



PRESS RELEASE - 1 July 2013 - BRUSSELS

## Vilnius takes action on climate change

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The mayor of Vilnius has marked the start of Lithuania's EU presidency by making two important commitments in the city's fight against climate change. Artūras Zuokas signed both the Covenant of Mayors and the Green Digital Charter in the House of Cities in Brussels in the presence of European Commission officials. In doing so, the mayor sent a clear message that Vilnius was serious about tackling climate change.

The mayor of Vilnius and member of EURO CITIES, Artūras Zuokas, said:

"I am delighted to sign both the Covenant of Mayors and the Green Digital Charter in Brussels today. It is an important day for Vilnius. It confirms our ambition to become an innovative, green, smart city and it could not be better timed with the start of Lithuania's EU presidency. I am confident it is one of the many things Lithuania will be proud of in six months' time."

Vilnius is the 24th EU capital and one of nearly 5,000 European cities to have joined the Covenant of Mayors initiative. Supported by DG Energy, the Covenant of Mayors is the mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities that have voluntarily committed to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20% by 2020.

The Green Digital Charter is a EURO CITIES initiative supported by DG CONNECT committing major cities to work together to deliver on the EU climate objectives through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Vilnius is the 8th EU capital and 37th city to sign the Green Digital Charter.

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### Notes to editors

- Covenant of Mayors: <http://www.eumayors.eu>
- Green Digital Charter: <http://www.greendigitalcharter.eu/>
- Contact: Sébastien Pant, PR Executive EURO CITIES, [sebastien.pant@eurocities.eu](mailto:sebastien.pant@eurocities.eu)
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EURO CITIES is the political platform for major European cities towards the European institutions. We network the local governments of over 130 of Europe's largest cities and 40 partner cities that between them govern some 130 million citizens across 35 countries. EURO CITIES is involved in the Covenant of Mayors Office and leads the Green Digital Charter through the FP7 funded NiCE project.