

PRESS RELEASE

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Rio+20: Covenant of Mayors Signatories set new trajectory

Through the Covenant of Mayors, local and regional governments have found a voice and a platform, to share ground-breaking practices and gain recognition for their pivotal role in the energy transition. With the political support of the Committee of the Regions, they intend to take the opportunity of the Rio+20 Conference to demonstrate, in the presence of international institutions and decision makers, their crucial contribution to the UN sustainable development objectives.

Indeed, as part of their involvement in the unprecedented Covenant of Mayors initiative, cities, towns, regions and provinces are taking decisive and voluntary action in the fields of housing, transport and urban development, with direct consequences on quality of life improvements, economic development and associated job creation. As such, they feel entitled to request an adequate level of commitment and support from international leaders.

To make this happen, the Committee of the Regions is co-organising a side-event during the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, dubbed « [When cities breathe, people progress](#) » and which will give the floor to several Covenant of Mayors signatories, including Malmö, Vitoria-Gasteiz and the Brussels Capital Region, in the presence of high level EU decision makers.

In a press conference held yesterday at the Committee of the Regions (CoR), Minister for Environment at the Brussels Capital Region, Covenant Signatory and Vice President of Energy Cities, Evelyne Huytebroeck stressed that the current western model of consumption had become unviable and that it was time to change trajectory. « *The challenge is to reinvent a resource-efficient and low-emission future that is compatible with the development of all countries worldwide. This future that does not yet exist is being prepared in our cities,* » said the minister.

To bring this vision to fruition, Energy Cities' members have developed a series of « [30 proposals for the energy transition of cities and towns](#). » On the occasion of the CoR side-event, Ms Huytebroeck, who will attend the summit along with Energy Cities' President and Lord-Mayor of Heidelberg Eckart Würzner, firmly intends to bring these solutions to the attention of world leaders in Rio.

Further information:

[On Energy Cities' Rio+20 proposals](#)

[On the CoR side-event](#)

[On the Covenant of Mayors](#)

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