

Press release

For immediate release

European ICLEI members among the 138 cities to sign Mexico City Pact at World Mayors Summit on Climate

24 November, Mexico City, Mexico – Several European ICLEI members are among the 138 cities that have committed to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions at the World Mayors Summit on Climate, which was co-organised by ICLEI and took place in Mexico City.

Cities that have already signed up to take part in the initiative include ICLEI members Barcelona Spain, Bordeaux and Nantes France, Copenhagen Denmark, Geneva Switzerland and Malmo Sweden. The mayors representing the cities signed the Mexico City Pact on 21 November 2010, in yet another demonstration of local government commitment to climate action and performance.

The milestone was laid down ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP16), which takes place from 29 November to 10 December. Mayor of Mexico City, Marcelo Ebrard will present the Pact and outcomes of the Summit to the nations that will gather in Cancún, Mexico for the follow up to COP15, held in December 2009.

ICLEI President, David Cadman said that “cities around the world continue to demonstrate their climate commitments and, as a new element, to also report on city performance. It is great to see there is now something to complement regional initiatives, such as the Covenant of Mayors in Europe and the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. There is now an instrument to unite the voice of cities from all the regions of the world.”

EU commissioner Johannes Hahn responsible for regional policy, also welcomed the Pact. The commissioner said that the Pact could make a positive contribution to the European Union’s commitment to reduce CO₂ emissions by 20 percent by 2020. “I see the Mexico City Pact as a support for our policy goals and look forward to an intensive cooperation with all European cities and metropolitan areas, to tackle the issue of climate change via a joint approach, using EU Cohesion Funding as a tool to reduce CO₂ emissions in these places where they occur most.”

A key component of the Pact is the creation of a monitoring and verification mechanism called the “carbon Cities Climate Registry” (cCCR). The cCCR is designed to collect comparable data on urban greenhouse gas emissions, as well as keep track of local projects that help to tackle climate change. ICLEI reiterates that cities and local governments are essential partners to nations to address global environmental problems. In light of the upcoming COP16 starting in a few days Gino Van Begin, Regional Director for ICLEI Europe says, “the same nations who recognised the importance of local action in another 1992 UN Convention on Biodiversity three weeks ago, in Nagoya, Japan with the adoption of the decision related to the Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities and Biodiversity (2011-2020) should now do the same at the Climate COP in Cancún”.

Word Count: 645

Background:

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organisations.

ICLEI currently has 1,100 members worldwide and 200 in Europe. Founded in 1990, ICLEI provides technical consulting, training, and information services to build capacity, share knowledge, and support local government in the implementation of sustainable development at the local level. As a movement, ICLEI runs the world's largest climate program of cities that links local action to national goals and internationally agreed targets.

The **Bonn Center for Local Climate Action and Reporting – carbonn** was established in December 2009 as an initiative of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).

The **carbonn Cities Climate Registry – cCCCR** helps cities and local governments make climate change commitments the world can count on. It enables cities and local governments to publicly register their GHG reduction commitments, report performance and showcase actions.

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