



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
REGION OF CRETE
REGIONAL GOVERNOR**

Heraklion, 20.01.2021
Ref. Nr. 72

Letter of support

By this Letter, we express our convinced support to the City of Heraklion, Crete to apply to the Call for Expression of Interest addressed to cities interested in the EU Mission: 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030.

The Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities (the “Cities Mission”) will mobilize local authorities, citizens, businesses, investors as well as regional and national authorities to achieve two objectives:

- 1) Deliver at least 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030,
- 2) Ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050.

The Cities Mission is part of the EU Missions initiative - one of the main novelties of the Horizon Europe programme. Rooted in research and innovation (R&I), the Missions aim to address societal challenges and to closely engage and involve citizens in this work.

The Cities Mission will have as its central feature the “Climate City Contracts”. Each selected city will develop and implement such a contract. These contracts will constitute a clear and highly visible political commitment not just to the Commission and the national and regional authorities, but also to their citizens. They will set out plans for the city to achieve climate neutrality by 2030 and they will include an investment plan. Climate City Contracts will be co-created with local stakeholders and citizens.

We hereby express our support to the City of Heraklion, our commitment and our will to contribute to the goals of the Mission working together with the city’s authorities for a climate - neutral common future by 2030.

Governor of the Region of Crete

