



Progress Report on the Covenant of Mayors

Brussels, 16th October 2009



Steadily growing commitment by European municipalities

So far, more than 850 local authorities including 21 capitals have committed to go beyond the EU's 20% goal to reduce CO₂ emissions in their territories. This number is steadily growing, far beyond the original expectations. Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP) are being prepared now by all signatories and will be submitted via the online template available on the Covenant website as of October 2009. The Covenant now represents more than 130 million of inhabitants, with a conservative estimation of GHG emission mitigation potential around 110 Mt CO₂eq.



Technical support and guidance for signatories

Methodology and technical guidance is a core element of the Covenant of Mayors. Extensive research and stakeholder consultation have been conducted in order to identify a common basis for development of a recommended methodology, as far as energy consumption, savings and emission calculations is concerned. Taking into account the diversity of methods and tools used at the local level, a common basis respecting this diversity but providing for a coherent approach, has been created in the form of an online template for SEAPs. The template is an interactive web-based tool to be encoded (in English) directly by Covenant cities, creating the skeleton of individual SEAPs and providing with on-line aggregated statistics. It is accompanied with relevant instructions.

Another important tool, the Covenant guidelines on 'How to develop a SEAP' will be available by the beginning of November and will provide committing local authorities with recommended steps, formulas and methodology for ensuring the coherence of SEAPs across Europe. Further promotional materials, graphical guidelines and other materials are available on the Covenant website, including regularly updated FAQs. Signatories are also assisted via personalised contacts of the Helpdesk and by Supporting Structures.





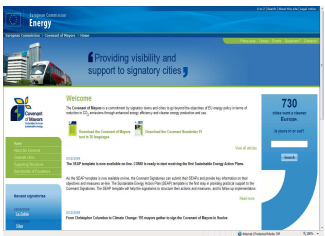
Support from European regions and networks of local authorities

As of today, 37 Supporting Structures have signed an agreement with the European Commission to provide support for Covenant signatories who are lacking the resources, knowledge or skills to deliver on their commitments. This number includes 19 sub-national public administrations including provinces, regions with a public mandate and 18 networks of local authorities.



Engaging exchanges

The first high visibility Annual Ceremony on 10th February 2009 in the European Parliament’s Hemicycle has been followed by several other events organised by the Covenant of Mayors Office, and other Covenant actors. . Four thematic workshops have been organized in 2009 and dozens of presentations made in various European and national events. Local Energy Days, involving local stakeholders and communicating the cities’ actions, will be in the spotlight in the next period of activity, and will be closely followed by the Covenant of Mayors Office.



Visibility and transparency through the web

The website has been up and running since February 2009 providing Signatories’ and Supporting Structures’ actions with high visibility and delivering all relevant information on the progress of the Covenant. Signatories and Supporting Structures can complete and update their profiles as well as submit their Sustainable Energy Action Plans via the online template. Their actions alongside with other relevant news are promoted via daily updated online news and a quarterly newsletter. Signatories and their commitments are provided full visibility and transparency via the website.



Financial support from the EIB

The European Commission has allocated a relevant part of the Intelligent Energy Europe programme to set up ELENA (European Local Energy Assistance), the technical assistance facility dedicated to support committing cities to make their sustainable energy investment projects bankable and eligible for funding by the European Investment Bank (EIB). ELENA will be launched before the end of 2009 and will be co-ordinated by the EIB.



Benchmarks of Excellence

Benchmarks of Excellence are proposed as the examples of those local initiatives of which Covenant Signatories and Supporting Structures feel particularly proud about and endorse as useful models with added value for other local authorities to replicate. As the Covenant is developing, it is expected that Covenant signatories will benefit of a high number of such good examples.



Great visibility in the media

The Covenant has attracted high media interest since its launch. To date, more than 300 press clippings have been collected by the Media Desk, with coverage across 6 continents. To maintain this high profile perception of the Covenant, the Media Desk continues to liaise with journalists from across Europe, and has received over 40 press inquiries. A comprehensive press database has been established, and 470 journalists received the First Covenant of Mayors Newsletter. 12 articles on the Covenant have been drafted, for both print and online publications. To reinforce the work of the Media Desk, a network of Covenant Signatory media contacts is currently under development.



The Covenant of Mayors Office

A dedicated team of professionals is at your assistance should you need any guidance or information to know more about the Covenant of Mayors. To know more, please also visit: www.eumayors.eu

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