



Press release

4 May 2010

European Commission recognizes the European Energy Award® (eea) as an effective tool for the Sustainable Energy Action Plan of the Covenant of Mayors

Following the second Covenant of Mayors ceremony which took place on 4th May 2010 at the European Parliament in Brussels, a letter of recognition was handed over from Mr Roman Doubrava, DG Energy to a delegation of members from the Forum European Energy Award and mayors from eea cities that signed up to the Covenant of Mayors on that day. **With this letter, the European Energy Award® is currently the only methodology which has been recognised as implementation tool for the Covenant of Mayors.**

In the letter, the Commission praised the practicality of the quality management system and the professional certification standards. The European Commission stated its intention to recognize the steps taken by the eea in connection with a CO₂ balance emission inventory as a joint package to meet the requirements for the Covenant of Mayors' Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). This will encourage eea cities to sign up to the Covenant of Mayors, to reduce CO₂ emissions, as well as the time and effort which is required to set up an SEAP.

Mr Heimo Bürbaumer, board member of the Forum European Energy Award®, expressed his thanks to the Commission and emphasized that the harmonisation of the eea to SEAP requirements is currently underway and that all adjustment steps are closely communicated with DG Energy and the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). With last year's increase to 750 participating eea communities across Europe, he pointed out the huge potential of this strategic partnership.

Mr Roger Dubach from the Swiss Mission to the EU in Brussels expressed his thanks on behalf of Mr Walter Steinmann, President of the Forum European Energy Award. In addition, Mr Dubach announced that in the future, he will act as an 'eea ambassador' based in Brussels and in this role will help to intensify the co-operation with the Covenant of Mayors and to further disseminate the eea.

Further information:

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INFO

The Covenant of Mayors (CoM) was set up in 2008 as an initiative by the European Commission. With their entry to the scheme, the signatories commit themselves to a reduction of at least 20% in their municipality's CO₂ emissions by 2020, as stipulated in the EU's climate protection targets, to draw up a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) with a CO₂ balance, and to submit regular progress reports. More than 1700 European municipalities have signed up to the Covenant so far.