

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Ursula von der Leyen
The President

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Dear Mayors,

This year marks the 13th anniversary of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, an initiative the European Commission is proud to support since its inception. Over the years, thanks to your engagement, your ambition and your vision, the Covenant of Mayors has become the world's largest movement of municipalities committed to deliver on the energy transition and act against climate change. For that, I want to thank you. Even in these difficult times, you have lead and continue leading European municipalities towards a better and greener future. I am reaching out to you at a decisive moment. The EU has embarked on a journey to become the world's first climate neutral bloc, by 2050. This commitment is part of the European Green Deal, an all-encompassing strategy by which we will reduce our emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and accelerate the energy transition, building back a greener and more resilient economy after the shock of the 2020-2021 pandemic.

The accomplishments of the Covenant of Mayors reflect your tireless endeavour in making our cities, towns and villages more sustainable and more liveable, and will be critical to our collective success. You are the ones driving change at the local level, all across Europe, translating European objectives and policies into local action, which directly benefits our citizens and inspires the rest of the world, now gathered in a Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

On 14 July 2021, the European Commission introduced the most ambitious legislative package in the world to deliver on the European Green Deal, with updates foreseen on all major pieces of our energy and climate legislation, and new instruments to be created to ensure that no one is left behind in the transition. To achieve these goals, we need your help. Energy and climate targets must translate into concrete actions on the ground, for which you play an essential role. We will need your assistance in carrying out the Renovation Wave and protecting vulnerable citizens from energy poverty, ensuring a just transition to a cleaner, greener society. This is why we launch a new chapter of the Covenant of Mayors, stepping up our common ambition in line with the European Green Deal.

EU support to local action on sustainability is of course not limited to the Covenant of Mayors. Under the New European Bauhaus, you can combine sustainable and aesthetic solutions to improve the living environment of your citizens. Within the Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities initiative, we aim to reach 100 climate-neutral cities

by 2030. Instruments at your disposal stimulate local action, which will be promoted under the Climate Pact – an EU-wide movement inviting people, communities and organisations to participate in climate action and to build a greener Europe. You can also help us achieve climate resilience by implementing the new EU Adaptation Strategy on the ground. In that respect, we will pilot a new technical assistance support facility through the Covenant of Mayors to assist local authorities to help develop and implement adaptation strategies and plans.

The new Covenant of Mayors will be firmly connected to all these other initiatives, to allow you to enjoy their many complementary benefits. We can only achieve what we need to achieve if we act together, in solidarity. This is the European spirit. So, whether you are a long-standing member, a newcomer, or simply considering signing up to the Covenant of Mayors, I would like to invite you to join us to build an ever more ambitious and inclusive movement. Every effort counts in implementing the European Green Deal. Regardless of the size and capacity of your city, town or village, regardless of where in Europe you are located: you have a key role to play.

The future is built now and it is in our hands.

Yours sincerely,



Ursula von der Leyen