



EUROPEAN  
**COVENANT  
OF COMPANIES**  
FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY

# No net zero without SMEs

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CCCE Secretariat



# What is the Covenant of Companies?

- A new pilot initiative led by the European Commission (DG Energy) to **encourage and support companies** to step up their contribution to a **clean energy transition**.
- Provides a **pledging scheme** encouraging businesses, **in particular SMEs**, to commit to take action to reduce their carbon emissions. Companies can choose from different **levels of commitment** which reflect where they are on their journey to decarbonisation.
- Whatever the commitment, companies will receive practical, step-by-step **guidance and/or technical assistance** to help them take concrete actions resulting in the decarbonisation of their businesses.
- Recognises the steps taken by companies with a **'Seal of Approval'** scheme.
- Duration: January 2022 – December 2023

## Why is it important?

- **24 million** small and medium enterprises (**SMEs**) in the EU make up **99,8% of all EU businesses**.
- **SMEs** contribute to **64% of industrial pollution** in Europe.
- **40-45% of SMEs** are considered to have a **large environmental impact**;
- By supporting and recognising the efforts of companies – no matter how big or small – to **induce bottom-up change**, the Covenant of Companies can help reach **the 55% emissions reduction targets by 2030**.

# How will it achieve this?

## PLEDGING AND RECOGNITION

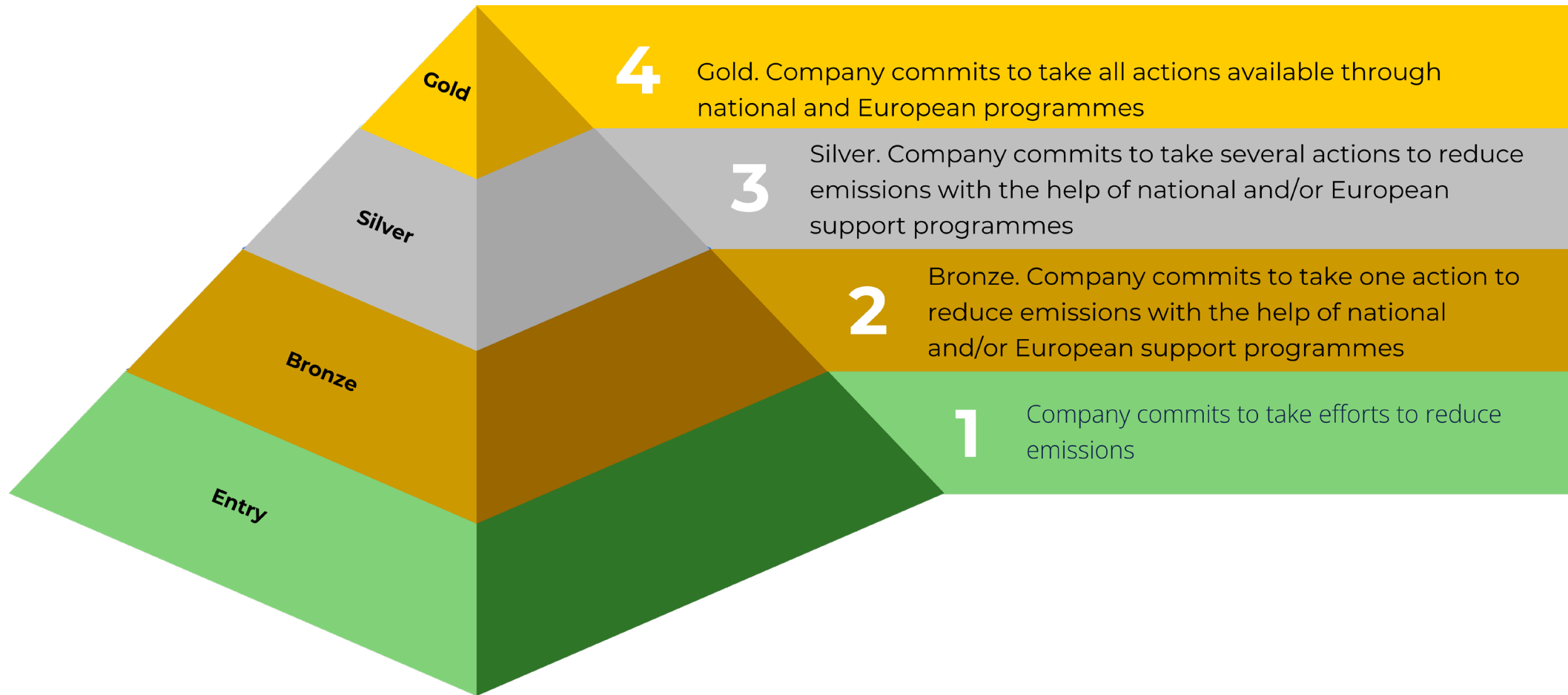
- The initiative offers a pledging scheme with several levels of recognition (entry, bronze, silver and gold).
- The entry level of commitment looks at finding ways to trigger a company's awareness and understanding of which actions are crucial for business and planetary survival.
- Bronze, silver and gold encourage and support companies to take one or more concrete measures to reduce their GHG emissions.

## ADVISORY SERVICES/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Provide practical advisory services to European companies to help them decarbonise.
- Two calls for technical assistance for companies: the first one in June 2022. The second from May 2023.
- Guidance documents and other useful [resources](#) available online, but also peer-to-peer learning and masterclasses.
- Encourage business investment in clean energy solutions/technologies to help mitigate climate change while also improving business performance.



# The CCCE pyramid approach



# Who can pledge and apply for assistance?

- The Pledging is open to **companies in all 27 EU Member States** (and groups of companies)
- **Technical Assistance** can be delivered in **Bulgarian, Dutch, English, French, German, Lithuanian, Romanian and Spanish.**

# How to get involved

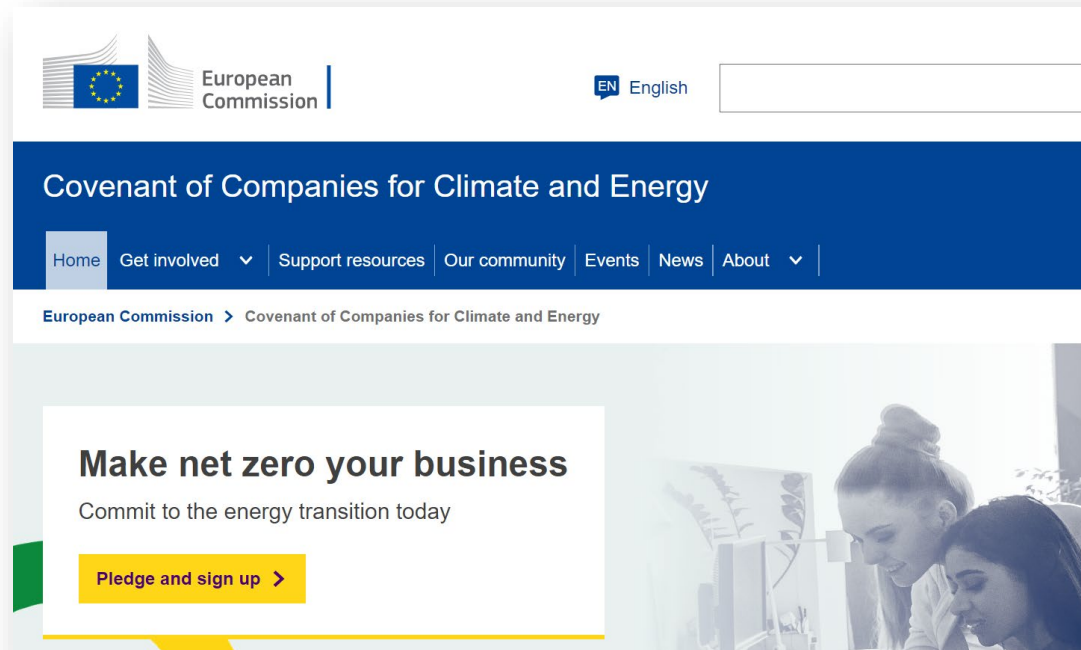
- Make a Pledge on the CCCE website
- Become an Ambassador
- Join our Partner network



# CCCE Website & Newsletter

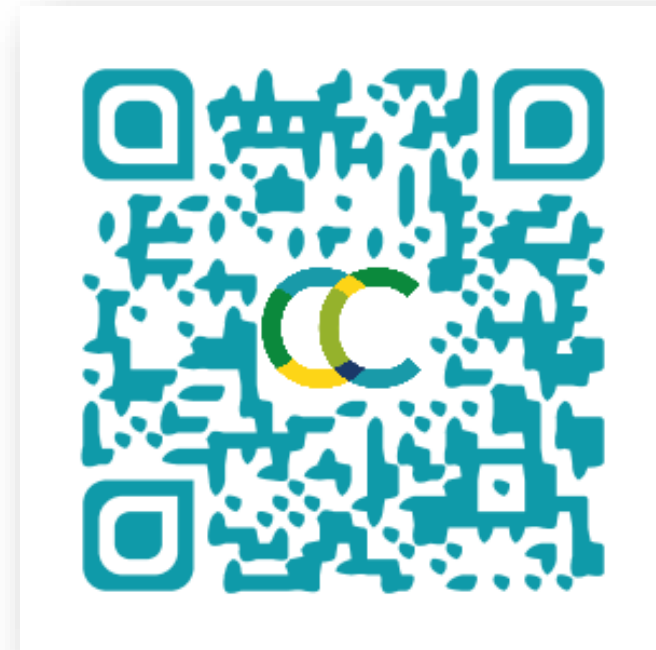
## Website:

[https://covenant-of-companies.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://covenant-of-companies.ec.europa.eu/index_en)



## Newsletter:

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