

## Energy Cities' Annual Rendezvous – Riga 2014



### LOCAL LEADERS FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY


**Venue:**

Radisson Blu Hotel Latvija  
55 Elizabetes Street, Riga, LV-1010  
[radissonblu.com/latvijahotel-riga](http://radissonblu.com/latvijahotel-riga)

**Master of Ceremony:** Inete Ielite, Riga City Council


### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2014


10.30-12.30	 <p><b>COVENANT CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP</b> <b>Implementing Sustainable Energy Action Plans: How to make the most of district heating?</b></p> <p>This capacity-building workshop is open to all Covenant of Mayors Signatories which have submitted a Sustainable Energy Action Plan including measures related to district heating. In addition to practical peer reviews of successful projects, participants will have the opportunity to get an insight into Riga's district heating strategy and its integration into the city's Sustainable Energy Action Plan. The workshop will also offer participants a practical dimension thanks to several site visits organised in the afternoon.</p>
14.00 – 18.00	<p><b>Study tours:</b> 4 options</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1/ District Heating</li><li>2/ Electric mobility and public lighting</li><li>3/ Public and residential buildings' renovation</li><li>4/ Route of excellence (combination of all + waste management "Getlini EKO")</li></ol> <p>For more details, please download the study tours presentation on <a href="http://riga2014.energy-cities.eu">riga2014.energy-cities.eu</a></p>
19.00 – 22.30	 <p><b>Official Reception of the President of Latvia, Andris Bērziņš</b> at House of Blackheads</p> <p><b>Welcome addresses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Andris Bērziņš</b>, President of the Republic of Latvia</li><li>• <b>Nils Usakovs</b>, Mayor of Riga (LV)</li><li>• <b>Dr. Eckart Würzner</b>, Mayor of Heidelberg (DE), President of Energy Cities</li></ul> <p><b>Cocktail offered by the City of Riga</b> at Small Guild</p>

Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2014	
8.15–9.00	Registration and coffee
9.00–9.30	<b>Riga City Storytelling</b> A vivid flashback on the city's transformation process: a proud tale of secret heroes and cleared stumbling blocks
9.30–9.45	<b>Official opening and welcome to the Rendezvous</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nils Usakovs, Mayor of Riga (LV)</li> <li>- Dr. Eckart Würzner, Mayor of Heidelberg (DE), President of Energy Cities</li> </ul>
9.45–11.00	<p><b>The economic potential behind the energy transition: how can local authorities tap into it and showcase the results?</b></p> <p>The energy transition has multiple benefits on local economies. We need to prove that to encourage local authorities in further action and help gaining an extra support of 'not so convinced' decision makers, stakeholders and citizens. How can cities trigger economic benefits out of the transition process? And which are the ways to monitor the investments in energy saving measures and their quantitative impact on local economy and job creation?</p> <p><b>Introduction/welcoming address:</b> Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Regional and Urban Policy (tbc)</p> <p><b>Debate with the participation of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nils Usakovs, Mayor, City of Riga (LV)</li> <li>- George Ferguson, Mayor, City of Bristol (GB)</li> <li>- Sandra Svaljek, Deputy Mayor, City of Zagreb (HR)</li> <li>- Valentin Alzina de Aguilar, Deputy Mayor, City of Pamplona (ES)</li> <li>- Evelyne Huytebroeck, Minister of Brussels Region (BE), Vice-President of Energy Cities</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Inete Ielite, Riga City Council</p>
11.00–11.30	Coffee break
	 <b>BRIDGING IDEAS</b>
11.30–13.00	<p><b>IMAGINE if mayors ruled the world: what are the keys to empower local authorities?</b>  <a href="http://www.imaginelowenergycities.eu">www.imaginelowenergycities.eu</a></p> <p>Dr Benjamin R. Barber, author of the book "If mayors ruled the world", proposes to give more power to cities - and in particular to their political leaders - in order to remediate to failing nations. He argues that <i>if Mayors ruled the world</i>, global problems such as climate change could be tackled in a much more pragmatic way. Elected representatives of IMAGINE cities will discuss this idea and confront it with their experiences on the ground.</p> <p><b>Keynote speech:</b> Dr Benjamin R. Barber, Senior Research Scholar with the Graduate</p>

	<p>Center, City University of New York and Founder and President of the Interdependence Movement</p> <p><b>Debate with the participation of:</b>  Ovidiu Certu, Mayor of Bistrita (RO)  Bo Frank, Mayor of Växjö (SE)  Andrew Geary, Leader of Milton Keynes Council (UK)  Pere Giro, Councillor of Figueres (ES)  Hep Monatzeder, Deputy Mayor of Munich (DE)  Detelina Nikolova, Mayor of Dobrich (BG)  A representative of Odense (DK)</p> <p><b>Moderators:</b> Jean-Pierre Vallar &amp; Stéphane Dupas, Energy Cities</p>
13.00-14.30	Lunch buffet

<div>14.30 – 16.30</div> <div>  <b>BRIDGING PEOPLE</b> </div>			
<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>	<b>A Mayors' Forum</b>	<b>B Networking Sessions</b>	<b>C Projects' factory</b>
<b>A – MAYORS' FORUM</b>	<p><b>Odyssey 2030: Long-term EU climate and energy policies...and what about the Mayors?</b></p> <p>As Europe is designing its long-term strategy for energy and climate policies, Energy Cities is eager to demonstrate that the energy transition is happening at the local level. A few questions remain, though:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is Europe embarking on a sufficiently ambitious odyssey to 2030?</li> <li>- Are cities and towns offered a seat on this mission?</li> <li>- What if they were offered to share the pilot's position?</li> </ul> <p><b>Chair:</b> Dr. Eckart Würzner, Mayor of Heidelberg</p> <p><b>Debate with the participation of:</b>  Dominique Ristori, European Commission, General Director of DG ENER (tbc)  Nick Mabey, E3G, Founding Director and Chief Executive</p> <p>Dr. Benjamin Barber for concluding remarks</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Claire Roumet, Energy Cities</p>		
	<p><b>Including: Media meet Mayors (reserved to local politicians and media representatives)</b>  High level happening with the participation of prominent mayors and local elected leaders</p>		

<b>B - NETWORKING SESSIONS</b>	<p><b>Towards the energy transition: local authorities in action</b>  Knowledge-sharing and exchange, practical tools and partnership opportunities  Themes to be defined according to the proposals submitted by member cities</p>
<b>C –PROJECTS' FACTORY</b> (reserved to Energy Cities members)	<p><b>Connecting members, exploring fresh ideas, preparing new projects</b>  Get ready for future collaboration on projects under the 2014-2020 Programming Period!  <i>All Energy Cities members are invited to share and explore new project ideas in specific thematic working groups and to discuss practical steps to implement them.</i>  (Language: English)</p>
16.30-17.00	Coffee
17.00-18.00	<p>Energy Cities Annual General Meeting  (reserved for members - non-members allowed as observers)</p> 
20.00	Bus departure to the Gala dinner
20.30	<b>Gala dinner at Culture Palace „Ziemeļblāzma”</b>

Friday 25th April 2014	
 <p><b>BRIDGING REGIONS</b></p>	
9.30-10.30	<p><b>MARKETPLACE: Twin cities, peer-to-peer actions...a meaningful cooperation</b>            Get an insight into the cooperation activities between experienced local authorities, ideally focused on the energy transition. Stop by at each exhibition stand...</p>
10.30-12.30	<p><b>Use town twinning as a stepping stone for the energy transition – with the Covenant of Mayors as axis of cooperation</b>            How to use the energy transition dimension to drive peer-to-peer activities? What positive changes can it bring to each of the involved cities? Why use the Covenant of Mayors as an axis of cooperation?            Exchanges between twinned municipalities in the field of energy are still limited. Let's change this quickly!</p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> Andris Piebalgs, EU Commissioner for Development (tbc)</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Kamil Sindir, Mayor of Bornova (Turkey)</p> <p><b>Using the Covenant of Mayors as a common reference for cooperation</b>            Pedro Ballesteros, Administrator, European Commission</p> <p><b>Twin city round table : Making evidence of existing examples of cooperation</b></p> <p><b>Moderators:</b> Kristina Dely &amp; Anatoliy Kopets, Energy Cities</p>
12.30-12.40	<p><b>Rendezvous conclusions and follow – up</b>            Dr. Eckart Würzner, Mayor of Heidelberg (DE), President of Energy Cities</p>
12.40-12.50	<p><b>Outlook to the Rendezvous 2015 in Aberdeen (GB)</b>            Councillor Barney Crockett, Aberdeen City Council</p>
13.00-15.00	Lunch buffet
From 14.30	Guided tour in Riga

**Further information:** [Riga2014.energy-cities.eu](http://Riga2014.energy-cities.eu)