



COMUNE DI CRACO



MAYORS ADAPT

THE COVENANT OF MAYORS INITIATIVE
ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Press Release

The municipality of Craco-IT celebrates its commitment to action on climate change adaptation with EU Commissioner Connie Hedegaard

Craco, October 12 . 2014 – **On the 16th October 2014, European Commissioner for Climate Action Connie Hedegaard will honour the leadership being shown by Craco and other cities across Europe on adaptation to climate change at the Mayors Adapt Signature Ceremony in Brussels.**

The Ceremony is dedicated to European cities which have joined Mayors Adapt, the Covenant of Mayors Initiative on Adaptation to Climate Change. The initiative was launched by Commissioner Hedegaard in March 2014. Now, just six months later, more than 80 European cities have already joined – and Craco is amongst those leading the way in taking action on climate change adaptation. By joining Mayors Adapt, Craco will be contributing directly to the EU's Adaptation Strategy: Developing a local adaptation strategy for Craco over the course of the next two years, and regularly monitoring progress on implementation, will help make the EU more resilient to the unavoidable effects of climate change.

"We see weather patterns changing, glaciers melting – and need to react. We have to prepare for the unavoidable effects of climate change and work to prevent or minimise the damage they might cause. Therefore we have joined Mayors Adapt" to make an experience in a European network, to bring in municipal planning best practices for the sustainable management of rural and urban areas to prevent and cope with the hydraulic and hydrogeological risk that affects our territory ", said **Giuseppe Lacicerchia Mayor of** Craco about his city's participation in the initiative. "The European initiative raises awareness about this essential issue. And we benefit

from ready access to expertise and best-practice-sharing when developing our local adaptation strategy. We look forward to meeting European Commissioner Hedegaard in Brussels, and to exchanging with other European cities.”

The Mayors Adapt Signature Ceremony will bring together Craco with the initiative’s other signatory cities to celebrate their commitment to action. Importantly, it also offers a forum to exchange ideas and best practices on local-level action, and build capacity for action.

Panel discussions and sessions on urban adaptation

What are the opportunities and challenges of urban adaptation? How do they complement action on climate change mitigation? And which urban adaptation measures have proven to be most successful? These and other questions will be discussed on the morning of the event. Signatories of Mayors Adapt will join Commissioner Hedegaard, as well as Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and Christiane Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, to discuss things from cities’ perspectives in the international context.

In the afternoon thematic sessions offer a unique opportunity for participants to engage with each other on common challenges and opportunities in adapting to climate change. At the Ceremony’s closing session participants will find out how the EU contributes to climate-resilient urban development. Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, will join the Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions, Jiří Buriánek, and Vittorio Prodi, Former Member of the European Parliament.

About Mayors Adapt

The impacts and knock-on effects of climate-related events are most acutely felt in cities, where critical infrastructure, valuable networks and the majority of populations are to be found. Therefore, cities and local authorities are crucial to successfully addressing climate change adaptation. It is at the local level that the effects of climate change will be most directly felt, given the unique vulnerabilities each city faces.

Mayors Adapt – the Covenant of Mayors Initiative on Adaptation to Climate Change, has been set up to engage cities on climate change adaptation and to support them in taking action.

It is the first pan-European initiative to support cities in leading the way on adaptation to climate change. The initiative inspires cities, regions and local governments to show leadership on

adaptation, showcases their activities, and supports them in developing strategies for concrete action. It provides cities with a platform for exchange and best-practice-sharing.

Mayors Adapt is being implemented on behalf of the European Commission by a consortium led by Ecofys, comprised of Climate Alliance, Fresh Thoughts and IFOK GmbH.

www.mayors-adapt.eu

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For more information about the Mayors Adapt initiative, including how to sign up and upcoming events, please contact the helpdesk:

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