



Annual report

www.eumayors.eu

FOREWORD

2020 was a challenging year for all of us, but it also marks a decisive shift towards sustainability and the ambition of climate neutrality by 2050. The EU as a whole is mobilized to fight not only the economic and social crises caused by the Covid pandemic, but to tackle in parallel the climate and biodiversity crises. As a member of the EU Covenant of Mayors Political Board and as a Climate Pact Ambassador, I would like to underline the necessary leadership of cities in ensuring green recovery, a just transition and an open dialogue with citizens for the significant economic and societal changes ahead.

The European Covenant of Mayors is a successful movement with more than 10,000 signatories that have been leading the way through voluntary commitments and effective local action for more than 10 years, incorporating experiences with a multi-level cooperation model and bringing together a wide diversity of territories. It is an ideal platform for making the Green Deal become reality in all EU territories.

We are re-designing our territories and our societies for them to be resilient and future-proof: this cannot be a top-down exercise. Local authorities, being the level of governance that is the closest and most trusted by the citizens, play a significant role in co-designing the climate-neutral future together with the various local players. For the change to happen, we need adequate funds, that is why I have called for direct EU funds for regional and local authorities. The Climate Pact provides a space for people from all walks of life to connect and collectively develop and implement climate solutions, spreading awareness and supporting climate action across the EU.



As the Committee of the Regions rapporteur on the Climate Pact, I can only highlight the relevance of this initiative for building inclusive local Green Deals.

Reinforcing the work and the links between the Covenant of Mayors and the European Climate Pact will take us to a more sustainable future. Let's make it happen!



Rafał Trzaskowski is the Mayor of Warsaw. He is also a member of the Covenant of Mayors Political Board and rapporteur of the Committee of the Regions on the European Climate Pact.



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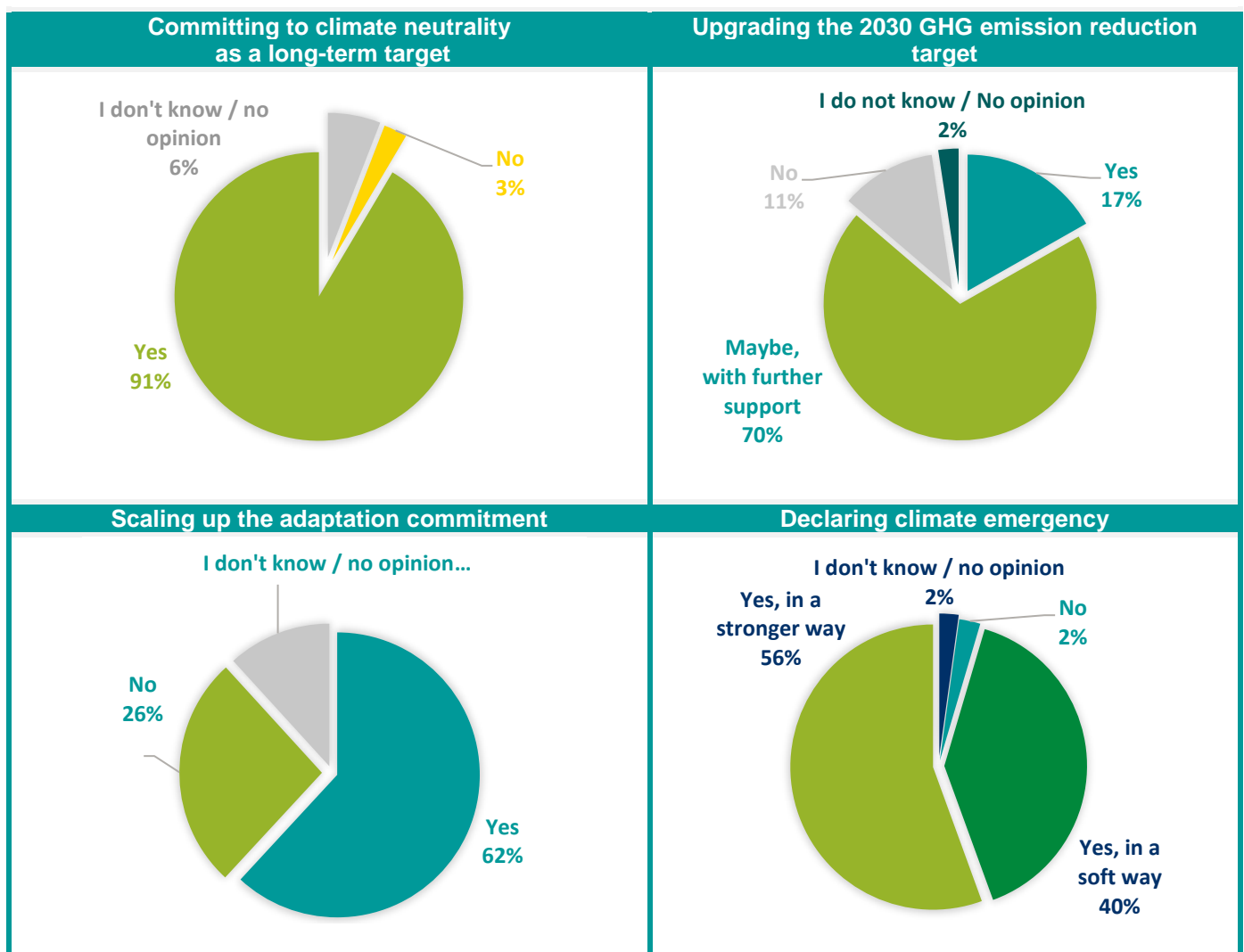
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A milestone year

In 2020, the Covenant of Mayors - Europe reached an important milestone linked to its 2020 targets, but also a decisive turning point. It was time to set a new course for the initiative in a new political landscape and a challenging post-COVID-19 recovery phase.

An online survey conducted during the summer 2020 aimed at collecting local and regional authorities' views and suggestions on the future of the Covenant initiative in Europe. The outcome has been used to reposition the initiative in its new (policy, social, economic) context and transform it so that it better supports climate transition and empowers local authorities in the recovery process. Here is a summary of the 462 answers we received from cities and regions in 23+ countries, which will inform the future development of the initiative.

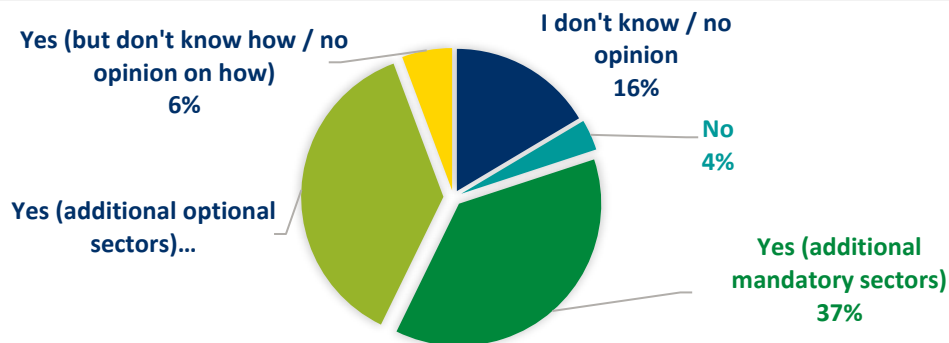
SCALING UP AMBITION – ON THE WAY TO CLIMATE-NEUTRAL AND -RESILIENT CITIES



A milestone year

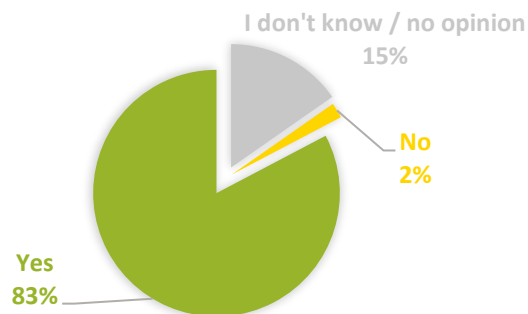
TOWARDS A MORE SYSTEMIC TRANSITION...

Enlarging the scope of action



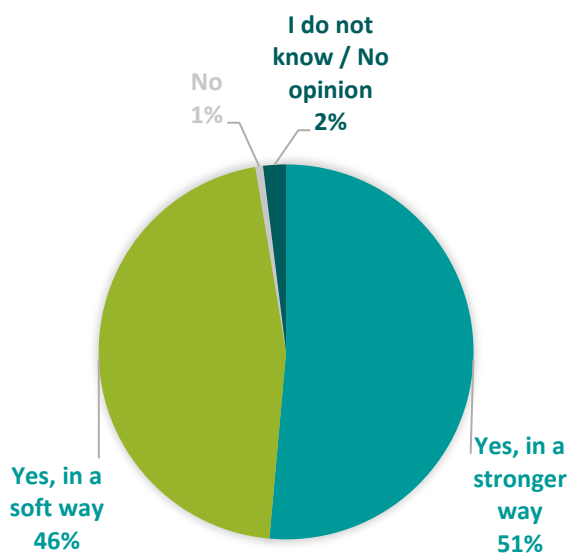
ENSURING A JUST TRANSITION FOR ALL

Integrating a just transition for all as a cross-cutting core principle

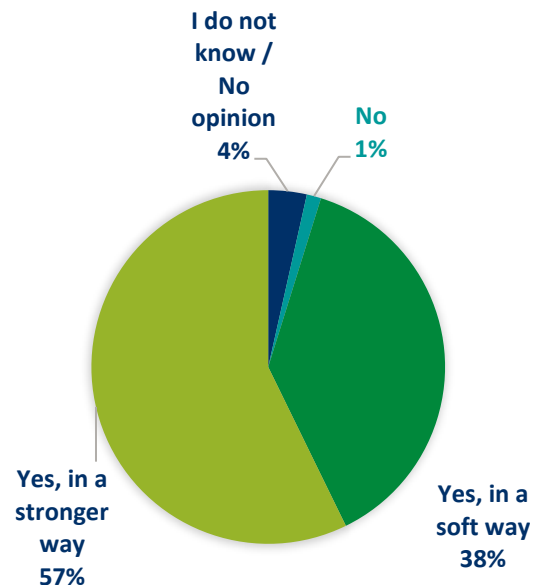


FOSTERING FURTHER ENGAGEMENT & GREATER COOPERATION

With the local community (citizens, businesses...)



With national governments



Mitigating climate change



MITIGATION

Covenant of Mayors signatories commit to achieving at least a 40% reduction in their CO₂ emissions by 2030.

What happened in EU policy?



In order to reach the European Green Deal objectives, on the 17th September of 2020, the European Commission (EC) presented its Communication on the 2030 Climate Target plan, amending its proposal for the first European Climate Law, adding a 2030 target of at least 55% net greenhouse gas emissions reductions compared to 1990. This will be the starting point for a smooth pathway for the EU to become climate neutral by 2050. The Commission invites the European Parliament and the Council to swiftly reach agreement on and adopt the European Climate Law Regulation.

So that every stakeholder and citizen have the opportunity to contribute to the new climate-neutrality target, the European Commission has launched the European Climate Pact, initiative inviting people, communities and organisations to participate in climate action and build a greener Europe. This initiative is very complementary to the Covenant of Mayors, as municipalities will be able to engage their local citizens and stakeholders to contribute to their local transition through the European Climate Pact.

How we supported signatories



Case studies

- *Grenoble-Alpes Metropole, France:* **Mur|Mur: Retrofitting private buildings to reduce energy consumption**
- *Dublin, Ireland:* **Think Energy**
- *Lahti, Finland:* **Supporting citizens' choices for more energy efficient buildings**
- *Uppsala, Sweden:* **The Uppsala Climate Protocol – an inclusive co-design approach to climate neutrality**



Webinars

- Integrated planning - Beyond energy-related sectors : embracing a systemic approach to deliver impactful results **[recording]**
- District heating – Towards sustainable local energy solutions **[recording]**
- Reducing emissions from transport **[recording]**
- Empowering Islands to achieve their energy and climate targets – Ireland & Scotland **[recording]**
- Empowering Islands to achieve their energy and climate targets: A perspective from Denmark, Estonia, Finland and Sweden **[recording]**

UPPSALA



More info at www.eumayors.eu

Adapting our cities to the effects of climate change



ADAPTATION

Signatories commit to conducting a Climate Risks and Vulnerability Assessment, and to integrate adaptation actions in their energy and climate planning.

What happened in EU policy?



The adaptation strategy to climate change is a key part of the EU Green Deal. According to the Climate Law, Member States will be required to develop and implement adaptation strategies to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

The Commission will continue to actively mainstream climate resilience considerations in all relevant policy fields. It will support the further development and implementation of adaptation strategies and plans at all levels of governance, with local adaptation being a cross-cutting priority. Indeed, the EU supports regional and local authorities to adapt to climate change, notably by supporting the Covenant of Mayors initiative.

How we supported signatories



Case studies

- **Wrocław, Poland: Citizens catching the rain for climate adaptation**
- **Riba-Roja de Túria, Spain: Building fire resilience using recycled water**
- **Barcelona, Spain: Using insurance data to improve resilience to climate change**
- **Brno, Czech Republic: Rainwater management in Pod Plachtami Park**
- **Breda, the Netherlands: The See2Do projects encourages citizens to improve energy efficiency**
- **Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur, France: Pavement irrigation to improve thermal comfort**
- **Murcia, Spain: Measuring social vulnerability and sectoral adaptive capacity**
- **Kispest - Budapest District XIX, Hungary: Tackling local needs: the development of an adaptation strategy using a citizen survey**



Webinars

- Adaptation series #4: Financing adaptation actions **[recording]**
- Linking food and climate policies in cities **[recording]**

More info at www.eumayors.eu

Alleviating energy poverty



ENERGY
POVERTY

Covenant of Mayors signatories are encouraged to highlight the actions in their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans that are having a positive impact on energy poverty. Energy poverty actions should be linked to mitigation and/or adaptation targets to promote a culture of social inclusive climate and energy policies.

What happened in EU policy?



The EU envisions a transition towards a climate-neutral economy happening in a fair way, leaving no one behind. The Just Transition Mechanism is the key tool to ensure this. It provides targeted support to help mobilise at least €150 billions over the period 2021-2027 in the most affected regions, to alleviate the socio-economic impact of the transition. Another key policy is the forthcoming Renovation Wave. It will address the twin challenge of energy efficiency and affordability in the building sector. It will focus on the worst performing buildings and tackle the energy poverty as well as on public buildings, notably schools, hospitals and care facilities. Finally, the European Commission launched the **Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH)**, an EU initiative with the vision to eradicate energy poverty and accelerate the just energy transition of European regions, cities, towns and villages.

How we supported signatories



Publication

Alleviating energy poverty – Useful resources

A collection of information and materials that signatories could use when defining and/or implementing their energy poverty policies and actions.



Case studies

- *Murcia, Spain:*
Measuring social vulnerability and sectoral adaptive capacity
- *Breda, the Netherlands:*
See2Do project encourages citizens to improve energy efficiency

More info at www.eumayors.eu

Financing



FINANCING

Financing the ambitious policies signatories have planned to decarbonise, make their community resilient to climate change and alleviate energy poverty require investment that far exceeds local public budget capacities.

What happened in EU policy?



To help repair the economic and social damage from the coronavirus pandemic, the EU's long-term budget was coupled with NextGenerationEU, the temporary instrument designed to boost the recovery. A total of €1.8 trillion will help rebuild a post-COVID-19 Europe, the largest stimulus package ever financed through the EU budget. 30% of the grants and loans allocated to EU Member States as part of NextGenerationEU will have to be allocated to green expenditures. In particular, the European Commission has identified 7 flagship areas for investment and reforms, 3 of which concern policies that Covenant signatories are encouraged to implement: energy efficiency of buildings, sustainable mobility, and renewables.

Reaching climate neutrality by 2050 also requires investments. To support cities in a sustainable energy transition, in October 2020 closed the first call of application of the EU City Facility, a Horizon 2020 program aiming at empowering municipalities in developing relevant investment concepts related to the implementation of actions identified in their climate and energy action plans.

How we supported signatories



Publications



Webinars

- Citizen Finance: People investing in their cities' sustainable future **[recording]**
- Webinar adaptation series #4: Financing adaptation actions **[recording]**



Financial Institutions Instruments

Financial instruments are a type of financing often characterised by the combination of EU funds and public or private sector finance, above all banks, but also credit unions, savings, and loans associations or investment companies.

Such a cooperation aims to trigger investments on the ground to deliver policy objectives, such as economic, social and territorial cohesion and support environmental policy, such as climate action.



EU funding programme - Lessons learnt by the Covenant of Mayors Community:

Many of the signatories to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy use European funding programmes and grants to co-finance their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans

(SECAP) development or implementation. This booklet offers a wide range of examples of funding programmes and provides tips on the application processes.

Covenant of Mayors awards

The European Covenant of Mayors awards



The awards are a great opportunity to showcase the progress made and become a reference example for the whole Covenant Community and beyond.

In 2020, signatories were invited to submit an overview of their history in the Covenant initiative. The application had to include a description of the overall energy and climate policies, and the actions undertaken to implement them.

The participants were evaluated on the overall process of their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan, with a focus on commitments, monitoring, stakeholders involvement, financing of actions, administration and governance of the action plan.

The three 2020 award winners were offered a water-colour illustration of their 2050 vision. Discover them below!

Montaione, Italy

2020 winner in the category "small-sized signatory" (less than 10,000 inhab.)



The Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office is funded by the European Commission



Covenant of Mayors awards

Turku, Finland

2020 winner in the category "medium-sized signatory" (10,000-250,000 inhab.)



Turin, Italy

2020 winner in the category "large-sized signatory" (over 250,000 inhab.)

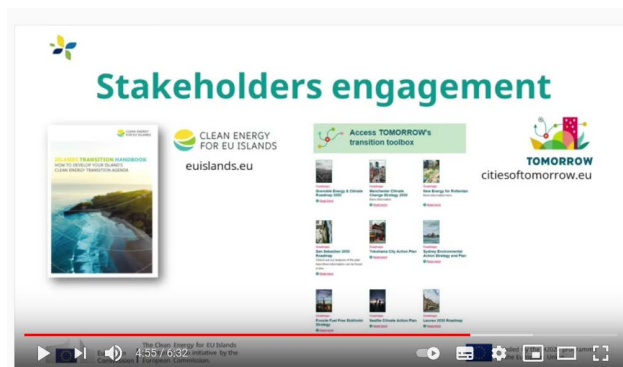
Technical support

Video tutorials for reporting

The Covenant reporting and monitoring framework has been developed in consultation with practitioners from local and regional authorities, climate and energy experts and with the methodological support of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre.

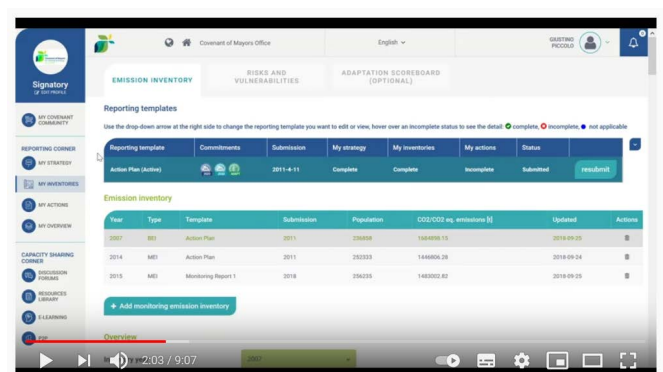
In 2020, our office developed **four video tutorials**, with subtitles in several EU languages, to guide signatory cities through the private area "MyCovenant" to report information.

Tutorial #1 - My Strategy



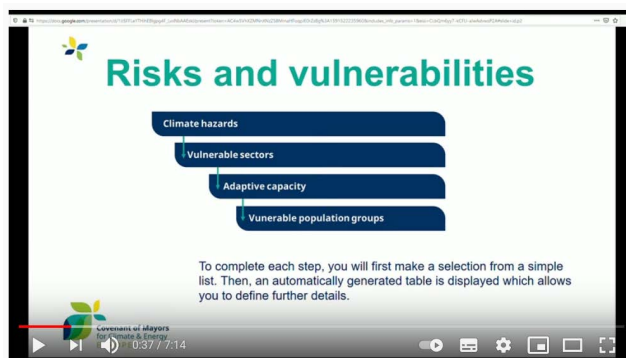
MyCovenant Tutorial #1 My Strategy

Tutorial #2 - Emission inventory



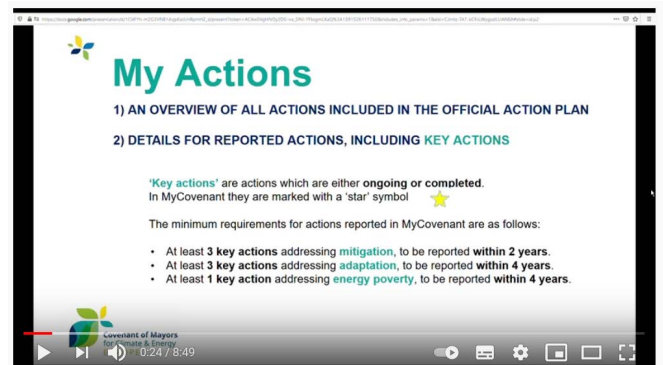
MyCovenant tutorial #2 emission inventory

Tutorial #3 - Risks and vulnerabilities



MyCovenant tutorial #3 Risks and vulnerabilities

Tutorial #4 - My Actions

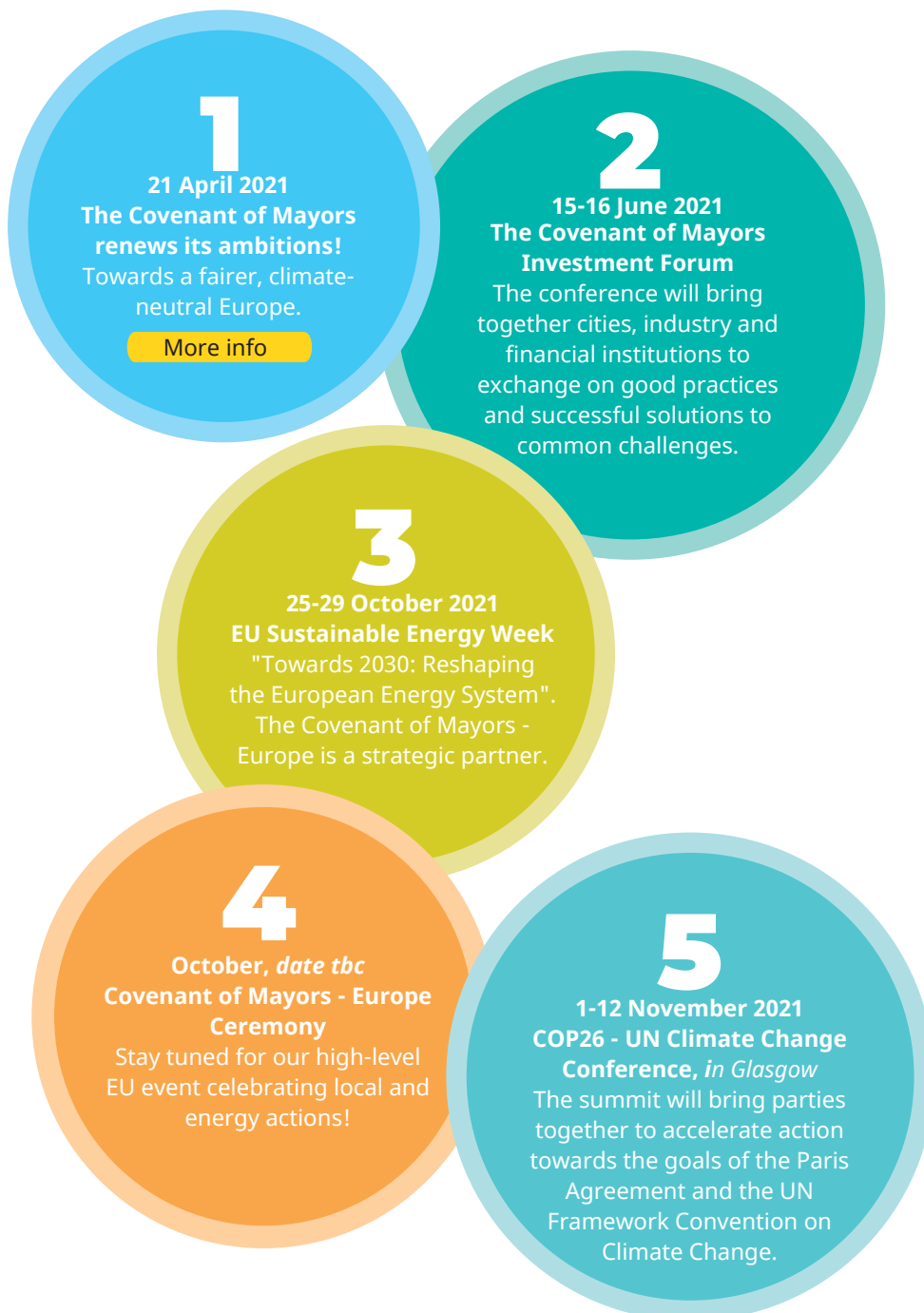


MyCovenant tutorial #4 My Actions

More information at
<https://www.eumayors.eu/support/reporting.html>

What's next?

2021 in 5 key events



Join the Covenant of Mayors movement!

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