



PRESS INVITATION

FIRST CEREMONY OF THE COVENANT OF MAYORS

**10 FEBRUARY 2009,
HEMICYCLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS**

Covenant of Mayors: Combating Climate Change Together

Almost 300 cities across Europe are joining forces to fight against global warming. The First Ceremony of the Covenant of Mayors will draw together signatories representing over 30 million citizens. The European Parliament in Brussels will host this prestigious event, where Europe's most pioneering cities will gather together with the top representatives of the EU institutions.

The Covenant of Mayors is the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy and Transport's largest and most ambitious initiative to date. It aims to connect the citizens of towns and cities across the EU, in a permanent network to tackle the problem of climate change. The Covenant is a formal commitment made by participating cities to reduce their CO₂ emissions beyond the EU's 20% objectives by 2020 targets, through the implementation of a sustainable energy action plan.

The First Ceremony of the Covenant of Mayors will take place on 10 February 2009 at 14:30 hosted by the European Parliament in their Hemicycle in Brussels. Organised by the European Commission (Directorate-General for Energy and Transport), in partnership with the Committee of the Regions, the event will bring mayors from the participating cities together to sign the Covenant.

Prior to the signing, a **press conference** featuring the President of the European Commission, **José Manuel Barroso**, the President of the Committee of the Regions, **Luc Van den Brande**, a high representative of the European Parliament, and Mayors of Budapest (**Dávor Demszky**), Hamburg (**Ole von Beust**) and Madrid (**Alberto Ruiz Gallardón**) will be held at 13:00 at the European Parliament press room. After the ceremony is officially opened guests will hear from an esteemed group of speakers including:

- Keynote address by **Mr. Andris Piebalgs**, European Commissioner for Energy;
- **Mr. Luc Van den Brande**, President of the Committee of the Regions;
- **Mr. Philippe Maystadt**, President of the European Investment Bank;
- Key statements of **Mayors** representing the signatory cities.

Please find the full programme attached.

In order to attend, please register no later than by **30 January 2009** on <http://www.eusew.eu>
Please inform us if you are interested in conducting **individual interviews with mayors present**.

For more information, please contact us at press@eumayors.eu.