

## About the Mayors Adapt Signature Ceremony

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2014**

Berlaymont Building, Rue de la loi 200, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Organised by the European Commission (DG Climate Action)

### Celebrating and Showcasing Cities' Action on Adaptation

Cities play a key role in addressing climate change, both in the field of climate change mitigation and adaptation. As major centres of population and critical infrastructure they are both particularly vulnerable to the effects climate change – and uniquely placed to address them.

In signing up to Mayors Adapt, the Covenant of Mayors Initiative on Adaptation to Climate Change, they are showing their leadership in this increasingly important field. And they are already taking action that will make our cities less vulnerable to climate change and offer a more sustainable future for their citizens.

The Mayors Adapt Signature Ceremony recognises and honours the leadership being shown by Mayors across Europe. At the invitation-only event – being held this year on the **16<sup>th</sup> of October in Brussels** – signatory cities will celebrate their commitment to action together **with EU Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hedegaard**. They will hear from VIP speakers about the challenges and opportunities of adapting to climate change. And, most importantly, **cities will showcase their action** and learn from each other as they address the challenges of adapting to climate change.

## Preliminary Agenda

From 09.00	Registration and Marketplace of Ideas
10.00	<b>Welcome and Opening</b> <b>Jos Delbeke</b> , Director-General DG Climate Action
10.05	<b>Keynote Speech</b> <b>Connie Hedegaard</b> , EU Commissioner for Climate Action
10.15	<b>Keynote Speech</b> <b>Michael Bloomberg</b> , former Mayor of New York City, now U.N. Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change (tbc)
10.30	<b>Panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges of urban adaptation</b> with <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Connie Hedegaard</b>, Commissioner for Climate Action</li><li>• <b>Michael Bloomberg</b>, U.N. Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change (tbc)</li><li>• <b>Margareta Wahlström</b>, Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction</li><li>• <b>Three Mayors from Mayors Adapt</b>: Statements by mayors, sharing insights from their activities Invited speakers: Mayor of Paris (FR), Mayor of Copenhagen (DK), Mayor of Munich (DE).</li></ul> Discussion followed by a Q&A from the floor Moderated by Jos Delbeke, Director-General DG Climate Action
11.45	<b>Signature Ceremony</b> Cities and the Commissioner symbolically sign their Mayoral Declaration; first individually, then "Family Photo"

12.30	<b>Networking Lunch</b> and Marketplace of Ideas
13.30	<p><b>Parallel Thematic Sessions and Roundtable of Mayors</b></p> <p><i>(subject to change)</i></p> <p>Planned topics include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Coordination of climate change policy (adaptation and mitigation)</b></li> <li>2. <b>Climate change adaptation through multi-level governance</b></li> <li>3. <b>Adaptation as urgent challenge and opportunity for political leaders</b></li> <li>4. <b>Financing urban adaptation</b></li> </ol>
14.45	<b>Coffee break</b>
15.15	<p><b>Closing Session on how the EU contributes to climate-resilient, urban development</b></p> <p>With concluding statements by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Johannes Hahn</b>, Commissioner for Regional Policy (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>Councillor Neil Swannick</b>, Greater Manchester, Committee of the Regions (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>N.N.</b>, European Parliament</li> </ul> <p>Followed by a Q&amp;A from the floor</p> <p>Moderated by <b>Humberto Delgado Rosa</b>, Director at DG Climate Action</p>
16.15	<b>Final closing words and goodbye</b>
16.30	<b>Close</b>

Interpretation will be provided from/to: EN, ES, FR, DE, IT.

## Organisational Details

- **Marketplace of Ideas: Showcasing Cities' Action**

The Marketplace of Ideas offers a select number of cities the opportunity to showcase their activities on climate change adaptation. Interested cities can apply to have a small exhibition stall, presenting their actions.

- **Thematic Sessions: Supporting peer-to-peer Learning**

The afternoon's Sessions are a unique opportunity to enable participants to engage on common challenges and opportunities in adapting to climate change. Sharing experience, addressing concrete questions, talking about tips and tools – the Thematic Sessions offer a great platform for learning and exchange.

- **Travel Expenses: Enabling a broad Participation**

To help ensure participation in the initiative and in the Signature Ceremony is possible for a wide range of cities and local authorities, travel expenses of up to 500€ will be reimbursed for some 60 cities to attend the event. Priority is given to Mayors Adapt signatories. The final allocation of support with travel costs will also ensure that a broad range of cities are represented. Only actual expenses will be reimbursed upon receipt of the necessary proofs.

## Registration and Contact

You can register online for the Signature Ceremony at [www.mayors-adapt.eu/events2014](http://www.mayors-adapt.eu/events2014) by the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2014.

Should you have any questions or wish for more information, including about the Marketplace of Ideas and hosting a Thematic Session, please contact:

Ms. Inga Stern, Mayors Adapt Office

E-mail: [events@mayors-adapt.eu](mailto:events@mayors-adapt.eu) | Phone: 0049.30.53 60 77-76