

# Streamlining the Pact of Islands into the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

Practical Guidelines for the existing Pact of Islands signatories  
and islands on how to join the Covenant of Mayors for  
Climate & Energy

*Prepared by the Aegean Energy Agency*

## Introduction

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide practical information to Pact of Islands (PoI) signatories and potential Pact of Islands signatories on how to join the Covenant of Mayors (CoM). The Guidelines provide tailored guidance to the different types of islands including island Member States, islands with one municipality, islands with more than one municipality, islands with no municipalities and islands as part of an island cluster municipality. This typology is the result of on-going mapping of European islands' governance structure in order to define the best way to include island municipalities in the CoM.

## The Covenant of Mayors

The Covenant of Mayors is a voluntary initiative, launched by the European Commission in 2008, that engages local authorities across Europe in implementing sustainable energy policies in order to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20% by 2020. Building on this unique bottom-up movement which has succeeded in mobilising both a great number of local authorities to develop Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) and direct investments towards climate change mitigation measures, in October 2015 the European Commission launched the integrated Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. In the context of the new CoM for Climate and Energy, signatory cities pledge action to support the implementation of the EU 40% greenhouse gas-reduction target by 2030 and the adoption of a joint approach to tackling mitigation and adaptation to climate change by submitting a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP). It should be noted that joining the new CoM, which now counts over 7,000 members, PoI and potential PoI signatories will gain international recognition and visibility for their local climate and energy actions, access to financial opportunities for their local climate and energy projects and exposure to innovative ways to network, exchange experiences and build capacity.

## The Pact of Islands

The PoI was established in 2011, drawing inspiration from the CoM, yet focusing on the intrinsic characteristics of islands and the need to fully tap their significant potential to drive Europe's energy transition. The PoI invites island authorities to exceed Europe's targets for 2020, reducing their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 20% by 2020 through the development of a SEAP at island level. Currently the PoI counts 117 signatories, some of which have also joined the CoM. Signing up to the PoI offers islands the chance to be part of an initiative that brings together the majority of European islands, allowing them to share knowledge and exchange experience on how to overcome challenges but also seize opportunities associated with insularity. Essentially, as a result of insularity island authorities are forced to ensure the optimal use and management of their resources and accompanying infrastructures, located very often within island boundaries. For this, islands steadily emerge as ideal test beds for the deployment of innovative technologies and the development of solutions that maximize the synergies between energy, transport, water etc. and can be transferable to other small and geographically remote areas but also scalable to large urban areas. Against this backdrop, also working through the CoM will allow islands to diffuse their experience and best practices to the entire CoM community, all while benefiting from the networking, capacity building, access to financing and overall empowerment of local actors. As explained below, compatibility between the PoI and CoM is now enhanced, allowing islands to equally participate and reap the benefits of both initiatives.

## Covenant of Mayors and Pact of Islands Streamlining

Currently, there is on-going work to streamline the PoI and CoM/new CoM initiatives. This will allow the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) based in Ispra, Italy to adopt a harmonized approach when evaluating the commitments of PoI and CoM signatories, without losing sight of islands' intrinsic characteristics. To facilitate and better coordinate the streamlining, the CoM Office has set up a Helpdesk tasked with helping islands and PoI signatories navigate through the process of joining the CoM/new CoM for Climate and Energy. Practically the streamlining foresees that, by filling out the CoM Adhesion Form, PoI signatories are retroactively considered CoM signatories, counting from the date they joined the PoI, and are able to convert their iSEAP to SEAP/SECAP using the Converter and accompanying Guidelines specifically developed for this purpose by the Helpdesk. The CoM Adhesion Form, Converter and Converter Guidelines can be found under the *Technical Materials* section of the [CoM Library](#).

## Practical steps to join the Covenant of Mayors

Guidance on how to join the Covenant of Mayors is provided below based on a categorisation of islands in line with their governance structure and status, i.e PoI signatories and potential PoI signatories. The Guidelines offer a step-by-step description of the action islands need to take to join the CoM and allow the JRC to evaluate their SEAPs/SECAPs. PoI signatories and potential PoI signatories are invited to read the suggested steps and in consultation with the Helpdesk decide which way fits best with their status.

### Pact of Islands Signatories

#### **Join the Covenant of Mayors**

#### **Type A – Island Member States**

##### *Compatibility status*

Cyprus and Malta fall under this type. Both PoI and CoM municipalities and communities, in the case of Cyprus, and local councils, in the case of Malta, are considered signatories.

##### *Streamlining process*

1. Submit the special PoI-CoM Adhesion Form to CoMO in order to be retroactively considered CoM signatories from the PoI adhesion date.
2. Make use of the converter and convert your iSEAP to SEAP/SECAP. For a step-by-step description on how to do this, please consult the Converter Guidelines.
3. Submit the SEAP/SECAP using the online submission system available via [My Covenant](#). This is a restricted platform and to access it you need to sign up.

## Type B – Island with one municipality on the island

### *Compatibility status*

Greek islands, except Crete, different small Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and other islands fall under this type.

### *Streamlining process*

The streamlining process is identical to the type A island signatories.

## Type C – Island with more than one municipality on the island

### *Compatibility status*

Several islands of different sizes, number of municipalities and population fall under this type. The following list presents the respective cases of the current PoI signatories per country.

Country	Island
Greece	Crete
Spain	Gran Canaria, Tenerife, La Palma, Lanzarote, Fuertaventura, El Hierro, Mallorca, Minorca, Ibiza
Portugal	Madeira, Flores – Terceira – Pico – São Miguel – São Jorge (Azores)
Italy	Sardinia, Sicily
Sweden	Oland
France	Martinique, Marie Galante
Estonia	Saaremaa, Hiiumaa
Cape Verde	Santo Antão, São Nicolau, Santiago, Fogo

### *Streamlining process*

Taking into account that under PoI the islands have developed or will develop an iSEAP at island scale, the streamlining process may follow one of the three generic options depending on the characteristics of the islands.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> option: Islands with small municipalities

1. All the small municipalities of the island should submit the special PoI-CoM Adhesion Form to CoMO in order to be retroactively considered CoM signatories, counting from the PoI adhesion date.

2. The group of small municipalities should follow the joint SEAP process as described on the [FAQ](#) of the CoM website. A coordinator, possibly the current PoI signatory, should first contact the CoMO to verify that the group of municipalities is eligible to submit a joint SEAP.
3. The existing iSEAP may be converted to SEAP/SECAP and submitted as a joint SECAP for all the municipalities.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> option: Islands with one metropolitan and several small municipalities

1. All the small municipalities of the island should submit the special PoI-CoM Adhesion Form to CoMO in order to be retroactively considered CoM signatories, counting from the PoI adhesion date.
2. If the metropolitan municipality is large enough (>10000 citizens) and the rest of the island municipalities are spread remotely on the island then the municipalities in collaboration with the CoMO should decide whether they can submit one of the following.
  - a. One joint SEAP/SECAP grouping the metropolitan and the rest of the small municipalities together.
  - b. One joint SEAP/SECAP grouping the metropolitan with the suburb municipalities together and other joint or individual SEAPs/SECAPs for the rest of the municipalities situated far from the metropolitan one.
  - c. Individual SEAPs/SECAPs.
3. For option 2a the existing iSEAP may be converted to SEAP/SECAP and submitted as a joint SECAP for all the municipalities following the steps of the 1<sup>st</sup> option. For options 2b and 2c the existing iSEAP may not be used by automatically converting it to SEAP/SECAP since it represents the whole of the island and needs to be adjusted to the respective geographical area.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> option: Islands with several metropolitan and several small municipalities

1. All the municipalities of the island should submit the special PoI-CoM Adhesion Form to CoMO in order to be retroactively considered CoM signatories, counting from the PoI adhesion date.
2. In principle, every metropolitan municipality jointly with its neighbouring smaller municipalities may decide, after consultation with the CoMO, to submit one joint SEAP/SECAP. Alternatively
  - a. One joint SEAP/SECAP grouping the metropolitan with the suburb municipalities together and other joint or individual SEAPs/SECAPs for the rest of the municipalities situated far from the metropolitan ones.
  - b. Individual SEAPs/SECAPs.
3. The existing iSEAP may be converted to SEAP/SECAP by making use of the respective converter in order to provide compatible data to the new joint or individual SEAPs/SECAPs.

For all three options the information of the iSEAP report may be used to feed into the development of the SEAP/SECAP report while the current PoI signatory may sign to CoM as Covenant Territorial Coordinator.

## Type D – Island with no municipality

### *Compatibility status*

Small Swedish, Finnish, UK and Irish islands fall under this type. These islands have no local administrative authority specifically acting for the sole interests and needs of the island but are part of a municipality which also includes mainland territories.

### *Streamlining process*

1. The representative of the island that has signed the PoI should inform the municipality about the willingness of the island to join the CoM and the possibility for the municipality to form an integrated SEAP/SECAP, in which case the island's iSEAP may provide useful data and information to the municipality.
2. PoI signatories may convert their iSEAP to SEAP/SECAP by making use of the respective converter in order to provide compatible data to the new SEAP/SECAP of the whole municipality. The information of the iSEAP report may be used as such for the development of the SEAP/SECAP report. The special characteristics, the vision and targeted actions of the island PoI signatory should be clearly reported in the SEAP/SECAP form and report.

## Type E – Island part of an island cluster municipality

### *Compatibility status*

This may be a rare case where a small island is part of a greater municipality comprised of one or more islands, usually one of them functioning as the main island. This type occurs in specific

cases such as Greece (e.g. Naxos and Small Cyclades) and Italy (e.g. Lampedusa and Linosa). In these cases usually the municipality responsible for the smaller island has already signed the PoI and in line with PoI recommendations has conducted an iSEAP for each island.

### *Streamlining process*

1. Island cluster municipalities that are PoI signatories should submit the special PoI-CoM Adhesion Form to CoMO in order to be retroactively considered CoM signatory, counting from the PoI adhesion date.
2. PoI signatories may convert the iSEAP of each island of the cluster to SEAP/SECAP by making use of the respective converter and then merge them before submitting the final total SEAP/SECAP on the CoM web platform. The information of the iSEAP report may be used as such for the development of the SEAP/SECAP report. The special characteristics, the vision and targeted actions of the island PoI signatory should be clearly reported in the SEAP/SECAP form and report.

## Islands Typology Summary Table

Type	Type description	PoI to CoM actions
A	Island Member States	- submit to CoMO the special PoI-CoM adhesion form
B	Island with one municipality on the island	- convert iSEAP to SEAP/SECAP - submit SEAP/SECAP to the CoM web platform
C	Island with more than one municipality on the island	- all municipalities submit to CoMO the special PoI-CoM adhesion form - depending on the municipalities' characteristics decide whether an individual or joint SEAP/SECAP among more or fewer municipalities should be developed - convert iSEAP to SEAP/SECAP and produce a joint SEAP/SECAP for the whole of the island or supply data to new individual or joint SEAPs/SECAPs - submit individual or joint SEAPs/SECAPs to the CoM web platform
D	Island with no municipality	- the municipality to which the island belongs to join the CoM - convert iSEAP and provide input to the integrated municipal SEAP/SECAP
E	Island part of an island cluster municipality	- the island cluster municipality to submit to CoMO the special PoI-CoM adhesion form - convert iSEAP and provide input to the integrated municipal SEAP/SECAP