



**European Committee
of the Regions**



Climate Alliance

ACTION PLAN

COOPERATION BETWEEN

THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

AND CLIMATE ALLIANCE

Following up on the Bureau decision of 12 October 2015 (CoR 2015/4495) establishing the procedure for the MoUs/Action Plans signed by the CoR with other entities/organisation and on the 2018 Action Plan, this document has the purpose to establish a multi-annual framework for the cooperation 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 cooperation 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 THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

1) EU Climate and Energy Policy Framework

- 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 and dissemination of CoR opinions and studies;
- 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 the multi-annual framework for cooperation (Annex I)¹ and on the 2019-2020 roadmap to bring forward shared priorities and identify joint activities (Annex II).

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 fields of cooperation.

Brussels, 11 April 2019

For the European Committee of the Regions

Karl-Heinz Lambertz

President

For Climate Alliance

Tine Heyse

President

Annex I: Specific cooperation Fields²

Main policy fields to cooperate on:

- Energy (Efficiency, Renewables and Energy Poverty)
- Multi-Level Governance (Energy Union)
- Adaptation to Climate Change
- Sustainable Mobility
- Decentralised Cooperation / Climate Justice
- Financing
- Sustainable Development Goals

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

- European / Global Covenant of Mayors³
- EU Urban Agenda Partnerships⁴
- Clean Energy for EU Islands⁵
- Member State National Energy and Climate Plans

Relevant Events:

[At the EU level]

- European Week of Regions and Cities (Open Days)
- EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW)
- Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation 2019 (formerly called Assises of Decentralised Cooperation)
- Climate Alliance Annual Conferences
- Climate Alliance Working Groups meetings
- CoR events, ENVE commission meetings
- Joint thematic conferences and workshops
- Covenant of Mayors Ceremonies and other (theme-specific or country-specific) workshops.

[At the international level]

- UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties (COPs), Pre-COPs and COP side events.

² Non-exhaustive list.

³ Climate Alliance is one of the city networks co-leading the Covenant of Mayors Office in Europe and is part of the Global Covenant Founders Council – more information [here](#).

⁴ CoMO/Climate Alliance, together with the Province of Barcelona, a Climate Alliance member, are involved in the Adaptation Partnership. The City of Roeselare, a Climate Alliance member, is involved in the Energy Transition Partnership.

⁵ Climate Alliance is part of the consortium providing the Secretariat for the EU Clean Energy Islands

Annex II: Roadmap 2019-2020

Possible joint activities will include:

- Policy Work: development of common positions on Energy Poverty and other relevant themes (see above list, page 8), the ‘Low Carbon Mobility’ Package, the Strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions reductions (e.g. through CoR opinions, policy recommendations or similar)
- Joint work on multi-level governance in National Energy and Climate Plans. This could include work on local and regional inputs into the plans and reviews of draft plans from a local and regional perspective
- Covenant of Mayors: cooperation with the CoR Ambassadors and CoR regions engaged as Covenant Coordinators, co-organisation of (EU and national) Covenant of Mayors Events, participation in thematic Coalitions on financing, adaptation and energy poverty
- EU Urban Agenda Partnerships: participation in relevant policy discussions (adaptation, but also energy transition).
- International climate negotiations: co-organisation of side-events at COPs, participation in relevant events for Committee of the Regions representatives.
- Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation 2019: co-organisation of thematic discussions and workshops.
- Energy transition in islands: commitments to support climate alliance in their work with the clean energy transition on islands in the framework of clean energy for EU island secretariat. Namely the participation to the development of the initiative through the Co-development platform and attendance at events and workshops. Climate Alliance to provide inputs to the ENVE committee and their focus on decarbonisation of EU islands.
- Locally and Regionally Determined Contributions: Joint work to define Locally and Regionally Determined Contributions (as proposed in Mr Cooper’s Opinion on post 2020 Climate Governance). This could include analysis of country case studies where the contribution of subnational entities and local authorities to NDCs is already recognised or taken in account by the national institutions.

Roadmap & Tentative Schedule:

Proposed Activities	Actions & indicative timeframe	Proposed involvement (CA/CoR)
Development of common positions on key policy topics	<p>1) Position on how to tackle Energy Poverty issues at local and regional levels 1st semester 2019</p> <p>2) Position(s) on other topics (to be defined)</p> <p>3) Joint note for Climate Alliance National Coordinators on draft National Energy and Climate Plans (before April 2019)</p>	<p>CA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organisation of and/or contribution to stakeholders' meetings, collecting "views from the ground", and facilitating discussions with key policy-makers - compilation of good practice examples from CA members and CA national coordination offices - support in the drafting of policy recommendations - support to the development and dissemination of relevant opinions <p>COR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - development of a CoR opinion <p>Assessment of draft NECPs taking into account consistency with the Covenant of Mayors and the involvement of Local and Regional Authorities.</p>
Organisation of a series of joint events in Europe	<p>1) Roundtable with CoR ambassadors Q2 2019</p> <p>2) Dedicated event for CoR members/Covenant Coordinators Q2 2019</p> <p>3) Climate Alliance Annual Conference Q3 2019 October, Rostock, DE</p>	<p>CA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitator/moderator of sessions or roundtables - Suggestion of potential speakers (CA members or CA staff experts) - Promotion of the events through CA communication channels <p>CoR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggestion of potential speakers (CoR high-level keynote speakers and CoR members) - Support in raising awareness on the role of local and regional authorities in the field of climate action
Contribution to international climate negotiations	Q4 2019	<p>CA & CoR joint publication to follow up on the Talanoa Dialogue in support of the CoR Opinion on post-2020 Climate Governance</p>
Locally and Regionally Determined Contributions		<p>Organisation of expert meetings for the discussion of possible model to define and describe the LDC.</p> <p>Elaboration of study cases</p>