Covenant of Mayors Ceremony
Restoring faith in Europe’s future through local sustainable energy

29th November 2011

PROGRAMME

An ever-increasing number of smart cities and regions stand united in the Covenant of Mayors, the pledge to meet and exceed the EU’s ambitious energy policy targets, while creating better living conditions for their citizens, notably by:

- rethinking their territorial organisation and modes of development,
- creating new jobs and mobilizing hundreds of millions of euros in sustainable investments,
- delivering better public services and creating more livable urban environments.

The European Commission, together with other EU institutions, initiated this movement and materialised their support through EU programs and initiatives.

EU institutions work together with local authorities to find innovative solutions to the challenges of cities. This Ceremony is the annual turning point of the Covenant movement where new cities and regions confirm their commitment. This year’s ceremony will bring interesting discussions between European policymakers and cities & regions to create a strong link and a fruitful dialogue between European policy initiatives and mayors’ hands-on experience.

1. Who is driving Europe and its neighboring countries towards smart, sustainable and inclusive growth?

Timing: 10:30-12:00
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Room JDE 52 & Room JDE 51 (Hearing Room), 5th floor, Jacques Delors Building, Rue Belliard 99-101, B - 1040 Brussels, Belgium

This high-level dialogue will allow local and regional authorities to come face to face with prominent representatives of European institutions so as to debate ways in which to tackle climate change and energy challenges together.

Welcome by Ilmar Reepalu, Mayor of Malmö, Member of the Committee of the Regions
Panel (moderated by Alex Taylor):
Introduction by Mr Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Environment
- Mr Claude Turmes, Member of the European Parliament, Rapporteur on Energy Efficiency Directive
- Mr Jean-Louis Joseph, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Rapporteur on Energy Efficiency Directive
- Mr Michel Lebrun, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Rapporteur on Resource Efficiency
- Mr Nils Ušakovs, Mayor of Riga (LV)
- Mr Giuseppe Castiglione, President of the Union of Italian Provinces (IT), Member of the Committee of the Regions
- Mr Volodymyr Garazd, Mayor of Dolyna (UA)
- Dr Noureddine Lazrek, Mayor of Salé (MA)

Dialogue between the panelists and the audience

Lunch-cocktail hosted by the Committee of the Regions
Timing: 12:00-13:30
Venue: Atrium, 5th floor, Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99-101, B-1000, Brussels
2. Covenant of Mayors Signature Ceremony

Timing: 14:00-17:00  
Venue: Hemicycle of the European Parliament, Altiero Spinelli Building, B-1050, Brussels  
Master of Ceremony: Mr Alex Taylor

SESSION I: Official opening of the Covenant of Mayors Signature Ceremony  
14:00-14:35

14:00-14:10  Mr Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament  
14:10-14:20  Ms Mercedes Bresso, President of the Committee of the Regions  
14:20-14:26  Mr Philip Lowe, Director General for Energy, European Commission  
14:26-14:30  Mr Günther H. Oettinger, European Commissioner for Energy  
14:30-14:35  Family photo of the Covenant signatories with keynote speakers

SESSION II: The city as a focus for policy initiatives  
14:35-15:20 – Panel Discussion

Introduction by Mr Jan Olbrycht, Member of the European Parliament, President of the URBAN Intergroup  
Prof. Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, Mayor of Warsaw (PL)  
Mr Giorgi Ugulava, Mayor of Tbilisi (GE)  
Mr Herman Reynders, Governor of the Province of Limburg (BE)  
Dr Alija Behmen, Mayor of Sarajevo (BA)

SESSION III: Smart Cities & Communities: investments in innovation and technology  
15:20-15:50 – Panel Discussion

Introduction by Mr Peter Molengraaf, CEO of Alliander  
Mr Javier Maroto Aranzábal, Mayor of Vitoria-Gasteiz (ES) - European Green Capital 2012  
Mr Ilmar Reepalu, Mayor of Malmö (SE) and Member of the Committee of the Regions  
Ms Marta Vincenzi, Mayor of Genova (IT), Member of the Committee of the Regions  
Mr Federico Sciurano, Mayor of Ushuaia (ARG)  
Sir Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council (UK)
SESSION IV: Cities’ contribution to EU energy policy targets
15:50-16:20 – Panel Discussion

Introduction by Mr Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Regional Policy

Mr Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, President of the Region of Murcia (ES), First Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions

Mr Sorin Mircea Oprescu, Mayor of Bucharest (RO)

Mr Giuliano Pisapia, Mayor of Milan (IT)

Ms Evelyne Huytebroeck, Minister, Brussels Capital Region (BE)

SESSION V: The Covenant of Mayors Signature Ceremony
16:20-17:00

16:20-16:30  Mr Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Regional Policy
Keynote speech: Conclusions & the way ahead

16:30-17:00  Signature ceremony chaired by Mr Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Regional Policy

The new Covenant signatories will be invited to symbolically sign the Covenant of Mayors in presence of the European institutions’ representatives.

Interpretation will be provided from/to: BS-DE-EN-ES-FR-HR-IT-KA-NL-PL-RO-SR