Conference: Adaptation to climate change: what is the situation in Belgium?  
– November 22nd, 2017
HISTORY & POLICY FRAMEWORK
The Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

is an EU initiative, bringing together local and regional authorities voluntarily committed to implementing EU climate and energy objectives on their territory.
The Covenant Story

Key milestones

- 2006: EU Action Plan for Energy Efficiency
- 2008: Launch of the Covenant of Mayors
- 2013: Launch of Mayors Adapt
- 2015: Launch of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy
- 2016: Launch of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy
- 2020 Climate & Energy Package
- 2030 Climate & Energy Framework

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Geographic Reach
9 regions / countries covered

- Maghreb & Mashreq
- Eastern-Europe
- North America
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- China & South East Asia
- India
- Japan
- European Union & EFTA

Covenant of Mayors
International Urban Cooperation Programme
Key Figures

9,000+ signatory cities (incl. 950+ committed to adaptation),

330+ regions, provinces & grassroots associations,

5,900+ Action Plans developed

& 1,600+ Monitoring Reports

... average CO₂-emission reduction of about 28% by 2020
Focus on Belgium

328 signatory cities (incl. 112 committed to adaptation)

235 Action Plans developed & 80 Monitoring Reports
Focus on Belgium

20 coordinators (incl. 1 region, 9 provinces, 5 ‘intercommunales’) & 2 grassroots associations

Covenant Coordinators

- Bureau Economique de la Province de Namur
- IDETA - Wallonie picarde Energie Positive
- IGEAN Milieu & Veiligheid
- Intercommunale IGEMO
- Intercommunale Leiedal
- Intercommunale Ontwikkelingsmaatschappij voor de Kempen
- Intercommunale wvi
- Interleuven
- Interwaas
- Province de Hainaut
- Province de Liège
- Province de Luxembourg
- Province of Antwerp
- Province of East-Flanders
- Province of Limburg
- Province of West-Flanders
- Provincie Vlaams-Brabant
- Région wallonne
- SOLVA
- Veneco

Covenant Supporters

- Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities
- Union des Villes et Communes de Wallonie
THE COVENANT OF MAYORS FOR CLIMATE & ENERGY IN A NUTSHELL
Covenant Signatories’ Vision (3 pillars)

Signatories endorse a shared vision for 2050:

- Accelerating the decarbonisation of their territories,
- Strengthening their capacity to adapt to unavoidable climate change impact,
- Allowing their citizens to access secure, sustainable and affordable energy.
Covenant Signatories’ Commitments in Europe

Signatories now pledge to:

- Reduce CO$_2$ (and possibly other GHG) emissions by at least 40% by 2030 (Covenant-EU)

- **Increasing their resilience** by adapting to the impacts of climate change

- Translate political commitment into local results by developing local **action plans** and **reporting** on their progress
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steps/Pillars</th>
<th>MITIGATION</th>
<th>ADAPTATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Initiation and baseline review</td>
<td>Preparing a <strong>Baseline Emission Inventory</strong></td>
<td>Preparing a <strong>Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment</strong></td>
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<td>2) Strategic target setting and planning</td>
<td>Submitting a <strong>Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP)</strong> * and mainstreaming mitigation and adaptation considerations into relevant policies, strategies and plans within two years following the formal signing</td>
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<td>3) Implementation, monitoring and reporting</td>
<td>Report progress every second year following the SECAP submission in the initiative’s platform</td>
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An integrated approach

- **Climate Mitigation**
  - Direct emissions due to fuel combustion within the territory
  - Other direct emissions that occur within the territory, depending on the choice of BEI sectors

- **Climate Adaptation**
  - (Indirect) emissions related to the production of energy that is consumed within the territory regardless of the location of the electricity production

**Sectors**
- Energy Demand
- Energy Supply
- Agriculture & Forestry
- Buildings
- Land Use Planning
- Transport
- Environment & biodiversity
- Waste
- Water
- Health
- Tourism
- Energy
- Civil Protection & Emergency

**Territory**
- Environment
- Health
- Energy
- Agriculture & Forestry
- Land Use Planning
- Transport
- Environment & biodiversity
- Waste
- Water
- Energy
- Civil Protection & Emergency

**Additional**
- www.eumayors.eu
Guidance materials

- Action Plan template & instructions
- Guidebook
- Thematic leaflets
- Good practice publication
- Climate-ADAPT portal & its Urban Adaptation Support Tool
- Publication on Financing Instruments

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Antwerp: A green tool to measure the environmental and ecological benefits of green areas (2017)

Ghent: Empowering Ghent’s vulnerable families in their energy-efficiency refurbishment (2016)

Ghent: Crowdfunding platform realising climate change adaptation through urban greening (2016)

Kempen: Working together to tap geothermal energy (2015)

Limburg Province: Teaming up for carbon neutrality (2012)
Focus on Belgium

Additional support provided:

- VITO created a tool for Flemish cities to help them develop & implement a SECAP.
- In Wallonia region, Covenant cities with a SECAP received funding for e.g. covering 50% of their tendering costs through the POLLEC campaign, in which local city networks, associations and the regional energy agency were involved.
- Wallonia also developed 2 tools (one on mitigation, one on adaptation), to help Wallonian municipalities develop & implement their SECAPs.
BENEFITS OF JOINING
Benefits of joining (1/2)

- High international recognition and visibility for your local authority’s climate and energy action
- Opportunity to contribute to shaping the EU’s climate and energy policy
- Credible commitments through progress review and monitoring
- Better financial opportunities for your local climate and energy projects
- Innovative ways to network, exchange experiences and build capacity through regular events, twinnings, webinars or online discussions
Benefits of joining (2/2)

- Practical support (helpdesk), guidance material and tools
- Quick access to “excellence know-how” and inspiring case studies
- Facilitated self-assessment and peer-to-peer exchange through common monitoring and reporting template
- Flexible reference framework for action, adaptable to local needs
- Enhanced cooperation and support from national and subnational authorities
MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE COVENANT OF MAYORS OFFICE
Main missions

- Ensuring efficient **governance, shaping and steering** of the Covenant movement
- Offering innovative **communication, promotion** and showcasing solutions
- Providing first-class **helpdesk** services to the IUC/CoM-munity
- Offering tailor-made **capacity building** opportunities to the CoM-munity
- Strengthening and further developing the **reporting, monitoring and evaluation** framework
- Supporting the **globalisation of the Covenant**
Focus on our ‘National Approach’

Goal: better coordination of European and national policies supporting local authorities on their energy transition and climate action

→ Tailor Covenant activities in the different EU Member States to better match the national context & frameworks and therefore amplify the impact of its actions on the ground.

→ (Further) reinforce cooperation with relevant national stakeholders

Partners: National ministries, energy and climate agencies, national and thematic networks of local authorities, Covenant Clubs, CoR ambassadors
Focus on our ‘National Approach’ in Belgium

Main directions

• Given the great success of the initiative in Belgium, which now covers almost the total population, the focus will be on providing capacity building for monitoring the actions of the action plans.

• Very important will also be to continue the work done in liaising with both the Wallonian and the Flemish Regional Governments, which have been very supportive of the initiative, as well as with the provinces.
Focus on the ‘Coalition of the Willing’ on adaptation

Identified partners:

- EEA – in charge of Climate-Adapt Platform
- DG RTD – in charge of research on adaptation and nature-based solutions
- EASME – in charge of implementing research projects
- DG REGIO – in charge of the Urban Agenda Partnership on Adaptation
- UNISDR – in charge of “Making Cities Resilient”
- NRG4SD – in charge of “Regions Adapt”

Topics to be discussed:

- Review of the EU adaptation strategy and the role of local and regional authorities
- Links with EU Urban Agenda Partnership on Adaptation-CoM-other initiatives
- Role of regions and greater support for them
- Sharing of knowledge and expertise – dissemination and use of project outputs
- Future of EU funding for urban adaptation

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Thank you!

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With the political support of the European Union