



**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR ENERGY
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND
VENETO REGION**

Covenant of Mayors in Veneto Region

THIS AGREEMENT IS MADE BETWEEN

The Directorate General for Energy of the European Commission (hereinafter DG ENER), at Rue de Mot 24, BE-1040 Brussels, Belgium represented by Jean-Arnold Vinois, acting Director for Internal Energy Market, and Veneto Region (hereinafter REG.VE), at Venezia 30123 Dorsoduro 3901 represented by Mr. Luca Zaia, President.

WHEREAS

The European Commission launched in 2008 the Covenant of Mayors, open to cities and municipalities of all sizes in Europe, with the aim of involving local authorities and citizens in the development and implementation of the European Union energy policy. The Covenant consists of the commitment of the signatory cities to go beyond the EU objectives for reducing CO₂ emissions through energy efficiency measures, actions related to renewable energy sources and clean transport.

The European Commission recognises the entities acting as Covenant Territorial Coordinators as its main allies in conveying the message and increasing the impact of the Covenant. These Territorial Coordinators are defined as those public authorities that are in a position to provide strategic guidance and technical support to municipalities with the political will to sign up to the Covenant of Mayors, but lacking the skills and/or resources to meet its requirements, namely the preparation, adoption and implementation of the Sustainable Energy Action Plans.

The REG.VE has among its main purposes the cooperation with municipalities in developing their policies and management programmes.

The REG.VE has considered very positively the Covenant of Mayors and its potential results since its launch; it is for that reason that it has decided to strengthen the promotion of the Covenant of Mayors among municipalities of its area but also to reinforce its support to the municipalities who decide to formalise their commitment to the Covenant. In order to achieve this, the REG.VE is willing to launch a specific program to support local councils to get the condition of accession to the Covenant of Mayors including, among other things, the preparation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans at Municipal level.

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS

I

DG ENER publicly acknowledges the REG.VE as a major player in the Covenant, in its quality of Covenant Territorial Coordinator for local authorities in Veneto Region.

II

The REG.VE is committed to carry out the following tasks, within the territory of its competence:

- a) Promote among the municipalities accession to the Covenant of Mayors.
- b) Provide financing to Signatories in the form of direct financial support (grants, subsidies, etc.) or via staff allocated to technical support for the preparation and the implementation of the Sustainable Energy Action Plans.
- c) Define the scope and methodology of the assessment, monitoring and verification reports, supporting the implementation of the Action Plans.
- d) Provide technical support for the organization of public events (Energy days) to raise awareness to be performed under the Covenant.
- e) Report regularly to DG ENER of the European Union Commission on the results obtained in the Veneto Region, and participate in discussions on the strategic implementation of the Covenant proposed by the Commission.

III

DG ENER in turn undertakes to:

- a) Provide visibility to initiatives taken by the REG.VE (e.g. via the online profile, web news, benchmarks of excellence on Covenant of Mayors website or via its promotional materials or events)
- b) Share and debate available information to make progress in achieving the common goals.
- c) Inform in timely fashion on new developments on the Covenant process.

IV

This agreement does not imply any legal and/or budgetary commitment between the Commission and the REG.VE.

This agreement shall be renewed automatically every year unless otherwise decided by either or of the parties hereto.

The parties shall co-operate and work together on equal terms for their mutual benefit, towards the achievement of the objectives summarised herein. Should any provision or provisions of the present prove to be impracticable, the parties agree to prepare new alternatives for contributing to the aims of the Covenant.

This Agreement is signed in duplicate and translated into both languages (English and Italian). The parties hereto agree that in the event of any divergence in interpretation between the two versions, the English language text shall in any event prevail.

European Commission
Directorate General for Energy

The Veneto Region

Jean-Arnold Vinois

Luca Zaia

Acting Director for Internal Energy Market

President