



EU4Energy



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Editorial

The Covenant of Mayors East marked its 10-year anniversary in the region, celebrating a decade of commitment to sustainable energy and climate action by local authorities in the Eastern Partnership countries.

The high-level Anniversary conference took place in Tbilisi, Georgia on 29-30 November 2022. It brought together representatives from various countries and international organizations, gathered representatives from local and regional governments from the Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine). The conference focused on sharing experiences, best practices and knowledge on sustainable energy planning and implementation, as well as on the opportunities and challenges of meeting the objectives of the Covenant of Mayors and contributing to the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change at the local level.

See more photos and videos from the Conference in this edition of the CoM East Newsletter.

Video of EC welcome address



"I am very happy to see that the Covenant of Mayors initiative in the Eastern Partnership is ready to deliver on the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. The ambition to cut emissions by 35% by 2030 demonstrates that your municipalities are truly stepping up to this challenge. With over 460 signatories, the Eastern Partnership region is a frontrunner and a great example for local authorities around the globe."

Lawrence Meredith, Director for Neighbourhood East and Institution Building from the DG NEAR at the European Commission, said.



Welcome speeches



Mr. Kakha Kaladze, Mayor of Tbilisi in his speech noted that Tbilisi had been the first among capitals of Eastern Partnership countries to join the Covenant of Mayors in 2010, adding his office was in “active work” to increase natural sources of emission absorption – *“The important steps have been taken in this direction in recent years. We are actively working to increase the natural sources of emission reduction - the forest restoration around the city and, in general, the renovation-rehabilitation of recreational spaces, parks, and the creation of new parks. In addition, we have taken fundamental steps to update and develop the municipal transport system. Availability of public transport, increasing the rights of pedestrians, and development of eco-friendly transport is one of the main and most important directions for Tbilisi Municipality”*. At the end of the speech, he said that Tbilisi remains faithful to the principles of the "Covenant of Mayors" and joins the new CoM commitments.



Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia

“We are well aware of the impact of climate change in our everyday life, how important it is to adapt to climate change and mitigate the aforementioned processes. The Covenant of Mayors envisages the implementation of climate-smart initiatives at the municipal level, thus, countries can take important measures for climate change adaptation. The European Union is our main partner in this process. The

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Government of Georgia will actively continue to support this initiative both at the central and municipal levels"



Awarding ceremony / New Signatories



New signatories have pledged to work towards the objectives of the Covenant of Mayors East, which include the target to reach 30% reducing of CO₂ emissions by 2030, increasing the use of renewable energy, and improving energy efficiency. The new signatories are now able to share experiences and best practices with other municipalities, take advantage of technical expertise and funding opportunities, and jointly search for efficient solutions to shared obstacles.

Tatiana Gălățeanu, mayor of Giurgiulesti, one of the new signatory cities said: *"We must all aim to save and how we can be not dependent on gas from Russia or electricity from Transnistria, which is also linked to Russian investments. The Republic of Moldova is a country with a lot of sun, it's a shame not to use such an opportunity and not to develop projects that use solar energy".* The experience of mayors coming to Georgia motivated her. *"In Giurgiulesti, we propose to develop a photovoltaic park for public needs. We have developed other projects that provide for the thermal insulation of the kindergarten. We aim to bring other public institutions, such as the Theoretical High School in Giurgiulesti, to energy efficiency conditions, but also to implement a project on intelligent public lighting".*

Having new signatories is an important step in growing the impact of the initiative, as it allows for more municipalities to be engaged in the energy and climate transition.



Press conference / Media involvement



Mayors from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine provided information about the initiative, the progress in their municipalities and further goals.

Mr. Qajayr Nikoghosyan, Mayor of Spitak, President of the Armenian Covenant Club stated in his speech that *"Participation in the Covenant is*

important for Spitak, as we managed not only to develop a municipal strategy for sustainable energy development, but also to receive financial assistance from the EU for the implementation of a number of Energy Efficiency and Renewables measures in the residential and municipal sectors."

Media representatives from all ENPI region, including independent Belarus journalist who now works from abroad, were invited to the event and covered the activities in regional and national media.



Presentations / Panel discussions



A series of presentations was given by various speakers. These covered a wide range of topics related to the Covenant of Mayors East, such as the progress made over the past ten years, the challenges faced, and the opportunities for future cooperation. The presentations included case studies, best practices, and success

stories from municipalities that have joined the initiative.

The presentations at the conference provided an in-depth look at the initiative and its impact on the Eastern Partnership region.

Find out the full list of presentations on the [CoM East web portal](#).



Mr. Yegor Farenuik, Director of the Energy Efficiency Fund, during his speech in the panel *"Financing of green projects: problems and opportunities"* said that *in the conditions of war, the financing of green projects for Ukraine is a way out of the energy trap. This is actually the disarmament of the aggressor country, which has been blackmailing the entire world with energy for decades."*



Ms. Leyla Mammadova, Deputy Mayor of Ganja city Nizami rayon municipality, believes that *Ganja is a city of green development. In 2020 the EBRD and the executive power of the city of Ganja signed an agreement on the implementation of a pilot project in the city to develop infrastructure and improve the environment.* In her presentation

she listed the activities that the city is implementing to achieve "green" goals. She also noted that *with the signing of the Covenant of Mayors, they have made certain commitments where they will promote initiatives leading to a future with low greenhouse gas emissions and supporting a green economy.*



Ms. Aliona Chircu, mayor of Greblești village, Strășeni district in Moldova, says that the locality she represents recently joined CoM East, voluntarily assuming the reduction of CO2 levels at the local level by over 30%.

"In Tbilisi we saw positive examples from other countries, which gave us the opportunity to find out how they work in their territory, how they implement projects with the help of citizens, how we can borrow from their experience", she mentioned.



Mr. Ashot Giloyan, Head of the Department of Local Self- Government Policy of the Armenian Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure said: *"The Covenant of Mayors is a unique initiative, the aim of which is sustainable and green development of municipalities and improvement of quality of life. These*

objectives are well in line with the national strategy of Armenia in the field of energy and climate."



*The Development Strategy of Zhytomyr until 2030 is a basis for other planning processes in all urban areas of the municipality, and the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan of Zhytomyr was developed based on the key foundations of that Strategy, said **Mr. Sergii Kondratyuk**, Deputy Mayor of Zhytomyr. He mentioned example of their experience in waste management "Nowadays we can't imagine the implementation of any type of municipal project without prior consultations with our citizens."*

Photo Albums

More photos from the Event available on Flickr. See the albums:

[Opening part](#)

[Panels, Awards, Group photos](#)

[Press meeting](#)

[Gala dinner](#)



Disclaimer

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