

Abstract Template

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Deputy-President of the Environmental Area

Organisation : Barcelona Provincial Council (Catalonia, Spain)

Short description:

Barcelona Provincial Council is a local entity which operates at a supramunicipal level in the province of Barcelona with the aim of working for the interests of the 311 municipalities in the province. This province is located in central Catalonia (north-east of Spain).

Area: 7,719 km²

Population: 5,487,935 inhabitants (2009).

Distribution of active population: Agriculture: 1%;
Industry: 33%; Services: 66%

Presentation title: The Covenant of Mayors

Executive Summary of your Abstract:

The Covenant of Mayors is an initiative of the European Commission to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gas emissions from European municipalities. Up to date, more than 1,300 municipalities have signed this initiative. 10% of them belong to the province of Barcelona.

Abstract:

This presentation will brief the audience on the topic of the Covenant of Mayors, which is an European Commission initiative to strongly engage the municipalities in Europe to the mitigation of climate change. It might be the first time (if not the first) that the European Commission interacts directly with the closest government body to the citizenship: local governments. The aim of the Covenant is to reduce in 20% the emissions of greenhouse gas emissions from the municipalities for the year 2020. The first step to achieve this is to elaborate a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) in all municipalities that have signed the Covenant of Mayors. Up to date, more than 1,300 municipalities in Europe have signed the initiative, 10% of which are within Barcelona province municipalities.

For those who signed the initiative there is a maximum of one year, from the signing date, to complete its SEAP. Seventy-five municipalities in the province of Barcelona have already finished their SEAPs and are ready to implement in the next few years all actions and projects agreed. Barcelona Provincial Council provides technical and economical support for them in order to implement all actions considered and planned. Currently, it has been one of the first governments in Europe to be a supporting structure of the Covenant of Mayors.

Resumé:

Joan Antoni Baron i Espinar is the Mayor of Mataró since 2004 and Deputy-President of the Environmental Area of Barcelona Provincial Council since 2007. He is also the President of the Catalan Network of Cities and Towns towards Sustainability since 2008.

He holds a degree in Biology and worked as a teacher, head of studies and director in a public school in Mataró.

Recommended reading:

Website of the Covenant of Mayors: <http://eumayors.eu> (in English)

The province of Barcelona as supporting structure of the Covenant of Mayors:
http://eumayors.eu/support_structures/structure_2/index_en.htm (in English)

Sustainable Energy Action Plans in the province of Barcelona. Preliminary results (September 2009):
<http://www.eumayors.eu/mm/staging/library/SEAPsBarcelona.pdf> (in English)

El Pacto de Alcaldes y Alcaldesas (The Covenant of Mayors): <http://diba.cat/mediambient/es/pactealc.asp>
(in Spanish)

El Pacte d'Alcaldes i Alcaldesses (The Covenant of Mayors): <http://diba.cat/mediambient/Pactealc.asp> (in Catalan)