

Brussels, 11 June 2018

**Open letter to European Energy Ministers to revise the Energy Union Governance Regulation
incorporating the needs of local and regional governments**

Dear Energy Minister,

We have entered a phase of unprecedented global efforts to tackle climate change to keep average global warming well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, as stipulated by the Paris Agreement. As members of the political board of the European Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, we strongly believe cities can make a crucial contribution to these efforts.

The European Covenant of Mayors, one of the regional covenants of Global Covenant of Mayors, represents more than 9000 signatories across the EU. By 2020, European Covenant cities will have reduced their CO₂ emissions by 27%, decreased their energy use by 20% and increased local renewable energy production by 90%, thereby exceeding the European Union's 2020 milestone of cutting emissions by 20%. Projections also show that European Covenant of Mayors municipalities will have contributed nearly a third to the EU's 2020 GHG emission reduction target. Covenant signatories share an ambitious vision for 2050 of decarbonising our territories, strengthening our capacity to adapt to unavoidable climate change impacts, and providing our citizens with access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy.

We need an ambitious agreement on the Clean Energy Package, where the Energy Union Governance proposal can become a key pillar to empower cities and regions to deliver on green energy, jobs and growth in order to achieve our long-term vision.

We call upon Member States, in the ongoing trilogue on the Governance regulation, to support and accept the following proposals as adopted by the European Parliament:

- **Support a 2050 climate neutral EU ambition:** A long-term post 2030 ambition will give local authorities a much needed framework in which they can plan and remain on track with the Paris agreement. It would also ensure that the appropriate level of investment is mobilised and earmarked.
- **Require the creation of permanent Multilevel Climate and Energy Dialogue Platforms:** European cities and regions have proven to be important delivery agents for the European transition towards a more decentralised, energy-efficient, and decarbonised energy system. A permanent and regular dialogue on climate and energy among all levels of governance and relevant stakeholders would deliver various benefits: continuous political support, ownership of process, feedback loops, shared responsibility as well as a better implementation of the actions necessary. In summary, continuous dialogue with stakeholders would ensure the adequate and swift implementation of ambitious energy and climate policies.

We look forward to these proposals being taken into account during the negotiations, and are keen to continue this dialogue that will contribute to the delivery of the Paris agreement.

Yours sincerely,

The Members of the Political Board of the European Covenant of Mayors



Daniël Termont - Mayor of Ghent (BE), President of EUROCITIES



Eckart Würzner - Mayor of Heidelberg (DE), President of Energy Cities



Juan Espadas - Mayor of Sevilla (ES), Spokesperson on climate and energy at CEMR



Asa Karlsson Björkmarker (SE), Chair of ICLEI Europe



Julije Domac - Director of REGEA, the North-West Croatia Energy Agency, Croatia, FEDARENE