At COP23, government delegates will negotiate details regarding the implementation of the Paris Agreement of 2015. The expected outcome is a so-called "rulebook" to be approved by the next Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland, in late 2018.

One of the most efficient, and cost-effective, solutions in reducing emissions and primary energy demand is the development of Heat Synergy Regions based on modern – meaning resource-efficient, climate-resilient and low-carbon - district heating and cooling (DHC) systems. DHC can capture excess heat, which is currently being wasted, and can use it to replace fossil energy sources for heating European cities. Based on cost and resource-efficiency considerations for feasible low-carbon pathways, it is recommended that district heating should increase from today's level of 10% up to 50% by 2050.

By using national and local-scale thermal mapping and modeling, complemented by analyses of energy systems' potential for savings, the feasibility of heating and cooling solutions in general, Heat Synergy Regions in particular, can be more easily identified. In order to achieve this, local, sub-national and national governments each have a key role to play, supported by the scientific and industry communities.

Heat Roadmap Europe (HRE) delivers the latest scientific evidence to support the decarbonisation of heating and cooling in Europe, by combining the data of local waste-heat conditions, regionally-available renewable resources, untapped savings potential and the interactions between energy systems. With its fourth edition of the Pan-European Thermal Atlas (Peta4), HRE supplies specific heating and cooling demand data in relation to the costs of infrastructure development and access to renewable energy and excess heat sources, which can together facilitate the development of Heat Synergy Regions in order to accelerate modern DHC solutions and a renaissance for the energy sector across Europe.

Responses that will be captured within the strategic panel:

- Which pathway would be the fastest and most affordable to decarbonise the heating and cooling sector in Europe?
- Do heating and cooling receive the attention they deserve in the current National Determined Contributions?
- How can HRE support National Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Action Plans (NEEAPs/NREAPs)?
- What framework conditions can help politically access and build Heat Synergy Regions?
- What does industry need (to do) to deliver resource-efficient and low-carbon DHC systems?
- How can European Regional Development Funds facilitate and finance low-carbon heating?
Applied methodology

Welcome by the facilitator [5 mins]

Feature presentation: Strategies and evidence for low-carbon heating and cooling solutions within cities and across regions [10 mins]

Brian Van Mathiesen, Coordinator of HRE4 and Professor at Aalborg University (confirmed)

Opening statements with one large image [3 mins each]
1) Paul Voss, Managing Director, EuroHeat & Power (confirmed)
2) Mariusz Skiba, Deputy Mayor, City of Katowice, Poland (invited)
3) Katrina Folland, CELSIUS Coordinator, Smart Cities, City of Gothenburg, Sweden (confirmed)
4) Rodoula Tryfonidou, Ministerial advisor, Energy research – general issues and strategy, German Ministry of Economy and Energy (invited)
5) Gergana Miladinova, Smart and Sustainable Growth, DG REGIO, European Commission (invited)

Panel discussion [45 mins]

Wrap-up and takeaways for feasibly building Heat Synergy Regions [5 mins]

Facilitator: Carsten Rothballer, Coordinator for Climate and Energy, ICLEI Europe

Networking reception (tbc)

Recommended Reading and Links

www.heatroadmapandeurope.eu
www.heatroadmap.eu/peta.php
www.cities-and-regions.org