

Borgarráð

### ***Páttaka í Covenant of Energy and Climate***

Lagt er til að borgarráð samþykki að Reykjavíkurborg gerist aðili að sameinuðum sáttmála sveitarfélaga um orku og loftslagsmál (Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy). Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy er sameining þriggja verkefna sem Reykjavíkurborg er nú þegar aðili að: Covenant of Mayors, Mayors Adapt og Compact of Mayors.

Greinargerð:

Reykjavíkurborg hefur verið aðili að loftslagssáttmála sveitarfélaga (Covenant of Mayors) síðan 2010, sáttmála sveitarfélaga um aðlögun að loftslagsbreytingum (e. Mayors Adapt) síðan 2014 og samkomulaginu Compact of Mayors síðan 2015. Óska þarf eftir því með formlegum hætti að gerast aðili að sameinaða sáttmálanum. Að öðrum kosti er litið svo á að borgin sé enn þátttakandi í þremur aðskildum verkefnum. Að vera þátttakandi í einum sáttmála einfaldar samskipti, fræðslu og upplýsingagjöf af hálfu borgarinnar.

Með því að taka þátt í sameinaða sáttmálanum er skuldbindingin tvennskönar:

- draga úr losun gróðurhúsalofttegunda um a.m.k. 40% fyrir árið 2030 með betri orkunýtni og aukinni áherslu á endurnýjanlega orkugjafa.
- auka þanþol borgarinnar með því að aðlagast að loftslagsbreytingum.

Óskað er eftir að skuldbindingunum verði fylgt eftir með því að:

- útbúa aðgerðaráætlun um loftslagsmál.
- meta árangurinn á a.m.k. tveggja ára fresti.

Samkvæmt loftslagsstefnu Reykjavíkurborgar sem samþykkt var í borgarráði 30. júní 2016 er sett sú stefna að borgin verði kolefnishlutlaus árið 2040 og aðlagist að loftslagsbreytingum með fjölbreyttum hætti. Ítarleg aðgerðaráætlun fylgir loftslagsstefnunni. Reykjavíkurborg uppfyllir því nú þegar þær skuldbindingar og áætlanir um eftirfylgni sem óskað er eftir.

Dagur B. Eggertsson

Hjálagt:

Samþykktarform fyrir þátttöku í Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

The New Intergrated Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy - Inntakslýsing.

Q&As for cities on the New Intergrated Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

I, **Dagur B. Eggertsson**, **Mayor** of **The City of Reykjavik** have been mandated by the **Municipal Council** on **[date]** to sign up to the **Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy**, in full knowledge of the commitments set out in the official [Commitment Document](#) and summarised below.

Therefore, my local authority principally commits to:

- Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> (and possibly other greenhouse gas) emissions on its territory by at least 40% by 2030, namely through improved energy efficiency and greater use of renewable energy sources;
- Increasing its resilience by adapting to the impacts of climate change.

In order to translate these commitments into action, my local authority undertakes to fulfil the following step-by-step approach:

- Carry out a **Baseline Emissions Inventory** and a **Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment**;
- Submit a **Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan** within two years following the above date of the municipal council decision;
- Report progress** at least every second year following the submission of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan for evaluation, monitoring and verification purposes.

I accept that my local authority shall be suspended from the initiative – subject to prior notice in writing by the Covenant of Mayors Office – in case of non-submission of the above-mentioned documents (i.e. Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan and Progress Reports) within the established deadlines.

**Reykjavik City Hall, Tjarnargata 11, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland**

**Dagur B. Eggertsson**

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**SIGNATURE**

## Q&As for cities



**Merging climate change mitigation (Covenant of Mayors) and adaptation (Mayors Adapt) under one single umbrella initiative (Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy)**

### - What does this mean in practice? -

#### Target audiences:

-  All Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt Signatories.
-  Any other local authorities interested in joining the new initiative.

#### Purposes:

-  Inform cities and other stakeholders about the reasons for and the implications of the Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt merge into an integrated initiative.
-  Clarify the modalities (incl. the signing and other administrative procedures) under the new initiative.

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## Q&As – Contents

### The new initiative in a nutshell

1. Why merge the “Covenant of Mayors” and “Mayors Adapt” under one umbrella initiative?
2. What is this new initiative about (vision, ambition and scope of action)?
3. What commitments do signatories have to fulfil?
4. Can you give concrete examples of mitigation measures in towns and cities?
5. Can you give concrete examples of adaptation measures in towns and cities?
6. Why join? What do signatories get in return?
7. What’s so special about the new initiative?

### The practicalities for existing signatories

8. I am already a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors and/or Mayors Adapt, do I have to join to the new initiative?
9. I am already a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors and/or Mayors Adapt, do I need to update my commitments and the related documents (BEI/MEI/SEAP, local adaptation strategy/plan)?
10. I am already a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors and/or Mayors Adapt. If I wish to continue my participation beyond 2020, do I need to sign up to the new initiative?

### The modalities for new signatories

11. I am not a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors or Mayors Adapt but I would still like to join, can I sign up now to any of them?
12. I am not a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors or Mayors Adapt but I would like to join the new initiative, how to join?
13. I have signed up to the new initiative – what’s next (submitting plan, monitoring and reporting)?

## Q&As

### The new initiative in a nutshell

#### 1. Why merge the “Covenant of Mayors” and “Mayors Adapt” under one umbrella initiative?

- The international community has reached a historical agreement on climate change at the COP 21<sup>1</sup> conference in Paris. The agreement recognises the important role that cities and other subnational authorities have to address and respond to climate change. The agreement also encourages cities and other subnational authorities to deal with climate change mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner.
- Mitigation of greenhouse gases and adaptation to climate change are complementary strategies for dealing with climate change. Dealing with mitigation and adaptation as one can therefore bring co-benefits and win-win solutions, make the whole process more effective and cost-efficient, help harness political support and strengthen coordination among municipal departments.
- A broad survey conducted by the Covenant of Mayors Office with the support of the Committee of the Regions in summer 2015 showed that a wide majority of cities were in favour of bringing both climate change pillars closer and merging both initiatives (Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt) to promote a coordinated climate action.
- The new European policy context (i.e. the 2030 climate and energy framework agreed by EU leaders, the EU adaptation strategy and the Energy Union with forward looking climate policy) provides an opportunity for the further development of the Covenant of Mayors initiative and the reinforcement of linkages between the Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt. The EU has set a domestic greenhouse gas emission reduction target of at least 40% by 2030 which would support the shift to a low-carbon energy system and contribute to a more climate-resilient Europe. Local authorities have already shown they can make a crucial contribution in achieving these goals.

#### 2. What is the new initiative (vision, ambition, scope of action)?

- The new initiative was launched on 15 October at the 2015 Joint Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt Ceremony. It constitutes the mainstream European movement involving local authorities and their citizens in the fight against climate change.
- This initiative defines renewed commitment(s) and a shared (post-2020) vision in order to tackle interconnected challenges: climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainable energy.
- The vision is threefold:
  - Accelerating the reduction of carbon or greenhouse gas emissions in our territories, thus contributing to keeping average global warming below 2°C;
  - Strengthening our capacities to adapt to unavoidable climate change impacts, thus making our territories more resilient;
  - Increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources on our territories, thus ensuring universal access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy services for all.
- The initiative also proposes a new “global chapter” by inviting signatories to share their vision, results, experience and know-how with fellow local and regional authorities within the EU and beyond.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Twenty-first session of the Conferences of the Parties.

### 3. What commitments do signatories have to fulfil?

- Signatories commit to reducing carbon or greenhouse gases emissions across their territory by at least 40% by 2030 and to increasing their resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- To translate their commitments into action, they commit to submitting a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) within two years following the formal signing, including the mainstreaming of adaptation considerations into relevant policies, strategies and plans. The action plan(s) must be based on a "Baseline Emissions Inventory" (BEI) for mitigation and include a "Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment" for adaptation. The SECAP will be published on the new Covenant website. Signatories have to report on the implementation of their SECAP every two years. At this occasion, they can readjust their priorities and review the SECAP to make sure they achieve their targets.

### 4. Can you give concrete examples of mitigation measures in towns and cities?

- Towns and cities account for a substantial amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and they play a crucial role in mitigation climate change, namely through the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Their actions include, among others:
  - Improving energy efficiency in buildings, which helps reduce energy consumption and therefore CO<sub>2</sub> emissions;
  - Promoting local renewable energy sources to secure low-carbon energy supplies;
  - Fostering smart energy solutions to make the most of new technologies allowing users to by consume only the necessary energy and at the most appropriate time;
  - Promoting sustainable mobility and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from transport;
  - Better information and awareness-raising of citizens so that they can adjust their behaviour and make smart choices without compromising on their comfort.

### 5. Can you give concrete examples of adaptation actions in towns and cities?

- Urban adaptation means assessing major climate risks and vulnerabilities of your municipality and planning accordingly how you tackle and reduce these risks. Many local authorities are already taking action, e.g. through civil protection, water management or urban planning.
  - Incorporating climate change adaptation concerns into new constructions and retrofitting measures (e.g. sewage systems, buildings, energy and transport systems).
  - Using and expanding green infrastructures (e.g. parks, forests, wetlands, green walls and roofs) to reduce temperatures in cities, improve soil permeability and better manage flood risks.
  - Combining green and grey infrastructures (e.g. construction measures using engineering services).
  - 'Soft' measures such as emergency systems, the provision of appropriate information to citizens most exposed to risks and encouraging behavioural changes accordingly.

### 6. Why join? What do signatories get in return?

- Participating local authorities will be able to benefit from the following:
  - Visibility and communication on cities' commitment, notably on the initiative's website;
  - Practical support in the form of a helpdesk for operational questions, and at dedicated events organised by the Office managing the initiative;
  - Networking, twinning and capacity building opportunities through regular events and online platform;
  - Knowledge support through robust guidance materials and tools to analyse, plan, implement and monitor their local energy and climate actions;
  - A common monitoring and reporting framework for participating cities;
  - Synergies with relevant stakeholders & other EU initiatives and easier access to designated EU funding (e.g. under the Smart Cities and Communities European Innovation Partnership in Horizon 2020, LIFE etc.).

## 7. What's so special about this new initiative?

- The Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy is the unique initiative shaped by cities and for cities. It constitutes a strong bottom-up movement uniting local and regional authorities around common commitments and a shared vision.
- It has proven to be a mainstream EU policy instrument (and therefore embedded in EU policies), which may enable further financing opportunities for cities (e.g. ELENA, created under the impulse of the Covenant, but also Horizon 2020, LIFE...).
- It is built upon a unique multi-level governance model, engaging national and sub-national authorities as appropriate for a successful implementation of the local sustainable energy and climate policies.
- It proposes a clear and flexible framework for action, an integrated and holistic approach from political commitment to the preparation and implementation of action plans (i.e. common methodological principals and reporting templates for all, jointly developed by leading city networks together with the European Commission, and in consultation with cities) – that enables local authorities to track, report, and publicly disclose their data in a structured and systematic manner.
- Recognition and high visibility of the efforts undertaken: The (individual and collective) results are made publicly available on the Covenant website to inspire, facilitate exchanges and self-assessment. Reporting data via the Covenant thus allows signatories to demonstrate the wide impact of their actions on the ground. Data compiled through the Covenant reporting framework also gives essential feedback on local actions to international, European and national policy-makers (e.g. integration into the NAZCA web portal).
- Thanks to i) a robust monitoring of commitments throughout the process, ii) suspension in case of non-compliance & iii) an evaluation by the initiative, it is a credible and widely acclaimed brand for local authorities

### The practicalities for existing signatories of Covenant of Mayors and/or Mayors Adapt

## 8. I am already a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors and/or Mayors Adapt, do I have to join to the new initiative?

- No, there is no obligation for existing Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt signatories to join the new initiative – it remains up to the local authorities to decide when to renew their commitment. You are however encouraged to join the new initiative to scale up your ambitions at your convenience.

## 9. I am already a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors and/or Mayors Adapt, do I need to update my commitments and the related documents (BEI/MEI/SEAP, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, local adaptation strategy/plan)?

- If you have signed up to the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) and/or Mayors Adapt (MA) before the 1st November 2015 and decide not to join the new initiative, your current commitment and associated reporting requirements will remain unchanged:
- If you are a CoM signatory, you are expected – in line with your initial commitment – to submit a SEAP within one year of signing up to the CoM and then a monitoring report every two years.
- If you are a MA signatory, you are expected to develop a local adaptation strategy and/or integrate adaptation into existing relevant plans within two years of signing up to MA and then submit a monitoring report every two years.
- If you decide to join the new initiative, you will need to make new commitments for 2030 (meaning a decision by the municipal council – see the Q&A on how to join hereafter) and prepare a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) as a natural extension of your existing mitigation plan (SEAP)

and/or adaptation strategy (if any). Specific support will be provided to help you in the transition. The information you previously provided under the CoM/MA frameworks will be transferred and integrated in the framework of the new initiative.

- Important - If you are a CoM signatory: the 2020 target remains an important milestone, a step towards your 2030 commitments.

### **10. I am already a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors and/or Mayors Adapt. If I wish to continue my engagement on climate change and energy issues beyond 2020, do I need to sign up to the new commitment document?**

- Yes, you will need to sign up to the new initiative to formalise your new (post-2020) commitments. For the sake of simplicity, the same procedure applies to newcomers as well as you who renew your commitment (meaning a decision by the municipal council – see the Q&A on how to join hereafter).

## **The modalities for new signatories**

### **11. I am not a signatory of the original Covenant of Mayors or Mayors Adapt but I would now like to join, can I sign up now to any of them?**

- From the 1st November 2015, it is no longer possible to join neither Mayors Adapt nor the (2020-oriented) Covenant of Mayors. It will henceforth only be possible to sign up to the new (2030-oriented) Covenant of Mayors initiative.

### **12. I am not a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors or Mayors Adapt but I would like to join the new initiative, how to join?**

- The new Covenant of Mayors Commitment Document will need to be presented and adopted by the municipal council.
- The Adhesion Form will need to be duly signed and sent to the Covenant of Mayors office.

### **13. I have signed up to the new initiative – what's next?**

The main Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt administrative procedures are progressively going to merge in order to avoid dual processes and optimise the use of resources for participating cities.

#### **a) Plan submission**

- Signatories commit to submitting their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan - and any other relevant planning plans - within two years following adhesion. Signatories will be invited to use the on-line submission system available via 'My Covenant' (the Covenant website extranet section).
- Note: As defined in annex to the Covenant of Mayors Commitment Document, the adaptation 'pathway' is kept flexible enough to integrate new knowledge and findings and reflect changing conditions and capacities of signatories. The adaptation strategy should be part of the SECAP and/or developed and mainstreamed in (a) separate planning document(s). Signatories can opt for the format of their choice. The adaptation strategy can be strengthened and readjusted over time.

#### **→ Cities already engaged in the Covenant of Mayors**

- Covenant Signatories that have already submitted a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (with a 2020 commitment) will be invited to revise their plan to include their renewed commitment(s).
- Covenant Signatories renewing their commitments by joining the new initiative should also comply with the adaptation commitment.



→ Cities already engaged in Mayors Adapt

- Mayors Adapt Signatories do not need to develop another adaptation strategy and/or plan if one is already in place. They can attach it to their new SECAP. Adaptation should be clearly mainstreamed into the SECAP.
- Mayors Adapt Signatories joining the new initiative should also develop and submit a mitigation strategy (if it's not already done).

b) Monitoring and Reporting

The existing Covenant of Mayors Monitoring and Reporting Framework is currently being revised and adjusted to the new 2030 commitments. It will include more specific fields related to the new commitments.

The Monitoring and Reporting Framework for adaptation is under preparation by the Mayors Adapt team and should go live in early 2016 – clear links with the existing Covenant of Mayors reporting framework are currently being explored with the support of experts from signatory cities. More information will be provided to signatories in due time.

→ Cities already engaged in the Covenant of Mayors

- Covenant Signatories that have already submitted a SEAP (with a 2020 commitment) and therefore filled in the so-called online SEAP template will be invited to update and complete their previously-submitted form with more information on their renewed commitments.
- Covenant Signatories that have not already filled in their SEAP template will be invited to fill in the form corresponding to the commitment(s) defined in their plan (2020 or 2030).
- Covenant Signatories renewing their commitment by joining the new initiative will also be invited to report on their adaptation actions.

→ Cities already engaged in Mayors Adapt

The Monitoring and Reporting Framework for adaptation is currently under elaboration – with the support of a Group of Practitioners. It should be integrated into the existing Covenant of Mayors one. More information will be provided to signatories in due time.

### More information:

- Covenant of Mayors:** [info@eumayors.eu](mailto:info@eumayors.eu) | [www.covenantofmayors.eu](http://www.covenantofmayors.eu)
- Mayors Adapt:** [helpdesk@mayors-adapt.eu](mailto:helpdesk@mayors-adapt.eu) | [www.mayors-adapt.eu](http://www.mayors-adapt.eu)

We, the Mayors signing this Covenant, share a vision for a sustainable future - whatever the size of our municipality or its location on the world map. This common vision drives our action to tackle interconnected challenges: climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainable energy. Together, we stand ready to deliver concrete, long term measures that provide an environmentally, socially and economically stable environment to present and future generations. It is our collective responsibility to build more sustainable, attractive, liveable, resilient and energy efficient territories.

## **WE, THE MAYORS, ACKNOWLEDGE THAT:**

Climate change is already happening and is one of the greatest global challenges of our time, calling for immediate action and cooperation between local, regional and national authorities from all over the world;




Local and regional authorities are key drivers of the energy transition and the fight against climate change at the level of governance closest to citizens. They share the responsibility for climate action with the regional and national levels and are willing to act irrespective of the commitments of other parties;

Local and regional authorities, in all socio-economic situations and geographical locations, stand at the frontline of reducing the vulnerability of their territory to the various impacts of climate change. Although emission reduction efforts are already underway, adaptation remains therefore a necessary and indispensable complement to mitigation;






Climate change mitigation and adaptation can bring multiple benefits to the environment, society and the economy. Tackled together, they open up new opportunities to promote sustainable local development. This includes: building inclusive, climate-resilient, energy efficient communities and infrastructures; enhancing the quality of life; stimulating investment and innovation; boosting the local economy and creating jobs; reinforcing stakeholder engagement and cooperation.

Local solutions to energy and climate challenges help provide secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy for every citizen and therefore contribute to reducing energy dependence and protecting vulnerable consumers.











## **WE, THE MAYORS, SHARE A COMMON 2050 VISION TO:**

-  Accelerate the decarbonisation of our territories, thus contributing to keeping average global warming below 2°C;
-  Strengthen our capacities to adapt to unavoidable climate change impacts, thus making our territories more resilient;
-  Increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources on our territories, thus ensuring universal access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy services for all.

## **WE, THE MAYORS, COMMIT TO CONTRIBUTING TO THIS VISION BY:**

-  Reducing carbon emissions on our territory by at least 40% by 2030 through improved energy efficiency and greater use of renewable energy sources;
-  Increasing our resilience to the impacts of climate change;
-  Translating these commitments into a series of concrete steps<sup>1</sup>, including the development of a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan which defines concrete measures and outlines the desired outcomes;
-  Monitoring and reporting on our progress regularly within the framework of this initiative;
-  Sharing our vision, results, experience and know-how with fellow local and regional authorities within the EU and beyond through direct cooperation and peer-to-peer exchange.

## **WE, THE MAYORS, ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR COMMITMENT REQUIRES:**

-  Strong political leadership;
-  The establishment of ambitious long-term objectives going beyond political mandates;
-  A coordinated (inter)action between mitigation and adaptation through the mobilisation of all municipal departments involved;
-  A cross-sector and holistic territorial approach;
-  The allocation of appropriate human, technical and financial resources;
-  The engagement of all relevant stakeholders within our territories;
-  The empowerment of citizens as key energy consumers, “prosumers” and participants in demand responsive energy system;
-  Immediate action, notably via “no-regret” and flexible measures;
-  The implementation of smart solutions to address the technical and societal challenges of the energy transition;
-  Regular adjustments of our actions according to monitoring and evaluation findings;

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<sup>1</sup> As presented in annex.

- A combined horizontal and vertical cooperation (i.e. between local authorities and with all other government levels).

### **WE, THE MAYORS, WELCOME:**

- The initiative of the European Commission bringing both pillars of climate change mitigation and adaptation under this single umbrella initiative and further strengthening the synergies with other relevant EU policies and initiatives;
- The European Commission's support for the extension of the new Covenant of Mayors model to other parts of the world;
- The Committee of the Regions' strong support for the new Covenant of Mayors and its objectives, as the institutional voice of EU local and regional authorities;
- The assistance provided by Member States, regions, provinces, mentor cities and other institutional structures to local authorities in complying with their mitigation and adaptation commitments.

### **WE, THE MAYORS, INVITE:**

#### **– OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO:**

- Join us in our commitments;
- Share knowledge and engage in capacity-building activities under this new framework.





#### **– REGIONAL / SUB-NATIONAL AUTHORITIES TO:**

- Provide us with strategic guidance, technical and financial support in the development, implementation and monitoring of our action plan(s) and related measures;
- Help us foster cooperation and joint approaches for a more efficient and integrated action.



#### **– NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO:**

- Shoulder their responsibility in tackling climate change and provide appropriate policy and financial support for the preparation and implementation of our local mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- Involve us in the preparation and implementation of the national mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- Ensure appropriate access to financing mechanisms to support local climate and energy action;
- Recognise the impact of our local efforts, voice our needs and reflect our views in the European and International climate processes.

– **THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS TO:**

-  Consolidate policy frameworks which support the implementation of local climate and energy strategies and city-to-city cooperation;
-  Provide us with the appropriate operational, technical and promotional assistance;
-  Continue mainstreaming the new Covenant of Mayors in the relevant policies, support programmes and activities of the European Union; while involving us in the preparation and implementation phases;
-  Continue making funding opportunities available for the implementation of our commitments as well as proposing dedicated project development assistance facilities that help us to develop, tender and launch larger investment programmes;
-  Acknowledge our role and efforts in climate change mitigation and adaptation and share our achievements with the international community.

– **OTHER STAKEHOLDERS<sup>2</sup> TO:**

-  Mobilise and share expertise, know-how, technology and financial resources that complement and strengthen our local efforts, scale up capacity-building, foster innovation and boost investment;
-  Become active players of the energy transition and support us by getting involved in community action.

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<sup>2</sup> E.g. private sector, financial institutions, civil society, scientific community and academia.

## ANNEX I – THE NEW COVENANT OF MAYORS STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### A COMMON ROADMAP FOR A SHARED VISION:

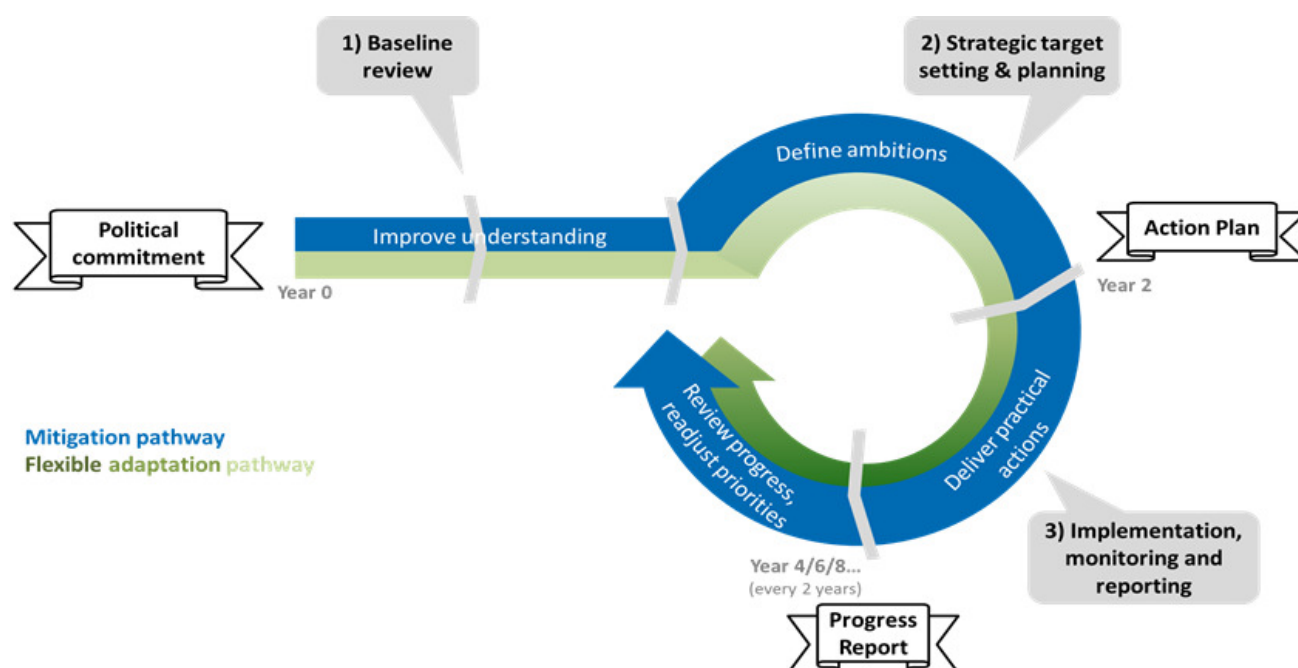
In order to meet their mitigation and adaptation targets, new Covenant of Mayors Signatories commit to a series of steps:

STEPS \ PILLARS	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION
1) Initiation and baseline review	Preparing a <b>Baseline Emission Inventory</b>	Preparing a <b>Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment</b>
2) Strategic target setting & planning	Submitting a <b>Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP)</b> * and mainstreaming mitigation and adaptation considerations into relevant policies, strategies and plans <u>within two years following the formal signing</u>	
3) Implementation, monitoring and reporting	<b>Report progress</b> <u>every second year following the SECAP submission</u> in the initiative's platform	

\* The adaptation strategy should be part of the SECAP and/or developed and mainstreamed in (a) separate document(s). Signatories can opt for the format of their choice – see the “adaptation pathway” paragraph hereafter.

Years 1-2 shall set the groundwork for the plan, focussing on assessing the situation (principal sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and their respective reduction potentials, main climate risks and vulnerabilities and their associated current/future challenges), identifying the mitigation and adaptation priorities and early wins, strengthening community involvement and mobilising sufficient resources and capacities to undertake the necessary actions. The next years will focus on strengthening and scaling up the actions and projects initiated to accelerate change.

### FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS, ADJUSTABLE TO LOCAL REALITIES:



The new Covenant of Mayors proposes a framework for action, which helps local authorities to translate their mitigation and adaptation ambitions into reality, while taking into account the diversity on the ground. Sufficient flexibility is given to the participating cities to choose the best way to implement their local actions. Even if priorities vary, local authorities are invited to take action in an integrated and holistic manner.






– **Mitigation Pathway**

The mitigation ‘pathway’ accommodates a certain degree of flexibility for signatories – especially for the GHG emissions inventory (e.g. baseline year, key sectors to be addressed, emission factors used for the calculation, emission unit used for the reporting, etc.).

– **Adaptation Pathway**

The adaptation ‘pathway’ is kept flexible enough to integrate new knowledge and findings and reflect changing conditions and capacities of signatories. A climate risk and vulnerability assessment must be conducted within the agreed two-year time frame. The outcomes will lay the groundwork for defining how to make the territory more resilient. The adaptation strategy, which should be integrated into the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan and/or mainstreamed into other relevant planning documents, can be strengthened and readjusted over time. ‘No-regrets’ actions could be considered first and complemented by other actions over the years (e.g. when the situation is reassessed every two years, during the revisions of the action plan) - this will enable adaptation well in time and at a lower cost.

## **A CREDIBLE, TRANSPARENT MOVEMENT:**

-  **Political endorsement:** The commitment, the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan and other relevant planning documents shall be ratified by resolution of the municipal council. This allows for secured long-term political support.
-  **A robust, consistent and harmonised data compilation and reporting framework:** Based on the experience of practicing municipalities, regions and city networks, developed together with the European Commission, the Covenant methodology relies on a sound technical and scientific basis. Common methodological principles and reporting templates have been developed, enabling signatories to track, report, and publicly disclose their progress in a structured and systematic manner. This ensures transparency, accountability and comparability of their local climate actions.
-  **Recognition and high visibility of the efforts undertaken:** The (individual and collective) results are made publicly available on the Covenant website to inspire, facilitate exchanges and self-assessment. Reporting data via the Covenant allows signatories to demonstrate the wide impact of their actions on the ground. Data compiled through the Covenant reporting framework also gives essential feedback on local actions to national, European and International policy-makers.
-  **Evaluation of the data reported by signatories:** This quality control contributes to guarantee the credibility and reliability of the whole new Covenant of Mayors initiative.
-  **Suspension in case of non-compliance:** Signatories accept to be suspended from the initiative – subject to prior notice in writing by the new Covenant of Mayors Office – in case of non-submission of the above-mentioned documents (i.e. Action Plan and Progress Reports) within the established deadlines. This procedure ensures greater transparency and fairness vis-à-vis other signatories delivering on their commitments.

## **ANNEX II – BACKGROUND & CONTEXT**

The new Covenant of Mayors signatories commit to the movement in full awareness of the following considerations:

- The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has re-affirmed in its [Fifth Assessment Report](#) that climate change is a reality and that human activities are continuing to affect the Earth's climate;
- According to findings from the IPCC, mitigation and adaptation are complementary approaches for reducing risks of climate change impacts over different time scales;
- National governments agreed within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on a collective goal of keeping global average warming below 2°C compared to preindustrial levels;
- National governments agreed in the context of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on a set of [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs); among which the SDG7 requires the international community to “*ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*”; and the SDG11 to “*make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*”;
- The [Sustainable Energy for All](#) initiative, launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2011 focuses on achieving the following three interlinked objectives by 2030: “*ensuring universal access to modern energy services*”, “*doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency*” and “*doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix*”;
- The European Commission (EC) officially launched in 2008 the new Covenant of Mayors and in 2014 the Mayors Adapt initiative as a key action of the [EU strategy on adaptation to climate change](#) (EC, 2013) to engage and support local authorities in taking action to respectively mitigate and adapt to climate change;
- Since its launch, the new Covenant of Mayors has been recognised as a key EU instrument, notably in the [Energy Union](#) strategy (EC, 2015) and the European [Energy Security](#) strategy (EC, 2014), to accelerate energy transition and improve the security of energy supplies;
- The EU adopted in October 2014 the [2030 climate and energy policy framework](#) setting new targets (i.e. at least 40% domestic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, at least 27% of the energy consumed in the EU from renewable sources, at least 27% of energy savings);
- The European Commission adopted in 2011 the “[2050 Roadmap for moving to a competitive low-carbon economy](#)” aiming at reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% by 2050 compared to 1990 – initiative also welcomed by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.
- The EU Committee of the Regions (CoR) stresses its reinforced commitment to further support the new Covenant of Mayors, e.g. through a dedicated platform within the CoR and other tools, as outlined in its Opinion on the Future of the Covenant (ENVE-VI-006).



## **ANNEX III – GLOSSARY**

- **Climate change:** any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity.
- **Mitigation:** actions undertaken to reduce concentrations of greenhouse gases released in the atmosphere.
- **Adaptation:** actions undertaken to anticipate the adverse effects of climate change, prevent or minimise the damage they can cause, or take advantage of opportunities that may arise.
- **“No-regret” (adaptation) options:** activities providing immediate economic and environmental benefits. They are worthwhile under all plausible climate scenarios.
- **Resilience:** ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic ways of functioning, and a capacity to adapt to stress and (climate) change.
- **Risk:** probability of harmful consequences or losses in social, economic or environmental terms (e.g. lives, health status, livelihoods, assets and services) which could occur to a particular community or a society affected by vulnerable conditions over some specified future time period.
- **Vulnerability:** degree to which a system is susceptible to, and unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes (the opposite of resilience).
- **Emission Inventory:** quantification of the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> (equivalent) emitted due to energy consumption in the territory of a Covenant signatory during a specific year - it allows identifying the principal sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and their respective reduction potentials.
- **Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan:** key document in which the Covenant signatory outlines how it intends to reach its ambitions. It defines the mitigation and adaptation actions set up to achieve the targets, together with time frames and assigned responsibilities.
- **Risk and Vulnerability Assessment:** an analysis that determines the nature and extent of risk by analysing potential hazards and assessing vulnerability that could pose a potential threat or harm to people, property, livelihoods and the environment on which they depend - it allows the identification of areas of critical concern and therefore provides information for decision making. The assessment could address risks related to floods, extreme temperatures and heat waves, droughts and water scarcity, storms and other extreme weather events, increased forest fires, sea level rise and coastal erosion (if applicable).
- **Progress Report:** document that Covenant signatories commit to submit every two years after the submission of their plan, which outlines the interim results of its implementation - the aim of this report is to assess whether the preliminary outcomes are in line with the foreseen objectives.
- **“Prosumers”:** Proactive consumers, consumers that are responsible not only for their consumption of energy but also assume the responsibility for producing it.