

PRESS RELEASE

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Climate Alliance

Local leaders urge MEPs to engage cities for successful energy transition

Brussels/Frankfurt, 22 June 2017. Today, municipal representatives of five city networks met with Members of the European Parliament to drive home the importance of local level involvement in EU energy and climate policy. Known as the Urban 5, these networks point to the local level's power to provide jobs, its proximity to the people and its swift ability to deliver change as essential components for energy transition success.

Prior to the policy debate in the European Parliament, the Urban 5, comprised of Climate Alliance, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), Energy Cities, EUROCITIES, and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability – outlined their position in a [joint policy statement](#).

The paper targets EU policy makers as they negotiate the Clean Energy Package and EU budget and calls for a governance framework that empowers local governments to contribute to the energy transition. One important pillar of such a framework would be better access to finance for cities, towns, and regions to foster investments in local renewable energy. The right to self-produce and consume electricity is also cited as a way to encourage broad participation in the energy transition.

European local governments further call for a planning and reporting system that addresses barriers to delivering the Energy Union at the local level as well as for ambitious 2030 and 2050 energy and climate targets. This would put Europe on a path to meet its international commitments whilst improving the quality of life of its people.

MEP Theresa Griffin echoed the importance of the local level and the Urban 5's calls, stating, "Citizens, cities, local authorities and regions are the backbone of the energy transition. The Energy Union should provide an adequate framework to promote their full participation as this will enable us to respond to key challenges including the question of energy poverty."

The political leaders present reiterated that delivery of the objectives of the Energy Union and the Paris Agreement will require engagement of the people in the transition process, shifting them from energy consumers to energy producers.

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"Multilevel governance is the future of clean energy deployment in Europe. Regions and cities will play a crucial role to capture the multiple benefits of the energy transition: price lowering, citizen empowerment, local production, new jobs, cleaner air," agreed MEP Claude Turmes.

The following speakers attended the meeting: MEPs Claude Turmes and Theresa Griffin (hosts); Manon Dufour, E3G Head of Office (moderator); Abdeluheh Choho, Deputy Mayor of Amsterdam, The Netherlands (EUROCITIES Representative); Tjisse Stelpstra, Committee of the Regions Member for the Province of Drenthe, The Netherlands (CEMR Representative); Åsa Karlsson Björkmarker, Deputy Mayor of Växjö, Sweden (ICLEI Representative); Ann Cloet, Deputy Mayor of Mouscron, Belgium (Energy Cities Representative); and Ronald van Meygaarden, Alderman and Deputy Mayor of Geldermalsen, The Netherlands (Climate Alliance Representative).

FURTHER INFORMATION

- [Joint policy statement](#)

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THE CLIMATE ALLIANCE

For more than 25 years, Climate Alliance member municipalities have been acting in partnership with indigenous rainforest peoples for the benefit of the global climate. With some 1,700 members spread across 26 European countries, Climate Alliance is the world's largest city network dedicated to climate action and the only one to set tangible targets: each member city, town and district has committed itself to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent every 5 years. Recognising the impact our lifestyles can have on the world's most vulnerable people and places, Climate Alliance pairs local action with global responsibility. climatealliance.org

