

PRESS RELEASE
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Energy and Cohesion Policy: Energy Cities welcomes the Commission's proposals for sustainable growth

In its last Communication published on 26 January, the European Commission outlines the role to be played by regional policy in the implementation of the « Europe 2020 » Strategy [COM(2011) 17 final].

The document's recommendations are largely in line with the proposals advocated by Energy Cities :

- Encourage *“investments for energy efficiency and renewable energies”* in all sectors : housing, transport, etc. *“according to their local energy potential”*.
- *“Checking investments against climate resilience and resource efficiency, which is close to an eco-conditionality of European policies.*

The 5th Report on Cohesion Policy published last November rightfully noted that *“EU energy policy also has potentially important differential effects on regions **but has no regional dimension as such**”*, something that Energy Cities has long regretted.

This Communication is a practical endeavour to link cohesion and energy policies, as advocated by Energy Cities. The mobilisation of local energy potentials (energy saving and renewable energies) not just contributes to a « sustainable growth ». It also accounts for the success of an intelligent and inclusive growth, two of the three pillars of the EU 2020 Strategy.

Energy Cities will issue additional proposals. In the meantime, it calls on the Council, the Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee to support and strengthen these orientations, which are certainly to be criticised by advocates of the *status quo*.

Energy Cities will closely follow the debates taking place during the Fifth Cohesion Forum, to be held on 31/01-01/02/2011 in Brussels.

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Find the Communication [COM(2011) 17 final] on Energy Cities website:
<http://www.energy-cities.eu/Energy-and-Cohesion-Policy-Energy>

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