



PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN

**DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR ENERGY
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND**

Union of the Baltic Cities – Commission on Environment



Covenant of Mayors among Union of the Baltic Cities members

Turku, _____

THIS AGREEMENT IS MADE BETWEEN

The Directorate General for Energy of the European Commission (hereinafter DG ENER) at Rue de Mot 24, BE-1040 Brussels, Belgium represented by Fabrizio Barbaso, Deputy Director General for Energy, and Union of the Baltic Cities (hereinafter UBC), represented by Mr Per Boedker Andersen, President of Union of the Baltic Cities.

WHEREAS

The European Commission launched in 2008 the Covenant of Mayors, open to cities and municipalities of all sizes in Europe, with the aim of involving local authorities and citizens in the development and implementation of the European Union energy policy. The Covenant consists of the commitment of the signatory cities to go beyond the EU objectives for reducing CO₂ emissions through energy efficiency measures, actions related to renewable energy sources and clean transport.

The European Commission recognises the entities acting as 'Supporting Structures' as its main allies in conveying the message and increasing the impact of the Covenant. These structures are defined as those networks of local authorities that are in a position to provide strategic guidance and technical support to municipalities with the political will to sign up to the Covenant of Mayors, but lacking the skills and/or resources to meet its requirements, namely the preparation, adoption and implementation of the Sustainable Energy Action Plans.

UBC has among its main purposes to represent and to defend the interests of the local authorities at the national and European levels, and to foster exchange of experiences and best practices between its members in the Baltic Sea Region. In particular UBC Commission on Environment works on local sustainable energy policies and climate protection promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use.



UBC has considered very positively the Covenant of Mayors and its potential results since its launch; it is for that reason that it has decided to strengthen the promotion of the Covenant of Mayors among its members and other local authorities and to support those that have formalized their commitment to the Covenant.

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS

I

DG ENER publicly acknowledges Union of the Baltic Cities as a major player in the Covenant, in its quality of Supporting Structure of the European Commission for local authorities members of UBC.

II

The UBC is committed to carry out the following tasks among its members in the Baltic Sea Region:

- a) Promote accession to the Covenant of Mayors ([adaptation and translation of Covenant promotional materials to the national or regional context, Newsletters, website, workshop during National Conference and General Assembly]) and to provide support and coordination to those members signing up (helping them to organise public events aimed at raising awareness on these issues).
- b) Publicly recognise the Covenant of Mayors as a key element of its policy.
- c) Liaise with its members and facilitate exchange of experience between signatories and candidates to the Covenant of Mayors.
- d) Defend common interest both at the national and/or European fora in order to facilitate the accession to the Covenant of Mayors and the implementation of its requirements.
- e) Play an intermediary role between the UBC members and the Covenant of Mayors Office, and with the national (or regional) media.
- f) Help identify relevant events where the Covenant of Mayors could be promoted.
- g) Provide feedback on the implementation by members of the Covenant of Mayors and participate in discussions on the strategic implementation of the initiative proposed by the Commission.
- h) Report to the Covenant of Mayors Office on the actions undertaken by UBC in the framework of the Covenant of Mayors.

III

DG ENER in turn undertakes to:

- a) Provide visibility support to major conferences and events that UBC organises in relation to the Covenant of Mayors.
- b) Share and debate available information to make progress in achieving the common goals.
- c) Inform in timely fashion on new developments in the Covenant process.

IV

This agreement does not imply any legal and/or budgetary commitment between the Commission and the UBC .

This agreement shall be renewed automatically every year unless otherwise decided by either or of the parties hereto.

The parties shall co-operate and work together on equal terms for their mutual benefit, towards the achievement of the objectives summarised herein. Should any provision or provisions of the present prove to be impracticable, the parties agree to prepare new alternatives for contributing to the aims of the Covenant.

This Agreement is signed in duplicate 2 copies.

European Commission
Directorate General for Energy

Union of the Baltic Cities



Fabrizio Barbaso
Deputy Director General for Energy



Per Boedker Andersen
President, Union of the Baltic Cities