

# Introduction to the session and the Covenant of Mayors Initiative

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Joint Research Centre

#### Context



- Urban energy consumption generates about three quarters of global carbon emissions (IPCC, 2014)
- ■75% of European Union population lives in urban areas
- Cities are part of the problem and part of the solution
- Cities and Regions: a huge potential for a sustainable energy use, with a positive impact on local economies
- Need of a new model of multi-level governance for the implementation of climate policies





# The Covenant of Mayors (CoM)



Voluntary initiative launched in 2008 by the European Commission to support local authorities in the sustainable energy development and the fight against climate change

## Mayors commit to go beyond EU energy and climate objectives

at least 20% CO2 reduction in their respective territories by 2020

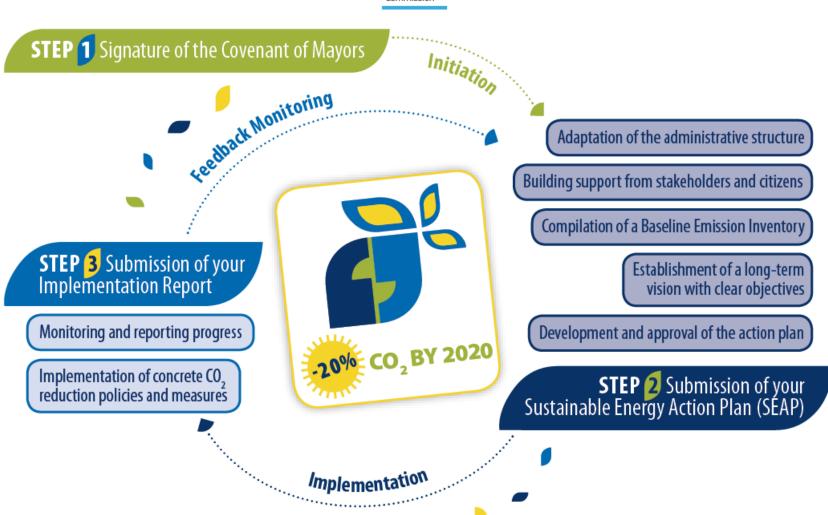
ACCOUNTABILITY of local authorities, which take the lead in the fight against climate change

- Define a Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI)
- Prepare a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP)
- Implement their Action Plan and report periodically on progress



# The SEAP process: a holistic approach





#### The role of JRC



# Scientific-technical support to the development, implementation and monitoring of the CoM

- Research on existing methodologies and tools for the development of a SEAP
- Development of the guidebook "How to develop a (SEAP)"
- Continuous improvement of data collection process
- Evaluation of submitted SEAPs, with feedback to Covenant cities
- Development of a specific monitoring template & instructions for signatories
- Publication of two assessment reports on the CoM
- Publication of a report on the in-depth analysis of 25 SEAPs
- Capacity building (technical trainings for cities and regions)



## **Priority areas for action**



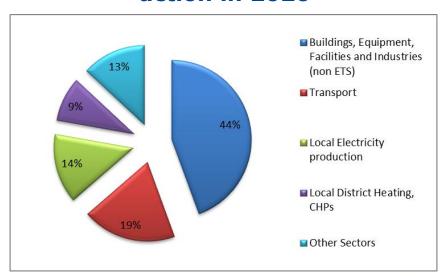
## Measures in the field of EE and RES

The choice of sectors to tackle and of specific measures to implement is entirely left to the responsibility of the Signatory, depending on:

- political mandate of the Mayor
- national framework (regulations, grants, incentives, etc.)
- size of the local authority

   (availability of human & financial resources, expertise, etc.)

## Breakdown of expected GHG emissions reduction by field of action in 2020





7/13/2016



#### But also...



- Strategic urban planning:
  - The SEAP can be an instrument to prevent rapid and uncontrolled city growth, by promoting mixed land use and encouraging sustainable mobility.

Ex. Stockholm: efficient social planning, anticipating the increased demand for housing and transportation

- Working with citizens and stakeholders:
  - The SEAP development and implementation requires coordination with citizens and other actors, consensusbuilding approaches, reduced duplication of efforts.





## An unprecedented success...

- 54 Countries
- 6 600 signatories
- 210 million citizens

#### Covenant EU

28 EU Member States + EEA Countries

## Covenant East

Armenia,
Azerbaijan,
Belarus, Georgia,
Kazakhstan,
Kyrgyzstan,
Moldova,
Tajikistan,
Turkmenistan,
Ukraine,
Uzbekistan

Amenia Azerbaijan

**Covenant South** 

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia

## **New targets for CoM EU**



The New Integrated Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

- At least 40% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2030
- Inclusion of both the mitigation and adaptation pillars

Signatories commit to submitting a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP). The plan will feature a Baseline Emission Inventory to track mitigation actions and a Climate Risks and Vulnerability Assessment.



#### The CoM going global



- **1. Not only mitigation:** voluntary commitments by signatory cities in the areas of:
  - Mitigation of climate change (low carbon cities)
  - Adaptation to climate change (resilient cities)
  - Access to clean energy

All signatories would share the same long-term vision.

- 2. Different intermediary regional objectives: Voluntary commitments to attain mid-term objectives, prioritised according to the political/economic situation.
- 3. Accountability: Commitment to draft and approve a publicly available Action Plan, illustrating how cities intend to achieve the mid-term objectives.

#### Towards 2030



Priority
action in
the EU
Action
Plan for
Energy
Efficiency

Launch of the Covenant of Mayors initiative



Launch of Mayors
Adapt on adaptation to climate change



New Integrated Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy



2006 2008

2014

2015



