



Brussels, 29th November 2011

European Local authorities committed to the Covenant of Mayors send a message of hope to COP-17 delegates

Statement

Yesterday, the Durban conference opened in a climate of uncertainty. Hopes of securing an agreement for the post-2012 period, when the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol expires, seem rather slim.

In this context, it is more necessary than ever to find a quick and lasting global solution to climate change; yet the Parties increasingly use the crisis as an excuse for inaction.

We are now over 3,000 Mayors in Europe, representing 150 million citizens, voluntarily committed to meeting and exceeding, within our territories, the EU objectives for reducing CO2 emissions by 20% by 2020 compared to 1990 levels.

We are committed to measuring our energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, developing Sustainable Energy Action Plans, reporting on actions and results and monitoring progress.

Our actions towards improving energy efficiency in buildings and transport and increasing the use of local renewable resources meet citizens' expectations for a sustainable economy; provide employment opportunities; stimulate innovation and reduce fuel poverty. They serve the common goal of bringing sustainable solutions to the crisis and rethinking our mode of development to make it more compatible with emerging and developing economies.

As we are gathered here today, from the hemicycle of the European Parliament in Brussels, for the third Covenant of Mayors Ceremony, we would like to address the Durban Conference, national representatives and other delegates, to send them a sign of hope, the sign of a European society mobilised to connect local actions with global ones.

We, as representatives of European cities, are mobilised to shoulder our share of responsibility and fight against climate change. In return, ten days from now, at the close of the conference, we can only hope for the same level of determination from participating states gathered in Durban, and look forward to their encouraging message. We count on you!

With the support of:

Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Climate Alliance, Energy Cities, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability