



EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions



The Energy Union Project: Cities and Regions Ahead of the Game?

19 June 2015

Committee of the Regions, 101 rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels
Conference room JDE 52
9h00 – 13h00

“Cities are key to the establishment of the Energy Union project” said Commission Vice President Maroš Šefčovič on 25 February 2015 at a high-level roundtable which gathered some 20 leaders of European cities. Cities are the largest consumers of energy in Europe, and where three quarters of carbon emissions are generated. A successful EU Energy Union must tap into the potential of local energy resources and actively involve local authorities and their citizens.

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) and its partners have taken specifically note of the particular role which has been assigned to local and regional authorities in the Energy Union package concerning further efforts which are needed in the area of energy efficiency of buildings. In this context local and regional authorities across the EU welcome the commitment of the European Commission to improve framework conditions for the funding/financing of energy efficiency projects at the local and regional level, which has been one of the topmost priorities for the CoR, and is one of the key aspects envisaged for the debate during this conference.

The 4500+ Sustainable Energy Action Plans being supported through the Covenant of Mayors are expected to reduce gas consumption by 58% in some of the EU’s most energy-dependent countries. Covenant signatories have together committed to reducing carbon emissions by 28% until 2020, beyond the EU’s own targets.

Covenant cities and regions are genuine laboratories of a decentralised, inclusive and decarbonised energy future and active contributors to the Energy Union. Together with key stakeholders – national and financing institutions, private sector, citizens and research institutions – they are re-thinking the financing solutions as well as their partnership, organizational and governance models to make the local needs-driven sustainable energy investments happen.

Cities and regions are ahead of the game on energy security and emission reductions!

Working languages
EN – FR – DE – PL

DRAFT AGENDA *(all speakers tbc)*

08h30 **Registration**

09h00 **Session 1 - Energy Union: local and regional requirements**

Witold Stepień (PL/EPP), 1st Vice-Chair of the ENVE Commission, CoR

Dominique Ristori, Director-general for Energy, European Commission

Juris Štālmeistars, Ambassador Deputy Permanent Representative of Latvia

Antonio ALMAGRO, Division for small scale projects and Energy Efficiency, European Investment Bank, Luxembourg

Siward Zomer, Chairman at De Windvogel; Member of the Board, REScoop.eu

Stephane Peyhorgue, Policy officer, Espace Interregional Européen

Bas Verkerk, Mayor of Delft, Member of the Committee of the Regions (*confirmed*)

10h30 **Coffee break**

11h00 **Session 2 - Rethinking financing solutions for local needs-driven sustainable energy investments**

Regions

Picardie region, France – Pierre Sachsé, Director, Department of Energy and Environment (*confirmed*)

Prešov region, Slovakia – Peter Chudík, President

GRE-Liège, Belgium – Jacques Pelerin, President

Cities

The Hague, Netherlands – Jozias Johannes van Aartsen, Mayor

Essen, Germany – Reinhard Paß, Mayor

Porto, Portugal – Rui Moreira, Mayor

13h00 **Light catering**