



Kyiv, June 19, 2017

EU supports sustainable energy development of Ukrainian cities for future generations

Reducing CO₂ emissions by at least 30% by 2030, enhancing energy efficiency, improving quality of people's life are the ambitious commitments that Mayors voluntarily take over while joining the EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. The European initiative is becoming widespread in the Eastern Partnership countries. 30 mayors of Ukrainian cities joined the initiative on June 19, 2017 in Slavutych (Kyiv oblast). The signing ceremony of the Covenant of Mayors was held during the official opening of the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) in Ukraine.

The EU SEW opening and Covenant of Mayors signing ceremony will be attended by **Thomas Frellesen**, Deputy Head of European Union Delegation to Ukraine, **Oleksandr Gorgan**, Head of Kyiv Oblast State Administration, **Yuriy Fomichev**, Mayor of Slavutych, and **Volodymyr Harazd**, President of the Association "Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine" and Mayor of Dolyna.

Mr Thomas Frellesen, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine, said that it was the EU's priority is to support Ukraine in becoming more energy efficient: from one of the most energy-intensive countries to a modern European country. Reducing energy consumption is key for Ukraine's energy security and economy, but also helps citizens to pay their energy bills so that no one is left behind. *"Start installing meters to your homes as a first and the cheapest step to cut your energy bill. It's important to establish Home Owner Associations if you live in a multi-storey building, as this is a main precondition to access funding for energy saving measures. We will support the new Energy Efficiency Fund with a significant amount provided the necessary laws are adopted by Ukraine"*. Mr Frellesen also underlined the important role that cities themselves play in this context and lauded the work of the Covenant of Mayors.

According to **Mr Oleksandr Gorgan**, Head of Kyiv Oblast State Administration, improvement of energy efficiency is an inevitable and extremely necessary programme for saving budget costs: *"Having 30 new cities signed the Covenant is a good investment in the development of renewable energy sources. This year, Kyiv oblast is going to carry out comprehensive energy modernisation of public buildings. In particular, each building will be included into a single energy monitoring system of Ukraine and will receive energy passport in order to assess the scope of work. After all, the successful performance of each city mayor significantly depends on their steps in the field of energy efficiency"*.

Mr Yuriy Fomichev, Mayor of Slavutych, said: *"Slavutych was the youngest Ukrainian city to join the Covenant in 2009. Due to the accident at Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant the electricity production stopped, and the city faced many challenges which we eventually overcame with the help of the European initiative. Today, the city not only attracts the grant funds, but also actively takes loans and allocates funding from its own budget in order to improve energy efficiency of the municipal and residential sectors. In particular, Slavutych actively implements the heat modernisation project at No 2 Secondary School and No 1 Preschool in the framework of the EU funded Programme "Covenant of Mayors – Demonstration Projects" and introduces energy management system providing opportunities for substantial energy and budget saving"*.

"The climate and environmental challenges require immediate actions right now. Energy cost will not decrease. Ukrainian cities have inherited outdated and extremely energy-consuming infrastructure. At the same time, the possibilities of studying the experience of the European neighbouring countries are extending. New technologies, based on the use of renewable energy sources, are becoming more affordable. And what is more important: cities are endowed with the effective instruments of self-government, and therefore, can develop their own strategies considering the local budget. The Covenant provides an opportunity to direct these strategies towards sustainable energy development. The Association of Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine as the National Covenant Supporter is ready to assist Ukrainian cities in becoming genuinely energy-efficient." – **Mr Volodymyr Harazd**, President of the Association of Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine and Mayor of Dolyna, said.

In the framework of the event, the International Conference "Covenant of Mayors and Energy Efficiency in Buildings: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" was held with participation of nearly 300 participants representing more than 100 Ukrainian cities. The Conference brought together the representatives of executive authorities, international donors, NGOs, members of the Association of Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine, as well as the leading Ukrainian and international experts and media outlets. The main challenges of performing energy reforms in Ukraine, improving energy efficiency, key aspects of thermal modernization and potential of introduction of new European construction standards, EU programmes and projects supporting the Covenant of Mayors 2020 – 2030 will be in focus of the discussion.

The event is organised by the Association "Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine" together with Slavutych City Council with the support of the European Union Delegation to Ukraine, "Covenant of Mayors East" (CoM East) Project and the Programme "Covenant of Mayors – Demonstration Projects" (CoM-DeP) funded by the EU, as well as projects, funded by the German Government and implemented by GIZ.

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Additional information:

European Sustainable Energy Week. *For the seventh year in a row, Ukraine joins the initiative of the European Sustainable Energy Week, which runs this year on June 19 – 25, 2017 and will be celebrated in around 50 Ukrainian municipalities. The European Sustainable Energy Week in Ukraine is a large-scale activities aimed at promoting best energy practices, inspiring innovative ideas and combining efforts to achieve the EU goals to overcome the consequences of climate change, improve energy efficiency and energy security as well sustainable urban development.*

Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy *is the initiative of the European Union involving local and regional authorities, which have undertaken a voluntary commitment to implement EU climate and energy objectives on their territories. Currently, the Covenant of Mayors has become the most ambitious worldwide urban climate and energy initiative, bringing together more than 7,500 signatories, representing over 220 million citizens. 112 Ukrainian cities have voluntarily committed to reduce CO₂ emissions by 30% by 2030.*

Covenant of Mayors East (CoM East) *is the EU-funded Project aimed at bringing together local and regional authorities of the Eastern Partnership countries in implementing sustainable energy policies, reducing their dependence on fossil fuels, increasing security of energy supply and facilitating the global movement on climate change mitigation.*

Covenant of Mayors – Demonstration Projects (CoM-DeP) *is the European Union Programme supporting municipalities from EaP countries, which are signatories of the Covenant of Mayors, with the population of less than 200 thousand inhabitants. The CoM-DeP provides technical assistance and financial support to small cities in the course of implementing energy efficiency measures included in their Sustainable Energy Action Plans. As part of the Programme, 19 Demonstration Projects are being currently implemented in the Eastern Partnership countries: 11 in Ukraine, 3 in Moldova, 3 in Belarus, 1 in Armenia and 1 in Georgia.*