

Press release

For immediate release

ICLEI Europe becomes a Supporting Structure to the Covenant of Mayors Initiative

Freiburg, Germany, 1 April 2010 - ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, European Secretariat, has signed on the dotted line to join the growing group of Covenant of Mayors Supporting Structures.

As a result of the agreement between the European Commission and ICLEI Europe, ICLEI undertakes to support its European members as they join the Initiative. These members will implement local measures aimed at guaranteeing a reduction of more than 20 percent in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in their territory by 2020, in support of the European Union climate and energy targets.

The Supporting Structures are made up of regional and provincial public administrations, as well as local government networks, such as ICLEI. They play an important role in providing practical guidance and support to cities and towns implementing local climate and energy action. A third of ICLEI members in Europe have already signed up to the Covenant of Mayors and are working on their Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) and CO₂ emissions reduction activities. Many others are in the process of joining the Covenant.

As part of its commitment, ICLEI Europe will:

- Reinforce its promotional activities in favour of the Covenant of Mayors towards its members, as well as other city or partner organisations;
- Support the exchange of experiences;
- Provide a service package comprised of a wide range of expertise and tools aimed at supporting cities and towns in conducting greenhouse gas inventories, preparing and implementing action plans, and monitoring developments.

It is an ambitious venture, but ICLEI Europe knows it can count on the commitment of its members when putting the Covenant of Mayors' objectives into practice. In the run up to COP16 in December 2010, commitments such as these are vital, regardless of whether a legally binding post-2012 agreement is adopted or not.

Background information on ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability:

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. With its European Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) TM Campaign it supports local governments in with local climate change mitigation and adaptation action, using the 5-milestone process to guide communities.

For further information visit www.iclei-europe.org.

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