads of States and Governments, Ministers,

Having convened from all corners of Europe to confront obstacles and ideas to advance the energy transition in our cities, we write to you to share our vision on the European project of the Energy Union.

With the various crises that have shaken EU integration recently, and following the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rome Treaty, Europe stands at a crossroads in its history. Only a full reform of the community's machinery offers the chance to safeguard the European project. A common sense of purpose and mission is Europe's unique opportunity to galvanize support among citizens.

**We, Mayors and local elected representatives**, have spent the past years and decades in engaging our citizens in sharing their hopes and expectations for the future, and the kind of society they wish to live in. We have seized the opportunity of the energy transition, a transformation that is bound to happen, to conduct a broader assessment of the structural reforms we need to operate in our cities. In many cases, what started as an energy debate became an opportunity to trigger an economic recovery, launch a local currency, address social inequalities or increase cohesion among our communities, etc.

While the EU is in the midst of an unprecedented review of its own energy legislation, we urge you, European and national decision makers, to follow our lead. **We call on you to initiate a broader reform of the EU apparatus by introducing a genuine dialogue with local authorities as part of the Energy Union process.**

As we approach the ten years' anniversary of the Covenant of Mayors, we will celebrate almost a decade of devising local energy and climate plans. The Energy Union governance process is now requiring the 28 Member States to come up with their own plans by end of 2018. Let us help you.

The Energy transition will be based on decentralised production, it will be done by local players, we, Mayors, have to be on the negotiation table.

The EU has an opportunity to show that reactionary nationalism and populist movements are not the way ahead. The energy transition, if adapted to local assets and specificities, is a powerful gateway to a more open and attractive Europe.

Stuttgart, 27 April 2017

*Signatories: Mayors and elected people of cities, [member of Energy Cities](#)*