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Press Release

## COVENANT OF MAYORS IN UKRAINE: WORKING TOGETHER ON GREEN RECOVERY

Lviv, 10 May 10, 2023. The Covenant of Mayors - the world's largest climate and energy movement - celebrates its successful work in Ukraine. At the high-level conference held in Lviv, the mayors and representatives of about 200 Ukrainian municipalities discussed their achievements and solved common problems within the framework of the Covenant of Mayors.

The conference was devoted to the important topic of post-war recovery and reconstruction in Ukraine. The purpose of the event was to provide practical strategies for success and development of the future initiative with a focus on the "Green Deal" and other European initiatives. The conference was attended by more than 200 participants, including representatives of local and national authorities, associations of local authorities and interested parties from Ukraine and other countries. The conference was also attended by representatives of EU institutions and EU member states, which emphasizes the importance of international support for Ukraine's recovery efforts.

During the video address to the conference attendees, Deputy Director-General at DG NEAR of the European Commission, **Katarina Mathernova** said: *"The reforms Ukraine will undertake as part of its accession path will be the key element of its green reconstruction. Making this reconstruction a reality and a success undoubtedly calls for a close and smooth cooperation between national and local authorities."*

**Oleksandra Azarkhina**, Deputy Minister of the Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine, emphasized that today *"Successful, sustainable and people-centered reconstruction is possible only if planning and prioritization are based on reliable and verified data, as well as guided by the principles of the Green Transition. The team of the Ministry of Reconstruction is already implementing these principles in practice: within the scope of the work of the Fund for the Liquidation of the Consequences of Armed Aggression of the Russian Federation, in the development of a methodology for prioritizing reconstruction projects, and in the review of the State Strategy for Regional Development."*

The issue of energy efficiency will be an important component of reconstruction. *"Energy efficiency is a driver that will stimulate economic processes, contribute to the budgetary sustainability of communities and their sustainable development. In order to support communities in this matter, together with Oleksandr Kubrakov's team from the Ministry of Reconstruction and deputies, we managed to take a significant step. We are talking about the creation of the Fund for Decarbonization and Energy-Efficient Transformation of Ukraine, which will be filled with revenues from the tax on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The fund will become a permanent source of funding for numerous programs on energy efficiency, which we are already preparing for various sectors of the economy"*, said the Head of the State Energy Efficiency Agency, **Hanna Zamazeyeva**.

Among the speakers were also representatives of international financial institutions and non-governmental organizations and deputies of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

It was also noted that the cities that joined the Covenant of Mayors have developed and implement their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP). These action plans combine a complex of strategic projects for the improvement of all spheres and industries of the city (community, district, region) taking into account possible sources and mechanisms of their financing, as well as their impact on reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. As of today, 103 cities have already developed these action plans while 198 mayors have pledged to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. This is an important step towards preserving our climate and fighting



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energy poverty, and shows that the mayors and citizens of Ukraine are active participants in the global community in the fight for our common goal of preserving our planet for future generations.

Keep moving forward together and save our planet!

#### Background information:

The Covenant of Mayors brings together thousands of local authorities in 55 countries to achieve the European Union's climate and energy goals. Ukraine has shown leadership in the initiative, having joined it since its inception in 2009. To date, more than 11,000 local and regional authorities from around the world have signed up to the Covenant of Mayors.

For more than ten years of fruitful work, the Eastern Partnership Covenant of Mayors has brought together national stakeholders, regional authorities, local governments, civil society and communities from almost 500 municipalities in six Eastern Partnership countries.

Cooperation within the initiative is aimed at the transition to energy and climate transformation, exchange of experience between project participants, exchange of best practices, use of technical expertise and funding opportunities, search for effective solutions for common obstacles.

Ukrainian municipalities that joined the initiative have already achieved tangible results in the fight against climate change and improved the energy efficiency of the local economy. Signatories of the Covenant of Mayors in Ukraine have committed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by more than 25 million tons per year, which is equivalent to more than 1 trillion trees that must be planted to absorb the equivalent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

More information about the conference can be found [here](#), for additional information contact Elena Nikitina, communications manager of the Covenant of Mayors East secretariat [elena.nikitina@eumayors.eu](mailto:elena.nikitina@eumayors.eu).