

How do towns and cities contribute to EU energy security?

BRATISLAVA, 13 November (PR)- These and many more current question will be discussed



and answered by leading experts from the energy field during the eighth year of the biggest **Central European Energy Conference 2014**, which will take place during 23-25 November 2014 in Bratislava.

Marián Minarovič, Secretary General of the Union Towns and Cities of Slovakia and Coordinator of National platform for Covenant of Mayors offers his answer to

the question of how do towns and cities contribute to EU energy security:

Even though energy strategies are mostly within the competences of the EU institutions and national governments, cities can make a significant contribution to their goals. Cities are where most European energy is consumed and also the origin of most greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In the context of increasing energy import costs and risks, municipalities have it in their power to be less dependent on external energy sources.

By signing up to the mainstream European movement - **Covenant of Mayors** - more than 6,000 cities all around Europe show their willingness and capacity to make their territories more energy autonomous hence building more secure and sustainable energy in Europe. These cities develop and implement **local Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs)** leading to increased energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources in public and private buildings, transport, energy production, awareness raising and cooperation with citizens and key stakeholders at local, national and EU levels.

According to a preliminary analysis conducted by the EU's Joint Research Centre on the **six member states most exposed to Russian gas import risks** (Slovakia, Bulgaria, Finland, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania), implementation of the SEAPs in the region could lead to significant energy savings of up to 20.5 TWh (or 1.76 Mtoe) by 2020. This means that 58% of natural gas consumed in this region could be saved. In parallel, the share of energy consumption from renewable sources is expected to double by 2020. Excluding Latvia for which data was not provided, the total of investment amount to be mobilised through implementation of these SEAPs is €8.5 bn.

In Slovakia, four cities are committed to the Covenant and have developed their SEAPs: **Bratislava, Moldava nad Bodvou, Nitra and Turčianske Teplice**. Two regions are also committed to support local authorities on their territories in achieving EU energy and climate goals: **regions of Bratislava and Prešov**. And finally, the **Union of Slovak Towns and Cities** and its **interest organisation CITENERGO** which is presided by the mayor of Bratislava

has been actively promoting the Covenant and mobilising Slovak cities and their key partners since 2011.

To find out more visit: www.ceec.sk

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