

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1305/09
by Margaritis Schinas (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Covenant of the Mayors of Energy Cities

The collective commitment of the EU to achieving, by 2020, 20% less pollution, 20% of green energy in the overall energy mix and 20% more energy savings, is one of the fundamental priorities of the European and national authorities. In the light of these targets, and bearing in mind that 80% of greenhouse gas emissions are produced in cities, which also consume 80% of the energy, it is imperative to take action not only at Community and national level but also at local level. The Covenant of the Mayors of Energy Cities is one of the measures which has been taken at Community and local level in this area, focusing the interest of numerous cities from all European countries.

To what extent does the Commission consider that a European city's joining the Covenant of the Mayors of Energy Cities can make a positive contribution towards achieving the targets Europe has set for 2020?

What does the Commission consider are the benefits of such a movement and what incentives is the Commission providing to attract interest from other European countries in addition?

What similar measures will the Commission take with a view to promoting action at local and regional level to combat the greenhouse effect and climate change?