



PRESS RELEASE - 13 June 2013 - WARSAW

Cities lay claim to climate agenda

Today in Warsaw city mayors and politicians from across Poland and Europe pressed for a greater role in tackling climate change. Six months ahead of the COP 19¹ in November in Warsaw, cities demanded a strong and visible involvement of Europe's leading cities at the UN conference and its accompanying events.

Hanna-Gronkiewicz Waltz, Mayor of Warsaw and President of EURO CITIES, the network of major European cities, declared:

“Although a legally binding, global deal on climate change mitigation looks difficult, European cities are already taking action. They are having to, even where the support of their national governments is still not sufficient.”

She added:

“The City of Warsaw will be host to the COP19 this year. We support both governments and the international community in their efforts towards reaching a necessary global compromise on further emission targets and joint pro-climate actions. But we also want to ensure that the voice of cities is heard by national governments and that their role in combatting climate change is recognised and supported.”

Today's meeting of mayors took place at the Copernicus Science Centre in Warsaw. It brought together political representatives from the EURO CITIES Executive Committee and the main Polish cities, represented in the Union of Polish Metropolises.

Speaking as the chair of EURO CITIES Environment Forum, Sir Albert Bore, Leader of Birmingham City Council, said:

“The biggest share of energy savings and CO₂ reductions on the way to 2050 will be made in our cities. Climate change mitigation has been a priority in EURO CITIES' work for a number of years now. Through EURO CITIES, we have been able to share experiences and collaborate on environmental action, strengthening our ability to tackle global warming.”

Three out of four people in Europe live in cities. Globally, by 2030, six out of every ten people will live in an urban environment. Cities account for 80% of greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption. This clearly shows that European and global climate targets will not be met without action by and with city governments, businesses, NGOs and citizens. Only through action in cities will we be able to meet emissions targets, improve energy efficiency, and drive sustainable green growth and employment.

EURO CITIES Vice President and Mayor of Nantes Metropole, Patrick Rimbart underlined:

“As European Green Capital 2013, Nantes has enjoyed Europe wide recognition for its efforts to improve the liveability of its urban environment and its fight against climate change. In September, Nantes will host ECOCITY 2013, a global event on sustainable cities, which will help keep the momentum going around cities and climate change ahead of COP 19 in Warsaw.”

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¹ Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP19) that will take place in the capital of Poland from 11 to 22 November