

ACTION PLAN

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS AND CLIMATE ALLIANCE

The purpose of this Action Plan is to lay down the foundations for the future collaboration between:

- the European Committee of the Regions, the institutional body representing local and regional authorities in the EU (hereinafter referred to as the **CoR**); and
- the Climate Alliance of European Cities with Indigenous Rainforest Peoples, the European city network dedicated to climate action (hereinafter referred to as **Climate Alliance**).

Both signatories of the present Action Plan:

ACKNOWLEDGE THAT:

- Local and regional governments are key drivers of the **energy transition** and the **fight against climate change** at the level of governance closest to citizens;
- Local and regional authorities are major actors in **shaping climate and energy policies** – in compliance with the principle of subsidiarity – at the European level as well as in the international arena;
- A well-functioning **multi-level governance** framework is of crucial importance to support a vertical integration and foster collaboration between the different levels of government – especially in the preparation and implementation of the national, regional and local sustainable energy and climate strategies and plans;
- Securing **financing opportunities** for local and regional governments remains one of the main challenges to support climate and energy projects on the ground.

HIGHLIGHT:

- Their **shared political interest** in strengthening the voice of European local and regional governments on climate and energy issues in the EU and on the international scene;
- Their **rich history of fruitful cooperation** on these issues at the EU level (e.g. the recent CoR's opinion in the review of the EU Adaptation Strategy for which Climate Alliance was designated as expert) as well as in the international climate negotiations (e.g. several co-organised side-events at the Conferences of the Parties to UNFCCC).

COMMIT TO FURTHER INTENSIFYING THEIR COOPERATION IN:

1) EU Climate and Energy Policy Framework¹

- Participation in relevant consultation processes (e.g. CoR's stakeholder events, Climate Alliance's working group meetings as well as other debates and conferences organised by partners);
- Contribution of the CoR to Climate Alliance's position papers and policy recommendations;
- Engagement of Climate Alliance (staff and/or member local authorities) in the preparation of CoR opinions;
- Preparation of joint publications.

2) International Climate Negotiations

- Co-organisation of side-events at UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties (COPs);
- Exchange on positions ahead of UNFCCC COPs and other relevant international events ;
- Joint discussions with relevant international (institutional/financing) stakeholders.

3) Exchange opportunities between local and regional governments and European decision-makers (e.g. events or others)

- Participation in their respective events (e.g. speaking opportunities at workshops, roundtables, conferences) or other types of activities ;
- Promotion of their respective activities among their members and partners.

Both signatories agree on the content of **biannual roadmaps** (Annex II) to bring forward shared priorities and identify joint activities.

Both signatories also agree on the fact that the present Action Plan does not involve a commitment to disburse funds. It is rather based on the assumption that each signatory will implement the activities envisaged in this document covering its own costs and using its own resources in accordance to the signatories' respective regulations, rules and standard practices.

¹ Cf. list of main policy fields to cooperate on in Annex I

Annex I: Cooperation Areas²

Main policy fields to cooperate on:

- Energy (Efficiency & Renewables)
- Multi-Level Governance (Energy Union)
- Adaptation to Climate Change
- Decentralised Cooperation
- Financing

Relevant Initiatives (linked to the above-mentioned policy fields):

- European / Global Covenant of Mayors³
- EU Urban Agenda Partnerships⁴

Relevant Events:

[At the EU level]

- European Week of Regions and Cities (Open Days)
- EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW)
- Assises of Decentralised Cooperation
- Climate Alliance Annual Conferences
- Climate Alliance Working Groups meetings
- CoR events, ENVE commission meetings
- Joint thematic conferences and workshops.

[At the international level]

- UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties (COPs)
Climate Chance Summits

Annex II: Roadmap 2017-2018

Possible joint activities will include:

- Policy Work: development of common positions on the 'Energy Union Governance', the 'Clean Energy for all Europeans' Package and the 'Low Carbon Mobility' Package.
- Covenant of Mayors: collaboration with the CoR Ambassadors, co-organisation of Covenant of Mayors Events.
- European Green Capitals: organisation of events in collaboration with the city of Essen (member of Climate Alliance)
- EU Urban Agenda Partnerships: participation in relevant policy discussions.
- International climate negotiations: co-organisation of side-events at COPs and Climate Chance conference, participation in the Climate Summit of Local and Regional Leaders (November 2017, Bonn).

² Non-exhaustive list

³ Climate Alliance is one of the city networks co-leading the Covenant of Mayors Office

⁴ The Province of Barcelona, a Climate Alliance member, is involved in the Adaptation Partnership.