



**Local & Regional
Europe**

From Lyon to Paris: Regions and municipalities as catalyst for success towards Paris

Key messages from CEMR on climate and COP21

| June 2015

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1. SUBNATIONAL ACTORS ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Local governments represent the closest level to the citizens and offer significant expertise on climate in terms of service delivery, building democratic institutions and effective administrations. They can also provide a long-term, country-wide vision on how to build sustainable societies as the actors with the necessary political legitimacy and the capacity to mobilise other stakeholders in key challenges like climate.

2. SUPPORTING THE OBJECTIVES OF COP21 AND STRENGTHEN OUR AMBITIONS

The sub-national level supports the overall objective of COP21. But clear differentiated responsibility for all actors is crucial. We encourage an on-going enhancement of ambition worldwide, before and after COP21. The “**Climate and Territories**” **World Summit** in Lyon is a milestone. Subnational governments need to work towards adopting decarbonisation strategies, plans and actions compatible with the objective of containing global warming below 2°C.

In Lyon, together with its members and partners of the Covenant of Mayors, CEMR commits to support actions that will aim at reducing greenhouse gases by at least 40% by 2030. Together with its partners of PLATFORMA, CEMR also commits to support partnerships and cooperation between local and regional governments in order to promote low-carbon local development in the world.

3. WELCOMING THE EU APPROACH BUT NEED FOR REAL LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

The EU Communication on “the Paris Protocol, The Roadmap for the global agreement in Paris” is a good start to mobilise Europe. However, the reference to the sub-national level must be included in the main text, not in the annexes. The national level cannot act on its own in order to achieve the set objectives.

4. NEED FOR AN EFFICIENT MULTI-ACTOR GOVERNANCE TO TACKLE CLIMATE

A bottom-up approach and a global multi-actor climate governance, is the most appropriate way to move forward when tackling the climate challenge. A key solution would be for genuine engagement with national, regional, local authorities and non-state actors where relevant in each country, alongside the appropriate framework. Regions and cities are catalyst in Lyon for the success of COP21 in Paris.

5. LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Sub-national governments can play a leading role in Europe on the Local Government Climate Roadmap. Initiatives such as *Mayors Adapt* or the *Covenant of Mayors* are leading examples in the world. This is proven by the success of the *Covenant of Mayors* with over 6000 municipalities having signed the Covenant. Sharing of experiences between municipalities and regions offers a transfer of know-how, which is crucial to replicate successes and avoid mistakes.

6. MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE IN ALL POLICIES AND NATIONAL STRATEGIES

We call for the inclusion of the local and regional level in the preparation and implementation of the National Strategies dealing with climate change mitigation and adaptation. All EU institutions and Member States should support this approach. Only inclusive processes can guarantee the full understanding of the actors involved.

7. APPROPRIATE FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL FRAMEWORK

Setting up of the appropriate political framework and deployment of financing of climate policies and actions is crucial to fight and adapt to climate change. Member States and EU institutions should be more proactive together with the sub-national level, in finding innovative ways of financing climate mitigation and adaptation actions. The engagement of the politicians responsible for climate and energy dossiers is a success factor as well as building awareness and giving ownership to the citizens in the territory.

8. DESIRE TO JOIN THE DISCUSSION TABLE

In 2009 the EU institutions recognised in their conclusions ahead of COP15, the role that the sub-national level could play in the combat against climate change. Now it is time to formalise this recognition by allowing the sub-national government level to join the EU delegation during COP negotiations and overall process.

The establishment of a regular modus operandi between local and regional authorities and States would secure a regular and permanent dialogue among the EU Institutions and the UNFCCC process.

9. NETWORKS JOIN FORCES EFFICIENTLY

Collaboration with all networks working globally on climate mitigation and adaptation makes a real and substantial difference. The EU institutions are playing a strategic role in its discussion with all networks of local and regional authorities so as to achieve the best agreement in COP21. We encourage not only that this approach be maintained but that it be further strengthened.

10. DECENTRALISED COOPERATION KNOWS THE REAL LOCAL PARTICULARITIES

Serious commitment to international development cooperation must enable genuine implementation of measures. 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.

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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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