



DECLARATION OF MAYORS ON THE CLEAN AIR REGIONS INITIATIVE

The Clean Air Regions Initiative (CARI), launched by the Energy Community Secretariat and supported by the Western Balkans Green Center, incentivises ambitious regions and communities of the Contracting Parties to take action in the field of air quality on a voluntary basis and to achieve improvements via the introduction of measures capable of reducing air pollution. The initiative focuses on the main pollution sources such as domestic heating, industry and traffic.

We, the undersigned elected local representatives of the municipalities participating in the Clean Air Regions Initiative,

Recognising that air pollution is one of the most pressing environmental health problems globally, with a number of Energy Community Contracting Parties standing at the forefront of the problem and it has the most direct effect on citizens' quality of life;

Stressing that ground level ozone and particulate matter are the pollutants of most concern, since exposure can lead to impacts ranging from minor effects on the respiratory system to premature mortality, taking the lives of many citizens across the Energy Community Contracting Parties every year;

Understanding that growing public concern in the region related to air quality and the obvious links of the energy sector to other sources of pollution (with particular regard to domestic heating) call for action taken at Energy Community level;

Acknowledging the commitment of the leaders from Western Balkans took through the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans under the topics of climate, energy, mobility and of depollution being of high relevance and importance for our communities;

We hereby declare

our commitment towards the Clean Air Regions Initiative launched and supported by the Energy Community Secretariat in cooperation with the Western Balkans Green Center as the appropriate framework to coordinate and cooperate action among the political local representatives of the municipalities.

In its framework we strive to:

Develop, adopt and maintain Local Air Quality Action Plans with ambitious local air quality targets, policies and measures,

Support and actively contribute to the achievement of the aims of the Clean Air Regions Initiative,

Share our experiences and learn about other regions' and municipalities' progress and achievements by actively participating in the Clean Air Regions Forum and Working Group,

We aim to

Achieve a significant positive change in the air quality of our regions and municipalities,

Increase awareness of our citizens and businesses and involve them in the realization of the Local Air Quality Action Plans,

Work in partnerships with other signatories and the Energy Community Secretariat to develop and implement ambitious local air quality policies and measures,

Follow an integrated approach by addressing as many as possible of the topics of the Clean Air Regions Initiative in our policies.

Adopted unanimously on the 30th June 2021 at the Energy Community Just Transition Forum and declared by:

Mayor of The City of Niš