



**European Committee
of the Regions**

Climate governance and finance: local authorities take up the reins

Tuesday 25 April 2017, 9.30 – 17.00

European Committee of the Regions

Room VMA 1, Rue van Maerlant 2, 1040 Brussels

Session I: On the role of Covenant Ambassadors within a vertical governance model

Session II: Financing climate action at local regional level: funding opportunities for the mitigation challenge

Session I: On the role of Covenant Ambassadors within a vertical governance model

The Committee of the Regions has greatly contributed to the successful development of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy. The CoR's Covenant Ambassadors play an active part in mobilizing their peers in Europe and further afield, but also help to steer this initiative politically. This event aims to take stock of the latest developments in the Covenant, and will explore new opportunities relating to the CoM's governance, including at national level. As part of their role, CoR's Covenant Ambassadors should directly engage their respective national and/or regional governments in lobbying for their support for Covenant activities, whether in the form of regional or central authorities' adopting roles as Covenant Coordinators or mobilizing resources to support Covenant actions. More coordination with the European Commission and the EU Covenant of Mayors Office is sought after in order to explore the potential of the Ambassadors being involved in the activities linked to the vertical integration of the Covenant in each member state. Discussions with representatives of the European Commission, energy agencies and the Global Covenant of Mayors Secretariat should help define a role for the Covenant Ambassadors in helping consolidate the political dimension of the Covenant and in facilitating the contact within the national environment, as well as serve to increase CoR members' expertise in Covenant-related issues.

9.30 Registration of participants and welcome coffee

10.00 Welcome and keynotes

Karl-Heinz Lambertz, Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions (*CoR's political commitment with the Covenant of Mayors, Political Advisory Board, Founders Council*)

Eero Ailio, Deputy Head of Unit at DG ENER, European Commission (tbc)

Apostolos Tzitzikostas, Head of the Region of Central Macedonia, Covenant Ambassador (*multilevel and vertical CoM governance in Central Macedonia*) (tbc)

Pavla Vidanová, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic (*Czech government's role as a central level Covenant coordinator*)

10.40 CoR Covenant Ambassadors – Teaming up for local climate and energy action

Moderator of the panel discussion: Frédéric Boyer, Head of Covenant of Mayors Brussels Office

Introduction by the moderator (10')

Initial statement answering a question from moderator (4 different angles), +/-5 min each.

Andrius Kupčinskas, Member of Kaunas municipality council, Covenant Ambassador

Åsa Ågren Wikström, Member of Umeå Municipal Council, Covenant Ambassador

Sirpa Hertell, Member of Espoo City Council, Covenant Ambassador

Andres Jaadla, Member of Rakvere City Council, Covenant Ambassador

Kata Túttö, Member of Budapest XII District City Council, Covenant Ambassador

ENEA – Italian Energy Agency

→ *Debate with CoR members and EC (11.20-11.40)*

11.40 Local authorities driving ambition worldwide – the Global Covenant of Mayors

Moderator: Kata Túttö

Eero Ailio, Deputy Head of Unit at DG ENER, European Commission

→ *Debate with CoR members*

12:20 Conclusions

Kata Túttö and Frédéric Boyer

12.30-14.30 Lunch break with Covenant exhibition/stand

Session II: Financing climate action at local regional level: funding opportunities for the mitigation challenge

Cities and regions are the level of government where national commitments to mitigating climate change and adapting to its effects are enacted. Subnational authorities are ultimately responsible for making policy a reality: according to UNDP estimates, more than 70% of climate change mitigation and up to 90% of climate change adaptation measures are undertaken by local and regional governments.

However, one of the main difficulties local and regional authorities face when implementing climate and energy actions is the lack of financial resources. Despite great potential and ambition to achieve significant emissions cuts, adequate financing remains a key challenge. To overcome budgetary and capacity constraints, sub-national governments have to make use of a wide array of funding opportunities coming from different sources (public, private, international, blended capitals etc.). This is no easy task: besides understanding the complexity of the funding landscape, cities and regions have to develop technical capacities to access the available resources and experiment with innovative financing models.

This conference aims to provide information on a number of financing programmes and initiatives that can help local and regional authorities implement the climate actions they are committed to. The discussions will focus on how to improve access to such opportunities with a view to fund income- and non-income-generating projects, deploy effective funding strategies for climate mitigation, and ultimately boost cities' and regions' carbon reduction potential. The conference will also allow learning more about how selected local and regional authorities have addressed the mitigation challenge by implementing programmes and projects in their areas.

14.00 **Registration of participants and welcome coffee**

14.30 **Opening remarks**

Sirpa Hertell, Deputy Chair of the Commission for Environment, Energy and Climate Change (ENVE) of the European Committee of the Regions and rapporteur on climate change adaptation

Cristiana Fragola, Director of Partnerships and Government Relations, Global Covenant of Mayors Secretariat

14.45 **Session 1. Financing instruments for climate change mitigation: an overview of the existing tools for local and regional authorities**

Moderator: Juri Gotmans, Member of the European Committee of the Regions and rapporteur on the Effort-Sharing and the LULUCF Regulations

Nigel Jollands, Associate Director – Policy and Climate Finance, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Vincent Berrutto, Head of Unit – Horizon 2020 Energy, European Commission, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME)

Isidoro Tapia, Energy Economist – Projects Division, European Investment Bank (EIB)

→ **Debate**

15.45 **Session 2. Local and regional authorities addressing the climate change challenge:**

opportunities and challenges in the use of financial instruments

Moderator: Wolfgang Teubner, Managing Director for Europe, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

Sub-session 2.1. Regional authorities: examples of climate actions and support schemes

Public sector climate action programmes: building renovation in Lithuania

Daiva Matonienė, Member of the European Committee of the Regions and rapporteur on renewable energies and the internal electricity market design;

Public sector support schemes: the case of the Flemish Energy Company (Belgium)

Inne Peersman, Chief Energy Supply and Commercial Operations, Vlaams Energiebedrijf

Sub-session 2.2. Local authorities: examples of climate actions and support schemes

Public-private partnership for climate action: the Kirklees case (United Kingdom)

Andrew Cooper, Member of the European Committee of the Regions; Member of Kirklees Council

Public-private support scheme: the Den Haag Energy Fund (The Netherlands)

Richard Luigjes, Fund Development Manager, Stimuleringsfonds Volkshuisvestings

→ **Debate**

16.45 **Conclusions**

Sirpa Hertell, Deputy Chair of the Commission for Environment, Energy and Climate Change (ENVE) of the European Committee of the Regions and rapporteur on climate change adaptation

Wolfgang Teubner, Managing Director for Europe, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

17.00 **End of conference**

Interpretation:

Morning session

participants may speak in: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-EL-SK-ET-LT-PL-FI

participants may listen in: EN-IT-ES-EL-SK-ET-LT-PL-FI

Afternoon session

participants may speak in: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-CS-ET-LT-PL-FI

participants may listen in: EN-IT-ES-NL-CS-ET-LT-PL-FI