

PRESS RELEASE – 2030 Objectives

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Cities representatives issue the awaited and still unpublished “Communication” on how to deliver climate and energy ambitions

Cities representatives have put themselves in the shoes of the European Commission to issue a comprehensive document – *Communication* to put it in the EU jargon –which recognizes the strategic role of local authorities in delivering the EU climate and energy objectives and foreseeing the adequate means to continue towards this direction.

It has been said over and over again, yet so far with no adequate policy change: local authorities hold the key to delivering the EU climate and energy objectives. First of all, they have already shown how much they are willing and capable to do: the Covenant of Mayors is a case in point, with a staggering 5,000 local authorities having committed to EU climate and energy objectives and having already exceeded them with an average 28% CO₂ reduction target identified in the first action plans. Indeed mayors are the real game changers: they have the competency to take action in energy-related sectors, act as role models towards citizens and implement concrete measures, when national governments are often paralyzed in gridlocked international negotiations.

“Macro-decisions alone will not be sufficient to drive the energy transition. They need to be complemented by [concrete, hands-on solutions](#) which are being developed at the micro-level: cities and towns hold a considerable but untapped potential for the deployment of both renewable energy and energy savings and are crucial contributors in bridging the gap between the 2020 EU climate and energy objectives and 2050 goals”, says Gérard Magnin, Executive Director of Energy Cities.

In light of this, as the voice of local authorities in energy transition, Energy Cities calls on the European institutions to reinforce the political, legislative and financial framework to empower local and regional authorities for delivering the EU climate and energy objectives. A series of orientations are outlined in [the awaited and still unpublished European Commission Communication](#), with the aim of encouraging and anticipating the actual publication of such a document. Essentially, they revolve around four main recommendations:

- adopt an ambitious framework on climate and energy policies based on three separate and binding targets for GHG emissions reduction, renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- entrench the Covenant of Mayors initiative in the EU legislative framework beyond 2020 to guarantee the delivery of the 2020 EU climate and energy objectives
- invest in the capacity building of human resources ([“soft measures”](#)) and not only in infrastructures ([“hard measures”](#)) to keep up with dynamic and complex developments;
- [provide appropriate funding instruments](#) in the 2014-2020 programming period to support local authorities in the implementation of the EU energy and climate policies.

Now that the work is done, all that is left to do for the European Commission is actually press the ‘publish’ button.

To be continued...

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