



ROUND TABLE

PRESS RELEASE

The VIII KAZENERGY FORUM hosts the Roundtable "Towards Sustainable Energy Cities": City of Taraz joins officially the Covenant of Mayors

08/10/2013, ASTANA – The Donors Roundtable "Towards Sustainable Energy Cities" was organised within the VIII Kazenergy Eurasian Forum. The Energy Charter Secretariat (Brussels) and Kazenergy Association joined forces, together with the Delegation of European Union to Kazakhstan, to organise the event.

The objective of this Roundtable is to learn about innovative solutions and best practices on how public authorities can efficiently work towards the ambitious Covenant of Mayors objectives. The meeting participants will learn success stories from city authorities about planning, implementation and monitoring of local sustainable energy actions. The event is aimed to trigger exchange of experience, but also to prompt interest from the financial institutions to finance local energy projects at the level of municipalities.

The roundtable presenters provided detailed information about prospects of sustainable energy development in Kazakhstan, including experience in sustainable energy development in the city of Astana, the city of Taraz and the Zhambyl region.

High level speakers opened the roundtable discussion, including Ambassador Urban Rusnák, Energy Charter Secretary General, Ambassador Aurelia Bouchez, Head of the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan, Mr Stephen Tull, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Kazakhstan, and others. The lead agencies of the project, Province of Chieti and A.L.E.S.A. srl of Chieti, were represented by Mr Giancarlo Moca and Mr Antonio Di Nunzio. During the interactive session innovative opportunities for funding and foreign assistance were discussed together with representatives from UNDP, ADB, EBRD, WB.

Mr Bekbolat Orynbekov, Akim of Taraz, officially signed the Covenant of Mayors adhesion form at the end of the Roundtable.

Further, Ambassador Aurelia Bouchez awarded official certificates to the Akims of Taraz, Satpaev, Petropavlovsk and Lisakovsk, all recently joined the Covenant of Mayors, recognising the efforts put from the municipalities in achieving the ambitious goals foreseen by the project, and declaring the support to the action from the European Union.

Besides being a chance for the municipality to formally sign, the Round table was an effective opportunity for all the participants to interact with high level members of the European institutions, International funding Institution and Organisation and other signatory cities.



The roundtable was planned in the framework of project “Yes (DA) to the Covenant of Mayors (DACO) financially supported by European Commission and lead by the Province of Chieti (Italy). The Covenant of Mayors is the mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories. By their commitment, Covenant signatories aim to meet and exceed the European Union 20% CO2 reduction objective by 2020.

The Covenant of Mayors is making history as an unprecedented platform for cooperation, between all actors and across all sectors of society. Local leaders should not miss this opportunity to show that they are contributing to the rise of a new governance model, embodying the idea that “together, we are stronger”.

Find out more by visiting

<http://kazenergyforum.com/schedule/title-event-3>

or follow the link: <http://daco.encharter.org/en/about-us/taraz-kazakhstan-info-about-city-project-activities-link-to-seap/info-about-city.html>

For further information, please contact Ms **Bilyana Chobanova**, Energy Efficiency Expert, at mobile +32487657531, email Bilyana.Chobanova@encharter.org, or Ms **Karla Jamankulova**, Press and Information Officer for the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan, at phone + 7(7172) 97-11-48, or email Karlygash.JAMANKULOVA@eeas.europa.eu.