



**Local & Regional
Europe**

Preparing for COP23

Key messages from CEMR at the occasion of the Climate Chance summit in Agadir in September 2017

Municipalities and regions advancing towards decarbonised societies

| September 2017

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1. **Global involvement** : *LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS' REINFORCED SUPPORT WORLDWIDE ON ACTIONS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE, SUPPORTING THE OBJECTIVES OF COP23 AND STRENGTHEN OUR AMBITIONS, SUPPORTING GLOBAL AGENDAS (SDGS AND URBAN AGENDA)*

COP22 outcomes were linked to the implementation of the agreed Sustainable Development Goals and the Urban Agenda of Habitat III. In the EU, most of the specific commitments for local governments will come indirectly via a new EU climate regime. The local and regional level can boost the implementation of these international agendas for 2030. As members of the UN, all European states have agreed to take actions to reach the goals. The localisation process of the Agenda 2030 should therefore come with a real commitment to strengthening multi-level and multi-sectorial alliances.

2. **Stronger and unified dialogue**: *REINFORCE A STRUCTURED DIALOGUE TO INTEGRATE SUBNATIONAL DIMENSION INTO THE UNFCCC PROCESS, NEED FOR AN EFFICIENT MULTI-ACTOR AND MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS EFFECTS*

Strong and unified positions including the subnational level can be achieved if their involvement takes place at an early stage. We call on the EU and the international community, which have ratified the Paris agreement to facilitate that the implementation in the Member States is done in dialogue with the subnational governments. This should be done by leveraging cities and regions' actions to fight climate change and localise the SDGs. This consideration should come also with the recognition and collaboration of global and regional programmes for cities' actions such as the Global Covenant of Mayors, the Covenant of Mayors in Sub Saharan Africa or Platforma strategic partnership.

3. **Rethink Europe**: *EUROPE'S LEADERS SHOULD SEIZE THE OCCASION TO RETHINK THE EUROPEAN PROJECT AND RESHAPE THE POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS ACCORDING TO THE OUTCOMES OF THE CURRENT REFLECTIONS ON EUROPE'S COMMON FUTURE.*

Any discussion about the future of Europe should be based on the recognition of the principles of local self-government, subsidiarity and proportionality and of the important role local and regional governments play as backbones of our states and societies. The future European Union institutional set-up should have appropriate and efficient tools and governance structures,

building on the existing system, where local and regional governments and their representative organisations are instrumental in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and legislation. CEMR and its member associations stand ready to contribute in a constructive way to the debates on the future of Europe and the European Union.

4. Resources and mainstreaming in policy areas: *APPROPRIATE FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL FRAMEWORK AT EU AND NATIONAL LEVELS*

Key factors to combat and adapt to climate change are the following: appropriate political frameworks, deployment of innovative financing instruments, funding of climate mitigation and adaptation policies and actions. Moreover the transition towards a circular economy will provide essential support to climate friendly strategies by minimising the use of materials, water and energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring that these resources are continually circulating in the economy.

The EU institutions and national governments need to recognise the role of local authorities in the decision-making processes, and acknowledge that they are relevant components of the State structure, close to the citizens, democratically legitimised and accountable for their actions. We welcome initiatives such as the Urban Agenda for the EU, the Climate and Energy Package, the circular economy package and the legislative review or the National Strategies on Climate, which have the potential to introduce such an approach and working method in partnership with regions and municipalities.

5. Decentralised cooperation: *LEADING BY EXAMPLE, EXCHANGE OF PRACTICE, CITY TO CITY COOPERATION AND DECENTRALISED COOPERATION ARE KEY LEVERAGE OF LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION*

European cities have been developing expertise on sustainable urban planning or developing integrated territorial climate plans. Exchange of knowledge and best practices has proven to be a very efficient and effective means of project design and management, with a great accelerator potential for sustainable development in line with the Paris Agreement. The EU should foster this kind of decentralised partnership through its international and development cooperation policy, and particularly within the framework of the Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa.

US President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement last June is undisputedly bad news for the planet and the global community. CEMR is ready to do what is needed to facilitate the engagement of all local and regional governments globally for climate. Our colleagues from other continents are also mobilised to achieve the goals taken by the international community in Paris.

The UN, the EU and national governments must recognise the potential of cooperation and partnerships between territories in strengthening the capacities of territorial actors. PLATFORMA, whose Secretariat is hosted by CEMR, defends the unique role that European local and regional governments play towards the improvement of daily lives of communities in partner countries in areas such as climate and energy. Thousands of European towns and regions already cooperate with their peers to implement environment projects in developing countries and about south-south, north-south and north-north decentralised cooperation.

ANNEX

RELEVANT CEMR AND PLATFORMA POSITION PAPERS

ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO RELEVANT ISSUES

- [An EU Urban Agenda](#), December 2015
- [Circular economy : Local and regional governments: key partners to boost waste management, April 2016](#)
- [What future for Europe? A vision from a local and regional perspective](#). June 2017

ON THE ROLE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AT GLOBAL LEVEL

- [COP21 Paris Summit on climate change](#), December 2015
- [COP22 Marrakesh Summit on climate change](#), December 2016
- [Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership \(TTIP\)](#), April 2015
- [Habitat III process and the new Urban Agenda](#), April 2016
- [Declaration by CEMR Policy Committee on Local and Regional Governments' reinforced support worldwide on action to combat climate change](#). June 2017

ON COALITION OF ACTORS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- [Habitat III process and the new Urban Agenda](#), April 2016
- [PLATFORMA declaration on the EU Global Strategy and the 2030 Agenda](#), April 2016
- [PLATFORMA position on the EU's New Partnership Framework with third countries](#), September 2016
- [Roadmap of the multi-stakeholder coalition for decentralised cooperation and partnerships between territories](#), September 2016

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About CEMR

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) is the broadest organisation of local and regional authorities in Europe. Its members are over 50 national associations of municipalities and regions from 41 European countries. Together these associations represent some 150 000 local and regional authorities.

CEMR's objectives are twofold: to influence European legislation on behalf of local and regional authorities and to provide a platform for exchange between its member associations and their elected officials and experts.

Moreover, CEMR is the European section of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the worldwide organisation of local government.

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