

**Control energy and you control your destiny:
Over 20 new Ukrainian cities commit to taking action on sustainable energy!**

Yesterday in Lviv, over 20 new cities from East and Western Ukraine committed to implementing ambitious sustainable energy action plans on their territory. They did so in the framework of a [Covenant of Mayors signing ceremony](#), along with several other cities from the Eastern Partnership region, and bringing the [total number of committed Ukrainian cities to 71](#).



Figure 1: New Ukrainian cities having signed are marked by a star

Despite geopolitical tensions in the region, cities from across Ukraine are united in the common desire to provide what is best for their citizens, taking the matter into their own hands while international concerns remain largely focused on gas shortages and building new supply routes.

Speaking after Dominique Ristori, General Director at DG Energy, European Commission, during the [EUSEW Covenant of Mayors opening session](#), Energy Cities' Executive Director Gérard Magnin was invited to report on the Ukrainian event which he attended as a Keynote Speaker. He mentioned the crucial role of the Covenant of Mayors as a “*unifying instrument*”, bringing cities together beyond their diverse contexts and local situations.

The Covenant initiative now groups close to 6,000 local authorities (representing 1/3 of the EU population) around a shared objective, which Mr Magnin said illustrates why energy security should be considered a societal question. Launched in 2008, the Covenant has fostered the emergence of an unprecedented governance model encouraging multilevel, concerted action for sustainable energy by all spheres of governments. With its inclusive and bottom-up approach, the Covenant of Mayors supports the collective framing of a common, sustainable future.

As Gérard Magnin further pointed during his speech “*when you hear the European anthem being played in Ukraine, you understand the convening power of the Covenant of Mayors...All three levels of government – EU, national and local - were represented during the event*».

The Covenant of Mayors was recently recognised by the Commission as a “[key action](#)” of [Europe's Energy Security Strategy](#). To welcome this move, 6 major associations representing local and regional authorities across Europe have adopted a [joint declaration this morning](#), pledging support to their members in addressing energy security through the Covenant implementation.

European Commission and Lviv City Council simultaneously display their building energy consumption



Figure 2: European Commission
Charlemagne Building

The [EU Sustainable Energy Week \(EUSEW\)](#) was also seized as an opportunity by the European Commission to «display» the energy performance of its buildings. Since last Friday, a giant poster from the [Display Campaign](#) has been standing in front of the Charlemagne building. The Lviv City Council has also been using the Display posters to better inform its citizens about its own energy consumption



Figure 3: Display Campaign in Lviv

and to act as role model on the occasion of the EUSEW.

Commenting on the topic, Energy Cities' Deputy Director said that Display was a useful communication and transparency initiative to show citizens that « *public institutions are not paying lip service to the energy transition but actually taking action* ».

*“The average energy consumption per square meter for the Commission buildings in Brussels has **decreased by more than 30% between 2005 and 2013, which is more than 4% per year** and that is just the beginning!”* explained Marc Seguinot, responsible for the management of the Commission's buildings.

The Covenant of Mayors is the mainstream European movement involving local authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency in their territories. To date some 6,000 cities and regions have committed to meet and exceed the European Union 20% CO2 reduction objective by 2020.

The European Display® Campaign was initiated by Energy Cities in 2003 as a voluntary scheme and received EU funding for its implementation. The Campaign encourages local authorities to publicly display the energy and environmental performances of their public buildings.