



**Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE**

Member of the European Commission

Brussels,  
Ares(2015)s 4984133

Dear Mayor,

The international community has reached a historical agreement on climate change at the COP21 conference in Paris. The agreement represents a universal commitment towards future generations and it recognises cities and other subnational authorities as crucial actors to address and respond to climate change.

With the climate and energy targets for 2020 and new ones for 2030, the European Union is the front-runner in fighting climate change and modernizing energy systems. The towns, cities and regions which you represent have been and will continue being partners of vital importance for delivering on our ambitious climate and energy targets. With more than 6600 signatories in 57 countries since 2008 the Covenant of Mayors is the most successful example of the strong engagement of municipalities and regions, on track to achieve a 28% reduction of CO2 emissions by 2020. In 2014, Mayors Adapt, a sister initiative, was set up to help cities adapt to climate change in addition to preventing it. Let me thank those of you who have already been taking climate and energy-related actions through the original Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt initiatives.

These two initiatives have now merged to present a united front in the fight against climate change. I would now like to invite all of you to join the **new integrated Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy** and build a movement of cities and communities ready for the threefold challenge of:

- 1) reducing their greenhouse gases emissions by at least **40% by 2030** mainly through improved local energy management based on efficiency measures, smart integrated solutions and promotion of renewable energy;
- 2) improving their resilience by both mitigating and **adapting** to the impacts of climate change; and
- 3) sharing our vision, results, experience and know-how with fellow local and regional authorities within the EU and beyond through direct cooperation and peer-to-peer exchange, building international partnerships with other regions of the world in the context of the global Covenant of Mayors launched at COP21 by Commission Vice-President for the Energy Union, Maroš Šefčovič.

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At the joint Ceremony of the Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt initiatives in Brussels on 15 October 2015, representatives of European towns and cities endorsed the new Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. This integrated movement capitalizes on the synergies between mitigation of greenhouse gases and adaption to climate change in order to create new opportunities for sustainable, smart and efficient energy in this context.

Dealing with these complementary strategies as one strategy will result in synergies and common benefits, make the whole process more effective and cost-efficient, help harness political support and strengthen coordination among municipal departments. At the same time the new integrated Covenant of Mayors will build on the comparative strengths of its predecessor initiatives including political commitments, accountability, robust planning, monitoring and technical support to signatories.

Participation in this new movement is voluntary and open to all local and regional authorities in Europe with the modalities adapted to their different situations. The signatories will be provided with support from the Covenant of Mayors/Mayors Adapt offices to help them in this process.

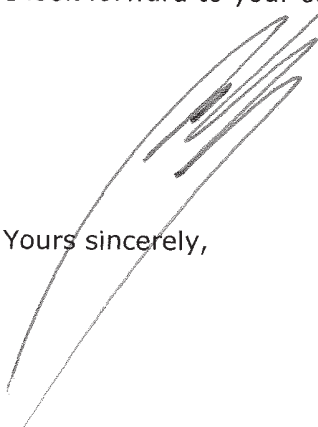
Further information and clarifications can be found enclosed and on the updated Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt merged website<sup>1</sup>, which reflects the objectives of the new and integrated Covenant for Climate and Energy.

I invite you to show your engagement by joining the new integrated Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and signing the commitment which is enclosed with this letter.

With your commitment, Europe will be better prepared to make the transition to a sustainable low-carbon and climate-resilient society as well as in a position to turn this success story into a model which can be adopted in other regions of the world.

I look forward to your contribution to this important task.

Yours sincerely,



Enclosures: Commitment, Questions & Answers