



Borgarráð

**Stuðningsyfirlýsing við 112 loftslagsborgir**

Lagt er fram til kynningar að borgarstjóri mun rita undir stuðningsyfirlýsingu við verkefnið 112 Loftslagsborgir Evrópu, Evrópusamstarf um kolefnishlutlausar og snjallar borgir 2030. Stuðningurinn verður samþykktur 28. mars, yfirlýsingin verður undirrituð með rafrænum hætti 30. mars 2023 og formleg afhending fer fram 27. júní 2023 í Brussel. Síðan 28. apríl 2022 hefur Reykjavíkurborg haft þann heiður að vera þátttakandi í verkefninu. Umsókn um þátttöku í verkefninu var samþykkt í borgarráði 18. nóvember 2021.

Dagur B. Eggertsson  
borgarstjóri

Hjálagt:

Stuðningsyfirlýsing á ensku: Letter of Support to the Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities

Beiðni um þátttöku á ensku: An open 'Letter of Support to the Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities' to be addressed to the Project Group of Commissioners on Research and Innovation

## **Letter of Support to the Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities**

*An open letter to the members of the Project Group of Commissioners on  
Research and Innovation*

Dear Executive Vice President Vestager,

Dear Executive Vice President Timmermans,

Dear Executive Vice President Dombrovskis,

Dear High Representative Borrell,

Dear Vice President Šefčovič,

Dear Commissioner Gabriel,

Dear Commissioner Simson,

Dear Commissioner Vălean,

Dear Commissioner Ferreira,

Dear Commissioner Sinkevičius,

Dear Commissioner Breton,

Dear Commissioner Hahn,

Dear Commissioner Schmit,

Dear Commissioner Wojciechowski,

Dear Commissioner Kyriakides,

Dear Commissioner Johansson,

**We, the undersigned mayors and heads of local governments representing cities participating in the Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, have come together to express our appreciation to the Mission for the support in our journey towards climate neutrality.**

With the ongoing climate and energy crises threatening our future, an innovative approach to the further sustainable development of cities is more urgent than ever. Cities produce 75% of Europe's greenhouse emissions but are also society's hubs for innovation and collaboration. Cities have the potential to redefine how we work and live to protect our future. This is why we wholeheartedly welcomed the EU's ambitious mission: Get 100 cities in the EU, and 12 in associated countries, to climate neutrality – all by 2030. Our cities are testing and implementing new approaches for achieving climate neutrality, thus leading the way for all other European cities to follow suit by 2050.

We confirm that:

- Thanks to the Mission, our cities feel empowered to take bold steps to reach climate neutrality.
- The landscape of urban climate action is changing thanks to the Mission. The development of national Cities Mission networks is strengthening our capacity to act.
- The Mission is helping us make connections with other initiatives, like the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, and the New European Bauhaus.

- The Mission has a potential to become a vehicle for creating closer links with partner cities in Ukraine, that are preparing for a brighter future when Russia's violent war of aggression ends.

We have committed to climate neutrality by 2030 following the invitation of the European Commission. We stand ready to show climate leadership for Europe and pave the way to a healthier future.

We take pride in our participation in the Mission and are grateful for the Mission's support for the transformation of cities toward climate neutrality. The inclusive nature of the Mission is a significant advantage, as it allows cities with diverse geographic, economic, and climate transformation backgrounds to participate. Nevertheless, it is important to note that cities historically have a different starting point and require a caring approach and support.

*To succeed in this ambition, it is vital that we obtain the long-term commitment of both the European Union institutions and our national governments to ensure strategic alignment and support.* The cities participating in the Mission implement innovative and experimental solutions, providing high value returns by enabling rapid replication and scaling of solutions developed within the Mission. In order to succeed, we require an enabling European environment and integrated effort linking European, national, regional, and local policies and actions, jointly working towards maintaining long-term ambition and resources to support our climate efforts. We identified the following as essential for the success of the Mission:

1. Achieving our climate ambitions will require additional direct funding and financing for cities. We need funding to build both national and local capacity, and resources tailored to cities as the focal point of action to implement the systemic changes necessary to achieve climate neutrality.
2. Continued hands-on support provided through the Mission Platform and a strong, practical, and impactful Mission Label will assist us in accessing further financial opportunities. *The Mission Label must facilitate and support the systemic and governmental change that is needed, appealing not only to local governments, but also to our businesses, societal partners, and citizens.*
3. Technical and expert support is needed to enable the development of future-proof solutions rather than replicating existing ones. This will enable our cities to avoid implementing inadequate and outdated solutions.

In view of the mid-term review of the Horizon Europe Missions later this year, we hope you share our confidence that cities becoming climate-neutral by 2030 is not only a necessary and desirable target – it is an achievable outcome if we work together. We trust you will embrace this opportunity, and we the cities, and our stakeholders, will put our efforts into the Cities Mission to ensure a safe and sustainable future for all citizens.

**Signatories:**



## **Subject: An open 'Letter of Support to the Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities' to be addressed to the Project Group of Commissioners on Research and Innovation**

9 March 2023

Dear Mayor,

It will soon be one year since the launch of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission – an opportune moment to reflect on the Mission and look forward to what is to come. NetZeroCities, as the Mission Platform, would like to **facilitate sharing your messages** from this first year, by gathering and amplifying your voice to the European Commission.

There have been exciting **developments since Spring 2022** when your city was selected as a Mission City. You have embarked on a climate-neutrality journey, mobilizing all your stakeholders with the Climate City Contract framework. In addition to the Mission Platform, there have been **ten funded projects** contributing to the implementation of the Cities Mission, totaling 117 million euros of direct funding and support for cities. From across the European Union and Horizon 2020 Associated Countries, **fifty-three cities are experimenting** with new ways to rapidly decarbonise over two-years through the NetZeroCities Pilot Cities Programme. **National platforms** on the Cities Mission have been set up in Sweden, France, Germany, and Spain. In several other countries, such as Finland, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, and Poland, cities are working closely together, and we can anticipate more progress in fostering these collective efforts.

In the year ahead, we are **looking forward** to the first Climate City Contracts and their **Mission Labels**, to **strengthening partnerships** with initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and the New European Bauhaus. There will be stronger connections to the Adaptation Mission, with a first joint call on urban greening and re-naturing closing this spring. Closer links will be created with **partner cities in Ukraine**, with a first Pilot Cities project launching now, and a call associating Ukrainian cities to the Cities Mission open until autumn 2023.

This moment to pause and gather reflections is a timely opportunity converging with the European Commission's [interim evaluation](#) of Horizon Europe's research and innovation actions, including a review of the Cities Mission. We suggest preparing and sending an open letter to the Project Group of Commissioners on Research and Innovation. This letter will be handed over to the Commission by the mayors at the Cities Mission Conference on June 27. In the lead up to this, the Committee of the Regions has created a first space to interact with the Commission on March 30 in Brussels, via a [meeting of the Second Chamber of the Covenant of Mayors Political Board](#), including a live signature ceremony of the open letter.

Attached you will find a draft 'Letter of Support to the Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities' for you to provide your contribution before March 17. The full process of engagement and presentation of the letter is as follows.

- **March 9 – March 17:** City contributions in drafting the letter
- **March 20 – March 28:** Mayoral approvals on the final letter
- **March 30:** Live signature by Cities Mission mayors physically in Brussels
- **June 27:** Handover to the Commission at the Cities Mission Conference 2023

We are available for any question, and we hope to see you numerous in contributing to and endorsing such a letter.

**Thomas Osdoba**  
NetZeroCities Programme Director

