

Cities on the frontline of the Energy Crisis



#EUCitiesSaveEnergy
#CitiesREPowerEU
#StandWithUkraine

Conference of the
Covenant of Mayors 2023

AGENDA

Overarching objective

The event will be a unique opportunity to reflect on how local authorities are responding on different fronts to the ongoing energy crisis, by accelerating energy efficiency measures, investing more in green local power generation (such as rooftop solar PVs, heating solutions including heat pumps and storage technologies), and shielding citizens and local business from soaring energy prices, exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It will also be the occasion to envision mid- to long-term solutions for a deeper societal transformation - shifting away from mainstream consumption behaviour to more resource sufficiency - with representatives from the Covenant community and EU institutions.

The ongoing energy crisis, caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine, directly hits cities, people and local business across Europe. The heaviest burden is falling on European households suffering from increased energy poverty, as well as on owners of small and medium enterprises, affected by inflation and increasing energy prices, further aggravated by the war since early 2021 and now slowly stabilising. However, out of economic necessity, the crisis is also having an impact on our lifestyle behaviours, shifting us away from over-consumption behaviours to steer individual and collective actions towards practices that also fight against climate change.

Yet again on the frontline of the energy crisis, local authorities have shown readiness to respond. On top of delivering ambitious local climate solutions, they put in place immediate low-cost actions to reduce energy demand in public facilities and increased the share of renewables while supporting the most vulnerable households and local business.

Some of these examples were reflected in the Cities Energy Saving Sprint, a joint campaign launched by the Covenant of Mayors Europe, the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions in response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Addressing the common challenge, the campaign has had the double aim of encouraging local governments

to immediately reduce energy consumption ahead of the winter season, while showing solidarity with Ukraine by cutting down Europe's dependency on Russian gas, in line with the REPowerEU Plan's overarching objectives.

Efforts to fill up Europe's gas storage reserves in 2022 have been largely successful. However, forecasts for upcoming winter seasons are unclear. Therefore, today's emergency actions should be enshrined into social norms to redirect our crisis responses into permanent structural consumer behaviours. Municipalities each manage a large portfolio of building stock (both public and commercial), and have competences in urban planning, built infrastructure, public lighting and transport. Being the closest level of government to citizens, they are well placed to enable behavioural changes and to rationalise energy consumption such as for household financial savings, while reducing costs in their territories.

Drawing from examples of measures tackling the energy crisis while protecting residents in their territories, this high-level event will be an opportunity to showcase what the current local response to the energy crisis is. It will also be the chance to reflect on what support European institutions and national governments can give to further strengthen these efforts in the mid-term.



30 March 2023, from 9.00-13.00

Followed by a networking lunch until 14.30.



European Commission's Charlemagne Building
Rue de la Loi 170, room Alcide de Gasperi.

AGENDA

Interpretation languages: EN – FR – IT – ES – PT – PL – BG – RO



- 08:30 – 09:30** *Registrations and welcome coffee*
- 09:30 – 09:35** **INTRODUCTION** by the Master of Ceremony **Anna Gumbau**
- 09:35 – 09:50** **OPENING HIGH-LEVEL SPEECH**
European Commissioner for Energy, **Kadri Simson**
- 09:50 – 10:00** **HOW TO ENSURE MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE IN AN ERA OF ENERGY POLICY ADJUSTMENTS CAUSED BY THE ENERGY CRISIS?**
First Vice-President of European Committee of the Regions, **Apostolos Tzitzikostas**



Anna Gumbau

Master of Ceremony



Bart Somers

Vice Minister-President and Minister of Home Affairs & Living Together in Diversity of the Flemish government



Frans Timmermans

Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal



Apostolos Tzitzikostas

First Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions



Kadri Simson

European Commissioner for Energy



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10:00 – 11:05

PANEL 1: DISRUPTIVE MEASURES IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Moderated by **Paula Pinho**, Director for Just Transition, Consumers, Energy Efficiency and Innovation, Directorate-General for Energy

With:

- **Arianna Censi** (Deputy Mayor) Milan, Italy
- **Zita Pels** (Deputy Mayor) Amsterdam, Netherlands
- **Sergi Ferrus** (Mayor) Pedreguer, Spain
- **Hanna Zdanowska** (Mayor) Lodz, Poland
- **Eric Piolle** (Mayor) Grenoble, France

11:05 – 11:25

Coffee break

11:25 – 12:40

PANEL 2: PROTECTING AND EMPOWERING CITIZENS IN THE ENERGY CRISIS

Moderated by **Elin Bardram**, Director for Adaptation and Resilience, Communication and Civil Society Relations, Directorate-General for Climate Action

Opening the panel: Executive Vice-President **Frans Timmermans**

With:

- **Åsa Lindhagen** (Deputy Mayor for Environment and Climate) Stockholm, Sweden
- **Mario Rajn** (Mayor) Križevci, Croatia
- **Rafal Trzaskowski** (Mayor) Warsaw, Poland
- **Anne-Laure Stanislas** (Deputy Mayor) Clermont-Ferrand, France
- **Jonas Nitschke** (European Climate Pact Ambassador)
- **Nadia Paleari** (European Climate Pact Ambassador)

12:40 – 12:55

CLOSING REMARKS

Bart Somers Vice Minister-President and Minister of Home Affairs & Living Together in Diversity of the Flemish government, Belgium

12:55 – 13:00

Closing of Conference

13:00 – 14:30

Networking lunch

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Elected representatives will take stock of the first winter season of the energy crisis, and present what the challenges and needs for local authorities, in the long run, are to save energy in the context of REPowerEU. How did local authorities react to the crisis and how did the measures have an impact on citizens? What can be done next?



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THE CITIES ENERGY SAVING SPRINT

How can my city save energy?

Energy Saving Measures



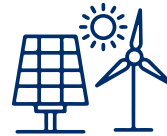
Adjusting temperatures in public buildings to 19 degrees



Incentivising the use of public transport and soft mobility



Switching public lighting to LED / Turning off certain lights at certain hours



Deploying solar energy on municipal roofs / Supporting local energy communities



Giving energy saving advice to citizens & businesses / Carrying out campaigns in schools

For Energy Saving Tips

See our Toolkit



For Inspiration

Visit the Repository



Video Messages

#EUCitiesSaveEnergy



Mayors present the actions their cities are taking



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You want to share what your city is doing? Add your measures to the repository and send us a video!



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