

COVENANT OF THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE'S PRESIDENTS

Engagement for sustainable energy

KNOWING THAT

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in his 2007 Assessment Report on Climate Change, has confirmed that climate change is mainly caused by the human kind's use of energy;
- the European Union (EU) has adopted on March 9th 2007 the "Energy for a changing world" Paper, and unilaterally committed to reducing its CO₂ emissions by 20% by 2020, enhancing at the same time by 20% the level of energy efficiency and by 20% the use of renewables on the overall energy mix;
- on March 8th 2011 the European Commission has adopted, following the request of the European Council on February 4th 2011, an Energy Efficiency Plan;
- the Mayors of the European cities have taken a public engagement with their Covenant for sustainable energy. This Covenant underlines the support of the local systems;
- *Eurochambres*, in its 2010-2013 Strategic Plan, has underlined the necessity of taking measures that do not jeopardize the European businesses in the global competitive scenario;
- *Eurochambres*, on March 8th 2011, after presenting the Energy Efficiency Plan promoted by the European Commission, has underlined the importance of promoting the existing energy efficiency measures instead of binding energy efficiency binding objectives;

- the Italian Chambers is a network of 105 Chambers of Commerce, 127 special agencies, 17 shareholding consortia of the Chambers and 19 Regional Unions, with 150 local branches and some 9,350 human resources;
- the reforming law on the resetting of the Chambers of Commerce (Legislative Decree nr 23 of February 15th 2010 - art. 1 modifying art. 2 of the Law 580/93) has recognized that one of the specific Chambers' role consists in promoting innovation and technological transfer for the enterprises;
- *Unioncamere*, with the Italian Ministry of Economic Development, has recognised efficiency and energy saving among the priorities of the 2011 planning in terms of innovation;

CONSIDERING THAT

- in the last decade the industrial energy consumption has gone down by over 10% and, notwithstanding this, the energy cost is still one of the determining factors for the Italian enterprises' competitiveness;
- the EU commitment to emissions reduction will bear fruit only if the local stakeholders, including citizens and enterprises, are committed to that too;
- the EU Member States can benefit from a decentralised action at local level in order to reach its own objectives in terms of reduction of greenhouse gases;
- the Governments and local stakeholders, including the Chambers of Commerce of all Europe, are committed to reducing polluting factors and greenhouse gases in order to realise a higher energy efficiency and promote the use of renewables;

WE, PRESIDENTS, ARE COMMITTED

- to reach the EU objectives by 2020, by reducing the CO₂ emissions in the Chambers of Commerce by 20% via the drawing up and implementation of a Sustainable Energy Action Plan;
- to present the Chambers' Sustainable Energy Action Plan not later than one year after formal signature of the Presidents Covenant;
- to spread the Presidents Covenant where appropriate;
- to use the Chambers' resources to immediately implement the Action Plan for Sustainable Energy with the following priority actions:
 - to prepare a basic list of the energy consumptions and emissions as starting point of the Chambers' Action Plan for Sustainable Energy;
 - to appoint an Energy Manager of the Chamber of Commerce in order to realise the Action Plan measures and internally spread the energy efficiency culture;
 - to harmonize in each Chamber of Commerce the buying procedures of energy and minimize the consumptions of supporting equipments;
 - to realise major energy efficiency actions in the some Chambers having their seats in some high historical and cultural value;
 - to set up Energy Points in the Chambers of Commerce in order to enhance communication, information, awareness raising systems of the businesses for a more efficient use of energy;
- to present to local and national stakeholders each other two years a Report on the Action Plan implementation, including the monitoring and testing actions, and inform the local media of the Plan developments;
- to share our experience and knowledge on other regions, and set up collaborations and synergies;
- to involve our territories' enterprises in order to develop together with them a better energy efficiency and a wider use of renewables;
- to organise, in cooperation with *Eurochambres* and other interested stakeholders, specific events (Energy Days) to provide citizens and

businesses the chance to get in direct contact with the opportunities and advantages deriving from a more intelligent use of energy;

WE, PRESIDENTS, SUPPORT

- *Eurochambres'* role of supporting the EU objectives for a sustainable use of energy and a larger and cost effective use of renewables up to 20% by 2020;
- *Eurochambres'* action to facilitate the exchange of experiences between national Chambers, in synergy with the Chambers of Commerce's activity and network to support the local energy efficiency strategy and use of renewables;
- *Unioncamere's* role of coordinator in the drawing up of the national Chambers' Action Plan for Sustainable Energy;
- The national and local administrations willing to collaborate to reach the Presidents Covenant's objects.

WE, PRESIDENTS, INVITE

- The European Commission to formally recognise the Chambers of Commerce's Presidents Covenant and to make it visible via its communication tools;
- The European Commission, *Eurochambres* and the national institutions to consider the Presidents' Covenant activities as pivotal factors within each of their supporting programmes;
- The European Commission, *Eurochambres* and the national institutions to inform and involve the Chambers of Commerce in the preparation of the policies and funding schemes that concern, within their objectives, activities at local level;

- The European Commission, *Eurochambres* and the national institutions to set up cooperation and support instruments to help the Chambers' Presidents to reach the Covenant's objectives in their own territory;
- *Eurochambres* and *Unioncamere* to actively set up, with the pertinent financial stakeholders, the necessary instruments to facilitate the realisation of the expected objectives;
- The national and local institutions to involve the Chambers of Commerce in the realisation of the supporting Energy Efficiency and Renewables actions for the enterprises.

We, Presidents of the Chambers of Commerce are aware that an active participation to the reduction of the CO₂ emissions can bear bigger fruits in terms of global emissions reduction.

AND THEREFORE

WE, PRESIDENTS:

- WANT AND WORK FOR THE COOPERATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL NETWORKS, AS REFERRED IN PARTICULAR IN THE “COVENANT OF MAYORS – ENGAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY”;
- ENCOURAGE THE GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS TO SUPPORT THE 3COVENANT OF THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE'S PRESIDENTS”;
- INVITE ALL OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO FORMALISE THEIR OWN CONTRIBUTION TO THIS INITIATIVE.