

2030 Climate and Energy Framework: EU asked to match speech with action as cities are repeatedly praised but not sufficiently empowered

The [European association of local authorities in energy transition](#) has issued a “ready-made” Communication for the European Commission to publish, which calls for an empowerment of local authorities in meeting the post-2020 climate and energy objectives.

It has happened again: the UN climate change conference has failed to deliver ambitious results. But while negotiations remain gridlocked on the international arena, an unprecedented level of change is taking place at local level through the implementation of sustainable energy action plans, rethinking the way cities operate, and associating citizens and the overall society to the production and consumption of energy.

To put it in **Oettinger’s own words** - and echoing [Commissioner Hedegaard’s views](#) - cities “are really the ones holding the key to success” for the EU 2020 strategy. “Many of them have therefore voluntarily enrolled their city into the EU Covenant of Mayors, and municipal teams are now implementing detailed low-carbon action plans across Europe,” added the **European Energy Commissioner** during the EU-China Urbanisation partnership last 21 November in Beijing. Indeed, cities are instrumental in reaching the EU climate and energy ambitions, as acknowledged by the Commissioner himself, yet they are **not given the corresponding recognition** in the draft policy documents on the 2030 framework.

This is what has conducted Energy Cities, based on contributions from committed cities across Europe, to anticipate the European Commission’s publication of a “Communication” on the role of local authorities in this process, by producing itself the said document. The 23-page document “[Empowering local and regional authorities to deliver the EU climate and energy objectives](#)” looks exactly like a standard European Commission Communication, except all is left is for the institution to actually endorse – and publish - the document.

To follow the European Commission’s logic, Energy Cities also launched a stakeholders’ consultation on the Communication, collecting [a number of responses](#) and support from a wide variety of stakeholders. From industry, to civil society organisations, representatives of the Committee of the Regions or the European Parliament, they all insisted on giving greater emphasis to the role of local authorities within the 2030 framework for climate and energy. Among them, MEP Fiona Hall said “*It is very important to give local and regional authorities a prominent role in driving the sustainable energy transition in the EU*”. This was reflected in amendments to the **draft report** of the **European Parliament** on **the 2030 framework for climate and energy policies**, which will be discussed **today** during the joint ITRE and ENVI committee meeting.

Looking forward to the results of the meeting, Energy Cities member cities also hope European Commissioners will encourage their administration to move from speech to action and publish the much-awaited Communication on the role of local and regional authorities in delivering the EU climate and energy objectives.

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