

# Regions and climate change: Europe's way to sustainable regional development



Whilst Europe as a whole is facing the impact of climate change, its regions and cities are confronted with a variety of environmental risks. Recent research suggests that 170 million people - more than one third of the EU population - live in regions significantly affected by climate change. Its impact is being felt particularly strongly in the Mediterranean area, but mountain regions and coastal zones and ecosystems are affected, too.

Europe's regions and cities are responding actively to the fight against climate change and are playing an important role in at least three key areas. First, many of them are already implementing coherent strategies and projects in order to 'green' regional economies, public facilities and budgets and are making even more significant investments in this area than national governments. Second, many of Europe's regions and cities co-operate and exchange best practice, both with each other and with partners from outside the EU, on prevention, adaptation, energy efficiency, renewable energies, transport and other issues, often supported by EU institutions and funding, notably from the structural and cohesion funds. Last but by no means least, regions and cities are becoming increasingly involved in policy-making and implementation through initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors.

'Regional responses to climate change' was on the agenda of 19 workshops focusing, for example, on 'green financing', energy efficiency of buildings and innovative solutions for low carbon cities and regions. During a meeting between Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, the Vice-President of the US Conference of Mayors, Elisabeth B. Kautz, and President Van den Brande, new forms of co-operation between EU and US cities in the fight against climate change were discussed.

# Theme B - Workshops

## Regions and climate change: Europe's way to sustainable regional development



### Towards energy efficient housing: the role of European Regions

**06B01**

**6 October 2009,  
9:30-12:30**

**Organiser:**

Euroregions for territorial integration

**Chair:**

**Mercedes Bresso**, current President of Alps Mediterranean Euroregion and President of Piemonte Region

**Speakers:**

**Silvia-Adriana Ticau**, Member of the European Parliament

**Martin Elsberger**, European Commission, DG Energy and Transport

**Hélène Blanchard**, Conseil Régional Rhône Alpes, France

**Raphaëlle Vienot**, Environment Department of the Languedoc-Roussillon Region, France

**Dominique Jardine**, Energy Policy Officer of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, France

**Panellists:**

**Tamara Cappellari**, Energy Department of the Valle d'Aosta Region, Italy

**Núria Pedrals i Pugés**, Environment and Housing Department of the Catalan Government, Spain

**Outline**

Last 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008, the co-decision procedure was launched on the European Commission proposal of a recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings (2002/91/EC) Directive. The proposal aims to activate the enormous potential energy savings lying dormant in buildings, both residential as well as in the SME sector. Most energy-efficient buildings, besides providing better living conditions and saving money, contribute to the reduction of environmental damage. Regions can play a very important role in the spread of Energy Efficiency in Buildings by developing regional best practices, together with socio-economic support schemes and awareness campaigns. Euro-regions can achieve very positive results due to their significant governance potential. The workshop will present an update of the Directive proposal approval procedure, followed by best regional policies and concrete project examples. This workshop is targeted at public authorities, building professionals, large owners and financial and training institutions.

**Debate**

**Mercedes Bresso** introduced the opening session presenting the programme and the goal of the day with an emphasis on the Euroregion Alpes-Mediterranean and the way the five member regions can tackle together the problem of Energy Efficiency in Building by sharing good practices. She also underlined the important role of governance that regions can have in supporting the implementation of the directive at local level. **Silvia-Adriana Ticau** (Rapporteur at European Parliament on the "recast of the Energy Performance in Building directive") presented the status of the approval procedure of the directive and the need to give a strong signal on the road to Copenhagen addressing the buildings'. The first reading have been voted by the Parliament on april 2009 and currently the three institutions that are now negotiating – European Parliament, Council of Ministers, European Commission feel some pressure from achieving an agreement before Copenhagen – to demonstrate leadership in the negotiation there. Ms. Ticau affirmed that she won't make a compromise on a weak Directive and if agreement is not obtained by December they will start the normal co-decision procedure that might take some time. Strong points that EP doesn't want to make a compromise on – common methodology for calculation, setting energy efficiency requirements for building components, fiscal and financial measures to support the implementation of the Directive, net zero energy buildings. **Martin Elsberger** underlined that EU building sector represents 40% of EU's energy use and 36 % of EU CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The European Commission objectives are to set up a comprehensive set of legislation to enhance energy efficiency. In the EPBD recast principles of existing requirements are kept, but intensified and clarified with a gradual but speeded transition to stricter requirements. The Member States role is essential to speed implementation together with regional government support. The Commission launched a concerted action on EPBD where representative of Member States participate twice per year presenting the local and regional good practices on Energy Efficiency in Building. An Energy Action Plan will be finalized in 2010: contributions are welcomed. **Hélène Blanchard**: In France the building sector represents 25 % of EU CO<sub>2</sub> emissions whereas in Alps Med Euroregion this sector represents the 20%. Key words are: 1) KNOWLEDGE – in 2009 the working group focused on a state of the art of the 5 regions and the methodology used supported by a DVD publication on Climate Change; 2) COMMITMENT - political engagement by 5 Presidents on 3x20 targets followed by financial instruments; 3) WORKING TOGETHER – several meetings organized and planned for the future in Lyon with an exchange of experience on Energy Performance in building and the preparation of an Interreg IV A projects on that field. **Raphaëlle Vienot** presented the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean perspective on the challenge of climate change and energy efficiency in their Euroregion by describing the targets and Climate action plan of Catalogne Region, Langedoc Roussillon and Balears Islands. Euroregion represent the right scale to promote Energy Efficiency, local energy sources valorisation and fight against climate change. The Euroregion is the ideal dimension to launch lobby activity toward Member States and European Institutions. **Dominique Jardine** described the characteristics of Mediterranean countries such as the sun (between 2500 and 2900 hours according to geographic area), the temperature (high in sommertime and fresh during the night) and the degree of humidity. Three roles are essential for buildings: a relevant thermic inertia; effective solar protections and a good natural ventilation. PACA and Liguria Region have developed processes (like "BDM") and databases in order to improve sustainability standards and replicable in other Mediterranean countries. Alps-Med working group in collaboration with FEDERENE is finalizing a comparative study and an EU project will be set up. **Tamara Cappellari** presented a point of view from a mountain region. In 2005 in Valle D'Aoste, the building sector represented 42% of regional energy consumption and the 58% of the consumption in the civil sector is satisfied by fossil fuels, with the relative problems of greenhouse gas emission and pollution. An important economic engagement for the region is the 10 million euro in 15 years where the principal objective is the requalification of existing buildings and the conservation of traditional architecture in the regional territory. In 2010 the system for energy certification of buildings in this region will become operative. **Núria Pedrals i Pugés** presented an overview of the experiences in Catalan Government (belonging to the Pyrénéen-Mediterranéé euroregion) and the new projects (e.g.: Rehabitat, eSESH, Can Jofresa, Rels) discussing the main issues of a new circular model to implement widely the housing energy renovation. She underlined the importance of the component elements of the building too. The main idea is to ensure for new and existing housing a reduction of 0,447 million CO<sub>2</sub> Tons/year. Last May the exposition called "Construtmat 2009" has been the turning point of the Catalan energy policy.



### Transformation of energy systems through renewable energies and energy efficiency in buildings – chances for urban–rural partnerships

#### Outline

The workshop was opened by **Dr. Peter Pluschke** who described the polycentric structure of the Metropolitan Area of Nuremberg with diverse cities and also expanded rural areas in the surroundings of these cities. **Erich Maurer** presented the “Energy Region of Nuremberg” with its main strategies for renewable energies, efficient technologies and energy efficiency in the traffic sector and mentioned as a precondition for the implementation of measures CO<sub>2</sub>-reports and road maps. **Dr. Burkhard Schulze Darup** showed the technical possibilities of realizing passive houses which nowadays are well approved. **Staffan Bolminger** represented the City of Gothenburg that has implemented a wide network for the energy efficient modernization of buildings. **Arthur Hagen** presented the strategies for climate change of the City of the Hague focussing on comunal buildings and a funds system. **Eva Rundholz** showed the interesting connection between bioenergy and art which is a new approach in Bayreuth and led to the winning of a federal competition. **Dr. Robert Schmidt** presented the extended network for renewable energies in the western part of middle Franconia that is organizing regularly energy days for the public.

#### Debate

The lively debate brought up many questions and helpful suggestions for strategies to promote energy efficiency both in cities as well as rural areas. One participant asked the speakers to describe how they imagine their cities in the year 2050 considering the use and supply of energy for enterprises, private households and traffic. It became clear that networking is an important precondition for the successful implementation of measures.

#### Conclusions

- Energy efficient buildings are on the way to large scale disseminations, they have become mainstream.
- Especially in the field of bio energy cities depend on rural areas in the surroundings as they don't dispose of enough material for biomass plants etc.
- Networking is an important precondition for the successful implementation of measures to promote climate protection.
- The traffic sector will face technical as well as structural changes and new ways of urban mobility.

#### 06B02

6 October 2009,  
10:00-12:15

#### Organiser:

METREX plus – Metropolitan Area of Nuremberg

#### Chair:

**Dr. Peter Pluschke**, Department of Environment and Health, Nuremberg, Germany

#### Speakers:

**Erich Maurer**, ENERGIEregion Nuremberg, Germany

**Dr. Burkhard Schulze-Darup**, Architekturbüro Schulze-Darup und Partner, Germany

**Staffan Bolminger**, Älvstranden Utveckling AB, Sweden

**Arthur Hagen**, Municipality of The Hague, The Netherlands

**Eva Rundholz**, Bayreuth Bioenergy Region, Germany

**Dr. Robert Schmidt**, West–Central Franconian Renewable Energy Network, Germany

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# Theme B - Workshops

## Regions and climate change: Europe's way to sustainable regional development



### How do cities prepare their Sustainable Energy Action Plan and Inventory of CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions?

**06B03**

**6 October 2009,**

**9:00 – 10:45**

**Organiser:**

European Commission, DG Transport and Energy, Covenant of Mayors Office

**Chair:**

**Pedro Ballesteros Torres**,  
European Commission, DG Transport and Energy

**Speakers:**

**Pirita Lindholm**, Covenant of Mayors Office/Climate Alliance  
**Ronald Piers de Ravenschoot**,  
European Commission Directorate General Joint Research Centre, Institute for Environment and Sustainability  
**Gerry Wardell**, City of Dublin Energy Management Agency, Dublin, Ireland  
**Rainer Scheppelmann**, City of Hamburg, Germany

**More information:**

The videos of the Covenant of Mayors panel discussion recorded during Open Days 2009 can now be viewed on the 'Videos' section of the Covenant of Mayors website. Divided into eight segments, this panel discussion features contributions from the European Commission, the Covenant of Mayors Office, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, the city of Dublin and the Province of Huelva.

[http://eumayors.eu/library/videos\\_en.htm](http://eumayors.eu/library/videos_en.htm)

[http://www.eumayors.eu/calendar/show\\_event\\_en.htm?id=44](http://www.eumayors.eu/calendar/show_event_en.htm?id=44)

[www.eumayors.eu](http://www.eumayors.eu)

**Outline**

**Pedro Ballesteros Torres** showed the unprecedented growth of the Covenant of Mayors initiative. Since the signatory ceremony in February 2009, the number of signatories grew from about 150 signatories to nearly 900 in October 2009. This shows a firm commitment of the European cities to achieve and go beyond the European energy and climate objectives – achieving more than 20% of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by the year 2020. **Pirita Lindholm**, Covenant of Mayors Office (COMO)/Climate Alliance informed the Covenant signatories in the audience about how they are supposed to submit their Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP). **Ronald Piers de Ravenschoot** from the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) introduced the Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) template which was published during the Open Days on the Covenant website ([www.eumayors.eu](http://www.eumayors.eu)) and that will help to monitor and promote the highlights of the signatories' action plans. He also presented the key ingredients for a successful SEAP and the support offered by the JRC and COMO. **Gerry Wardell**, from the city of Dublin Energy Management Agency and **Rainer Scheppelmann** from the City of Hamburg shared their experiences with drafting of their Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP).

**Conclusions**

The European local authorities – signatories of the Covenant of Mayors initiative start to submit their SEAPs and encourage European cities to join this European initiative and benefit from the experiences and support of other cities with the same ambitions, the support of the European Commission and the Covenant of Mayors Office.

*"Tackling climate change in a coherent way."*



### Covenant of Mayors – Supporting Structures make the Covenant a reality for all

#### Outline

The Covenant of Mayors initiative is open to cities of all sizes in Europe. Those cities and towns which do not have sufficient resources to draft and implement their own action plan should be supported by administrations with such capacities – the Covenant Supporting Structures.

Supporting Structures are those public administrations that are in a position to provide strategic guidance, financial and technical support to municipalities with the political will to sign up to the Covenant of Mayors, but lacking the skills and /or resources to fulfill its requirements, namely the preparation and implementation of Sustainable Energy Action Plan. These Supporting Structures can be national and regional public bodies, counties, provinces, agglomerations, mentor cities etc.

A second type of supporting structures are networks of local and regional authorities that commit to improve the Covenants' impact by promoting the initiative, liaising with their members, facilitating exchange of experience and defending common interest in the adequate fora.

#### Conclusions

The European cities hope that the excellent initiatives and activities taken by the existing Covenant Supporting Structures will inspire many other supporting structures to join the Covenant. The examples of the significant support provided by the Province of Huelva to the local authorities within its territory, impressive promotional and information activities undertaken by the Polish Network Energie-Cités and activities foreseen by the European Energy Network during next months show an important and enthusiastic implication of these actors – so crucial for the success of the initiative.

#### 06B04

6 October 2009,

11:15 – 13:00

#### Organiser:

European Commission, DG Transport and Energy, The Covenant of Mayors Office

#### Chair:

**Pedro Ballesteros Torres**, European Commission DG Transport and Energy

#### Speakers:

**Frédéric Boyer**, Covenant of Mayors Office/Energie-Cités

**María José Cortil Flores**, Representative of the Province of Huelva, Spain

**Anna Jaskula**, Polish Network Energie-Cités, Poland

**Alexandre Fernandes**, European Energy Network

#### More information:

The videos of the Covenant of Mayors panel discussion recorded during Open Days 2009 can now be viewed on the 'Videos' section of the Covenant of Mayors website. Divided into eight segments, this panel discussion features contributions from the European Commission, the Covenant of Mayors Office, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, the city of Dublin and the Province of Huelva.

[http://eumayors.eu/library/videos\\_en.htm](http://eumayors.eu/library/videos_en.htm)

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*"Tackling climate change in a coherent way."*

# Theme B - Workshops

## Regions and climate change: Europe's way to sustainable regional development



### Regional responses to climate change

**06B05**

**6 October 2009,  
11:00-13:00**

**Organiser:**

European Commission, DG  
Environment

**Chair:**

**Georges Kremlis**, European  
Commission, DG Environment,

**Moderator:**

**Jacki Davis**, European Policy Centre,  
Brussels

**Speakers:**

**Jeremy Rifkin**, President,  
Foundation on Economic Trends  
(video message)

**Jirina Jilková**, University of  
Economics, Prague

**Millán Millán-Muñoz**, Center for  
the Study of the Mediterranean  
Environment, Valencia

**Jürgen Kropp**, Institute for Climate  
Impact Research, Potsdam

**Nikitas Nikitakos**, University of the  
Aegean, Chios

**Eberhard Jochem**, Fraunhofer  
Institute of Systems and Innovation  
Research, Karlsruhe

**More information:**

DG ENV's homepage:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/  
integration/cohesion\\_policy\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/cohesion_policy_en.htm)  
Jeremy Rifkin's video message:  
[http://debeneesse.com/downloads/  
capitol/](http://debeneesse.com/downloads/capitol/)

**Outline**

This inaugural OPEN DAYS University debate brought together distinguished academics to address the topic of *Regional responses to climate change*. **George Kremlis** highlighted the Energy and Climate Change Package agreed by the Council and Parliament in late 2008, and two significant policy documents: the Communication on stepping up international climate finance, and the White Paper on adaptation to climate change. Climate change fits into the bigger picture within the EU Renewed Lisbon and Sustainable Development Strategies. The Cohesion Policy Operational Programmes for the 2007-13 period include over €100 billion for environment-related actions, including climate change. For the 2014-20 period, climate change should certainly take centre stage, along with energy, demography and globalisation, as Cohesion Policy core objectives. The new key principle of territorial cohesion foreseen in the Lisbon Treaty provides opportunities to deal with climate change. Green public procurement and climate change proofing should be also applied to investments, and legislative instruments such as better Environmental and Strategic Environmental Assessments can help.

**Video broadcast**

**Jeremy Rifkin** delivered a video broadcast entitled *European regions: leading the way to a third industrial revolution*, outlining how decentralised energy production can help Europe to pave a way for a green energy era and a hydrogen economy. He underlined the following points: 1) The current parallel global crises – the global economic meltdown, the energy crisis and climate change – require a swift and sober response, and a rethink of some basic assumptions about the market place and political life; 2) A new four-pillar model is needed to provide energy for future generations: Pillar 1: renewable forms of energy - solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, ocean waves and biomass. While these sunrise energies account for only a small percentage of the global energy mix now, they are growing rapidly as governments set mandatory targets and benchmarks for their widespread introduction into the market and falling costs make them increasingly competitive. Pillar 2: designing buildings to become collecting points for new renewable energies. Pillar 3: storage capacity. The EU has set a target for renewable energies of 20%: to maximise renewable energy and minimise costs, it will be necessary to develop storage methods that facilitate the conversion of intermittent supplies of these energy sources into reliable assets. Pillar 4: distribution of renewable energies. The same design principles and smart technologies that made the internet and vast distributed global communication networks possible should be used to reconfigure the world's power grids so people can produce renewable energy and share it peer-to-peer, just like they now produce and share information, creating a new, decentralized form of energy use. The distributive communication revolution will converge with the distributive energy revolution to create the so-called third industrial revolution - "distributive capitalism", the new social model for the world.

All the **panellists** considered Mr Rifkin's vision ambitious, but expressed scepticism about his energy model because: A) It neglects the most effective climate change action: reducing energy consumption immediately. Many technologies already exist (e.g. energy-efficient products, smart chips), but people's habits must also change. Moreover, intelligent price incentives are needed to deliver more energy savings and green investments. Revolutionising power production as Rifkin suggested might take 40-60 years. B) What about the costs of such a new power system? One source of funding to kick-start the new grid could be CO<sub>2</sub> emission schemes (e.g. in the Czech Republic using Japanese funds). C) What about using "smart grids"? D) What about transferring energy to neighbouring countries and regions? E) What about the willingness of many owners to equip their homes with solar panels or other energy-producing technology?

**Debate**

*What impact is climate change having on the regions? How do you see the role of the European regions in terms of responding to the climate change challenge? How can we make operational the "think global, act local" concept?*

- Climate change impacts very widely across the EU. The UN has recognised that subnational authorities will be responsible for 80% of climate change mitigation actions and virtually 100% of adaptation activities. Thus, they will be in the front line in the response.
- Local and regional level should undertake all possible activities to accomplish the ambitious target set by the EU in view of the negotiations in Copenhagen in December.
- Climate change is not only a man-made phenomenon caused by burning fossil fuels; it is also caused by inappropriate land-use, which can lead to increased flooding, droughts and consequent soil erosion, e.g. in the Mediterranean.
- Territorial cohesion is very important for insular areas and coasts, which are heavily affected by climate change. Appropriate regulations, behavioural changes, long-term strategies and investments are needed to promote renewable energies and "green" tourism.
- Regions are not always innovative: they need to follow clear regulations, but must also become more active and responsive in dealing with climate change.

*"Think globally,  
act locally."*

*(Georges Kremlis, paraphrasing Sir  
Patrick Geddes the famous Scottish  
biologist)*



*What is the role of the EU Cohesion Policy in dealing with climate change? Is this only about financing or is it about the role of the EU more generally?*

- Research funding is certainly needed as, for example, climate change models do not yet allow for accurate predictions. Demonstration models, projects and programmes can be co-financed. Existing information needs to be shared better, for example, between neighbouring regions and other relevant stakeholders. Cooperation between stakeholders, scientists and the public at large should be strengthened.
- Funding (cohesion and research) is needed to promote innovation through new technologies, entrepreneurship, education and professional training. However, the Commission needs also to provide an accompanying regulatory framework, including in new areas such as green public procurement, while taking account of subsidiarity concerns. Leverage of financing from the private sector can be problematic in some cases as they need to have a quick return on their investment.
- The EU should play an innovative role in coordination and setting priorities for integrating climate change concerns in other policies, such as transport and agriculture. Cohesion policy is the main method for co-financing projects, for example, to promote both sustainable energy and clean transport. National budgets, especially in Central and Eastern Europe, do not address these issues sufficiently.
- Regulatory changes are needed at national level, for example, to allow a higher penetration of the grid for renewable energy production. Utilities should encourage more demand-management and not be dominated by supply-side considerations.

*"Regions can be the lighthouses of Europe."*

*Jeremy Rifkin*

*What is the single most important priority for the regions to deal with climate change over the next 5 years? What about the period 2014-20?*

- Europe has two zones operating differently – the Atlantic and Mediterranean (also Black Sea). This must be born in mind when setting both short and long-term priorities.
- EU Cohesion Policy should give more financial responsibility to the regions (rather than centrally to Member States) and its operations should be even more transparent.
- EU Cohesion Policy should be based on a resource-based economy, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region. However, it is clear that not all Europe's regions can become "silicon valleys"; and indeed, this is not the aim of the Cohesion Policy.
- More pilot projects are needed, including twinning projects between the EU and developing countries most affected by climate change.
- As 85% of capital stock is in buildings, and it takes around 30 years to refurbish them, more emphasis should be placed on their role in dealing with climate change.
- Capacity-building at regional and local level is needed to promote professional education on new technologies and knowledge-based approaches.
- Significant cultural and lifestyle changes are needed to adapt to the climate change challenge.

### Conclusions

The panellists concluded that:

- Money is not the key issue: learning from other regions and innovating more quickly using already existing technology is crucial and possible.
- Regions cannot do it alone: they need good and clear legislation, from the European and national level.
- Better data on climate change is required: regional decision-makers need to understand the implications of climate change for their regions and scientists should work on concrete solutions for the regions.
- Lifestyle choices have a clear role to play. Should we live in individual houses or apartments? What about common transport and car sharing, rather than using the private car? New partnerships can, and need to be created between local authorities, regions and their citizens.
- A distinction can be made between the longer-term impact of greenhouse gases on the global climate and the effects already being felt, in particular desertification, resulting from land-use abuse. This is an area where regions need to take immediate action and can do so without spending large amounts of money.

**Mr Kremlis** underlined that everything and everyone will be affected by climate change. Individuals need to mitigate their personal contribution to climate change, and we need a new governance culture to deal with the challenges. Ways of measuring carbon footprints can be devised for each region, and climate proofing developed as a workable concept (e.g. through Environmental and Strategic Environmental Assessments). EC co-financed flagship projects can help to promote best practices and spread new technologies. Mr Kremlis emphasised that much more work is needed to devise tailor-made adaptation strategies by 2012. Climate change should also become an economic driver, creating new jobs, new technologies in a green economy paradigm. The EU was the world leader during the Kyoto negotiations, and that leadership needs to be repeated again in Copenhagen.

# Theme B - Workshops

## Regions and climate change: Europe's way to sustainable regional development



### Regional approach to climate change adaptation

**06B06**

**6 October 2009,  
14:30-16:15**

**Organiser:**

20/20/20 regions against climate change

**Chair:**

**Georges Kremlis**, European Commission, DG Environment

**Speakers:**

**Grigorios Zafropoulos**, Mayor of Halandri, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Greece

**Cinzia Colangelo**, Regional officer of "Environment and Landscape Department", Marche, Italy

**Edo Bernini**, Director of the Mines and Energy Sector, Toscana, Italy

**Alfredo Manzi**, Strategic Environmental Assessment Department, Umbria Region, Italy

**Richard Hall**, Carbon Action Yorkshire, Yorkshire and Humber, United Kingdom

**More information:**

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**Outline**

This workshop was the first session of the thematic seminar organized by the regional partnership on climate change. During this session speakers, under the chairmanship of Georges Kremlis, presented general planning and regional policies aimed at combating climate change. They illustrated general goals and targets of their regional policies and tried to show, also through specific experiences, how to translate principles into concrete planning proposals and decisions and how to apply a "think global, act local", principle. During the interesting debate the most serious threats to our planet were discussed as well as what regions and cities can do to contain, and fight against, climate change and its consequences.

**Debate**

**Mayor Zafropoulos Grigorios** underlined how local authorities can play an important role in the mitigation of climate change and in the greenhouse gas reduction through their competences in the fields of transport, housing and public buildings, waste management and public buildings infrastructures. In addition, due to their proximity to the citizens, they can make an important contribution towards raising awareness and initiating climate change action in local communities. Mayor Zafropoulos illustrated to the audience the experience of his City in Local Agenda 21 and the Commission initiative Covenant of Mayors pointing out how it is important to go even further, to become more actively involved in the development of environmental policies and strategies, at a very early stage and throughout their implementation. **Cinzia Colangelo** underlined how important is the role of regional and local policies in dealing with water supply emergencies, erosion, desertification, hydro geological risk and the health risk due to heat waves. She presented the great involvement of her Region in the fight against the negative effects of climate change by presenting the main plans and programmes such as the Regional Environmental Energy Plan, the Regional Strategy for Environmental Sustainability, the Regional Plan for the Climate and the Water Protection Plan. Ms Colangelo, together with Ms. Venelina Varbova (Regional Environmental Center, Budapest) also illustrated the regional experience in an Interreg IV C project (RSC - Regions for Sustainable Change), an important initiative to regional efforts to move towards a low-carbon economy mitigating the impacts of climate change and contributing at the same time to the sustainability of growth. **Edo Bernini** argued about how Regions and local authorities can contribute to the EU Objectives. In particular he illustrated Tuscany's contribution to the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources both at national and European levels. Mr. Bernini illustrated the Region's Energy Plan that establishes the 20% objective of renewable sources by 2020, to be reached also through an even more ambitious objective, that is to say the production of 50% of electricity from renewable sources by the same date. With such a Plan, the Tuscany Region intends to contribute to the national burden sharing of allocations between Italian Regions to reach the 20-20-20-10 objectives by 2020. Geothermal energy, as well as by other sources, such as wind and photovoltaic energy and biomasses play an important role to meet this aim. **Alfredo Manzi** illustrated how sustainable development is a top objective for the region. Umbria promotes laws and actions aiming at improving the quality of the environment and the protection of the landscape and the quality of the life, giving also a contribution to National and European policies concerning the adaptation to climatic changes. The speech analyzed, in particular three recent laws: • the eco-design building for the improvement of environmental sustainability; • waste management; • water protection. **Mr. Manzi** illustrated also how regions can act through passive and active actions that is to say encouraging, the reduction of emissions responsible of climate change (through development of Renewable Sources of Energy) or protecting from effects of climatic change (through plans for prevention from Natural Hazards - flooding landslides, drought). Finally Mr. Manzi presented the good application of the SEA directive in Umbria. **Richard Hall** presented to the audience the Carbon Action Yorkshire (CAY) that is a Low Carbon Leadership programme part of CO2Sense Yorkshire a wholly owned subsidiary of Yorkshire Forward. CAY works in collaboration with the region's top organisations to combat global warming and it is charged with accelerating the development of a low carbon economy by bringing together both the public and private sector to adapt to climate change and cost effectively reduce carbon emissions in line with national and regional targets whilst stimulating the development and take-up of low carbon products and service and exploring the most effective, appropriate and profitable methods available for doing this. Mr. Hall illustrated how pressure to reduce carbon emissions at an organizational level comes from many angles, legislation, public and consumer awareness, internal pressure from staff and supply chain demands. He portrayed also what could be the consequences for regions when their organizations fail to adapt to risks to their value chains from climate change.

**Conclusions:**

**Georges Kremlis** concluded the workshop by summing up the discussions. He underlined that within the EU we had the adaption of the Energy and Climate Change Package by the European Council and Parliament in late 2008 and now we are in the run-in to the Copenhagen Conference in December in preparation for a new Climate Change Convention. Due to the great regional variability and severity of climate change impacts, many adaptation measures will need to be taken at regional or local level. He underlined that networking events such as these during the Open Days, can provide a dynamic to maintain interest over the years. He also pointed out how the interaction between government and business has fundamentally changed in dealing with climate change. National and local authorities are now, more than ever, becoming key partners in promoting clean public private partnership, energy and innovation. Regions are particularly well placed to understand the needs and concerns of the citizens and at the same time to find apt solutions to problems. They have an especially important role to play in the field of energy savings and promoting renewable energies. He concluded by summarising the issues that could be picked up during the debate: how to have more effective action by regions and cities, sharing information, developing the knowledge base including methods for networking, to deepen further concepts such as climate change proofing and the need for flagship project co-financed through the Cohesion Policy.

*"Think globally,  
act locally."*

*(Georges Kremlis, paraphrasing Sir Patrick Geddes the famous Scottish biologist)*



### Growth and competitiveness through renewable energy resources

The workshop focussed on how the region can contribute so EU can achieve the 20-20-20 goals and fight climate change in view of renewable energy and energy efficiency. This is especially important for our regions in the Arctic where climate change could have great impact on nature and way of life. DG Regio's Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion emphasizes the importance to direct and promote new policies towards the attempts to slow down the environmental change and to replace the increasingly more expensive fossil fuels. We strongly believe that our common challenges in these matters in the years to come have to be solved, not only by international cooperation between national states, but also by regional cooperation. Cooperation in governance, research, technical solutions, in areas like among others geothermal energy, and so on. The speakers shared knowledge and best practises from the regions in the conglomerate so we, and other regions, can be better equipped to make the necessary changes, in governance, in business and as individuals.

#### Debate

**Prof. Pertti Martikainen** started with an introduction to bioenergy. This included an explanation as to how bioenergy works and an index table showing the annual balance of greenhouse gases of eco-systems with peat or mineral soil used for agriculture or forestry. Martikainen highlighted that it is not enough to know how much carbon that is harvested in biomass. It is essential to analyze the gas balance of the whole production chain, i.e. the life cycle. **Prof. Riita Keiski** opened by explaining that sustainability comprises both environmental sustainability and social sustainability. Keiski gave a presentation of the University of Oulu and the new University of Science with an interdisciplinary working approach complemented by an innovation centre of excellence. The spearhead sectors of Oulu University are resource efficiency, water, air and energy (biorefinery, biofuels, powerplant automation, energy efficiency). Keiski expressed the willingness of Oulu University to cooperate within the field of sustainable energy production. **Pall Brynjarsson** presented different ways of using geothermal energy in Iceland thanks to Iceland's unique position on a ridge where the internal heat of the earth reaches surface. One example is how hot water from sources is connected to the district heating system and provides hot water to the municipal swimming pool. Iceland's primary energy use consists of hydropower and geothermal energy, with a small use of oil and coal. Iceland has the world's largest geothermal district heating system and Iceland aims to be the first nation to use only renewable energy resources. Geothermal power has a large potential worldwide considering the geographical conditions of Iceland also can be found elsewhere in the world. **Lothar Maruhn** gave a presentation of Meløy Næringsutvikling's work with innovation and industrial projects. Maruhn presented his experiences on how the closure of industries in the region gave reason to search for new sources of employment through development of industrial infrastructure. One of Meløy Næringsutvikling's projects is the development of the production of solar cell wafers. One spin-off of the solar cell wafers project is the company SiPro that recycles silicon and vacuum metallic guides to the photovoltaic industry. In 2008, the Glomfjord Industry Park employed 800 persons in an area that, without this innovative industrial project, would face severe problems with unemployment.

#### Conclusions

In the discussion that followed the participants of the panel were asked to identify the main obstacles for renewable energy resources in the world today. The obstacles mentioned were:

- the technical knowledge that is demanded to develop new renewable energy resources
- the risk that focus is put on energy efficiency of already existing resources
- that there is a lack of awareness of the potential of geothermal energy.

**06B07**  
**6 October 2009,**  
**14:30-16:15**

**Organiser:**  
Northern Sparsely Populated Areas

**Chair:**  
**Tarja Cronberg**, former Minister of Labour and former Chairman of The Green Party, Finland

**Speakers:**  
**Prof. Pertti Martikainen**, University of Kuopio, Finland  
**Prof. Riita Keiski**, D.Sc. (Tech.), Vice-rector of the University of Oulu, Finland  
**Pall Brynjarsson**, Mayor of Borgarnes, Iceland  
**Lothar Maruhn**, CEO Meløy Næringsutvikling AS, Norway

**More information:**  
NSPA-network:  
[www.nspa-network.eu](http://www.nspa-network.eu)  
Reykjavik Energy:  
[www.or.is/English/](http://www.or.is/English/)  
Meløy Næringsutvikling AS:  
[www.mnu.no](http://www.mnu.no)  
University of Kuopio:  
[www.uku.fi/english/](http://www.uku.fi/english/)  
University of Oulu:  
[www oulu.fi/english/](http://www oulu.fi/english/)

*"Promoting regional health strategies needs to be built on a broad partnership involving economic, public and civil society institutions and organisations."*

# Theme B - Workshops

## Regions and climate change: Europe's way to sustainable regional development



### Build Power Sustain: GE as a local partner

**06B08**

**6 October 2009,  
14:30-16:15**

**Organiser:**

GE

**Chair:**

**Anya Sitaram**, Rockhopper TV, UK

**Speakers:**

**Sanad Humaid Ahmed**, Senior Project Manager, Masdar City

**Michel Delebarre**, Vice President of the CoR and Mayor of Dunkerque

**Klaus Klipp**, Secretary General, Assembly of European Regions

**Carlos Rojas Garcia**, Mayor of Motril

**Jaroslav Kochaniak**, Deputy Mayor of Warsaw

**Steve Fludder**, Vice President, Ecomagination, GE

**More information:**

Ecomagination:

[www.ge.com/ecomagination](http://www.ge.com/ecomagination)

Covenant of Mayors:

[www.eumayors.eu](http://www.eumayors.eu)

Masdar City:

[www.masdar.ae](http://www.masdar.ae)

**Outline**

Moderated by **Anya Sitaram**, this workshop examined the approach that is needed to meet the EU's 2020 targets. The discussion had several different elements focusing firstly on redefining what's possible. Cities, home to 80% of the world's population, are major greenhouse gas producers – is it even feasible to consider the concept of a sustainable city? This workshop argued that it is and heard from a senior manager at Masdar City, an incredibly ambitious project that, when completed will be the world's first carbon neutral, zero-waste city. For older European cities, the challenge will be modernising existing infrastructure and many cities are already taking steps to do this – gathering the support of local authorities and the public for a green agenda and using public private partnerships to ensure the best technologies are implemented in cities, technologies that will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but also costs.

**Debate**

**Sanad Humaid Ahmed** introduced the participants to Masdar City. Once built, this city will be the world's first carbon neutral, zero-waste city completely powered by renewable energy. It is part of a concerted effort by the Abu Dhabi government to become a global leader in sustainable energy technologies. To support this drive, continued research is needed and Masdar will open a world class R&D institute in the city next year. **Michel Delebarre** stressed the need for the involvement of citizens in local initiatives, and local decision-makers in global discussions. Only by working at the local level will we meet the EU targets. Dunkerque offers subsidies for residents who take measures to reduce energy waste. It also has a remarkable district heating system, in that more than 70% of the heat is produced by cogeneration and heat recovered from industry processes. **Klaus Klipp** also spoke about the importance of working at the local level to achieve sustainable development. He outlined the benefits of working in public private partnerships which give regions and cities access to advanced technology and expertise not available internally. To this end, the AER and GE Energy have established a partnership to facilitate the practical exchange of best practice. **Carlos Rojas Garcia** is spearheading a project in Motril that promotes more renewable energy production and establishes an 'energy bank' to finance new energy-saving projects and public awareness campaigns. In one such project, over 2000 streetlights were upgraded achieving energy savings of up to 45% in some parts of the city. **Jaroslav Kochaniak** explained that Warsaw has been working on cutting its energy use for the last 5-7 years especially in the areas of public transport and waste infrastructure, one of his city's biggest challenges. He also talked about the role the EU plays through its funding mechanisms and their importance in modernising older systems and helping the transition to more sustainable city models. **Steve Fludder** outlined GE's green strategy 'Ecomagination' and highlighted the need for a systemic approach to tackle sustainable development. In the future, only those cities that manage their resources well and have robust, efficient infrastructure will be competitive. It is in everyone's interest to move to a more sustainable city model by encouraging R&D and supporting initiatives to implement greener technologies.

**Conclusions**

During the workshop, it became clear that the EU, through its cohesion policy has a key role to play in modernising European infrastructure. Also, local authorities in Europe are those responsible for housing, energy and construction and, as such, need to set the standards for green procurement and encourage citizens to play an active role in shaping Europe's energy future. Local authorities also need to use public private partnerships to their advantage and utilise the experience and expertise of specialised companies to further their own modernisation, cost-saving and energy-saving agendas. This is the key to the successful implementation of the EU's 2020 targets.

*"All sorts of decisions might be taken at Copenhagen... [but] will not be translated into reality if they are not carried out by regional and local authorities."*

*(Michel Delebarre)*



### Regional best practices

#### Outline

This workshop was the second session of the thematic seminar organized by the regional partnership. Following the presentation in the first session of the regional plans and programmes, how the European objectives are translated into regional strategies, the second session highlighted the regional projects, those local actions that are successful to mitigate the impacts of climate change in the immediate surroundings. A particular attention was devoted to energy-related issues, like reduction of packaging, energy efficiency and saving, biomass, pollution, increasing the proportion of renewable energies in the total energy use of the local/regional communities in line with the EU 20-20-20 targets. These actions serve not only the fight against climate change but affect indirectly the social system, create jobs and contribute to the welfare, better state of health of the local citizens.

#### Debate

**Adamszki Tadeusz** from Silesia, the largest urbanised area in Central Europe, presented the programme how to increase renewable energy sources in non-industrial areas. This action is supposed to have ecological, economic, social, educational and touristic impacts. In order to measure the results, a monitoring system was established that estimates the costs and use of energy and water carriers. The system is based on an online site and database. **Gianpiero Borzillo** provided a four points presentation on regional energy efficiency policies. First of all, Mr. Borzillo illustrated how the region of Lazio endeavours to save energy by reducing raw materials selling products on tap, like detergents and milk. To this end, Lazio is involving municipalities and shopping centres in a so-called "reduce packaging project". Secondly, in public lighting the region promotes energy efficiency by the use of new types of lamps and technologies. Thirdly, in private residential buildings, citizens are supported to realize actions in order to reduce consumptions and to save energy. Finally, Mr Borzillo presented EU funded projects in which Lazio is actively involved. These projects focus on energy consumption audits in municipal buildings, on the practical implementation of solar thermal obligations and on developing effective renewable energy policies at regional level. **Adrienn Buday-Malik** from North Hungary, which is full of challenges but opportunities as well, talked to the audience of the clusters, SMEs involved and pursuing activities in environmental industry. Within the region there are several cooperation projects, research centres, clusters and networks to underpin the initiatives in the field of renewable energy use. From the intervention the participants learned about the North Hungarian model for tackling climate change. Three pillars of their regional approach are: institutional background, financial and policy support, finally, partnership, involvement of all the stakeholders and completing the classical triple helix model with a fourth element, that is to say, the polluters. **Atanaska Dimitrova** provided an overview on the examples that prove the municipality's commitment to working closely together with the local energy actors. Burgas is member of the Covenant of Mayors, the cities' self-initiative to reach 20/20/20. Furthermore, the city creates the strategic framework for long-term actions, like integrated transport, sustainable energy use and development. Burgas schedules the construction of photovoltaic and wind power plants, encourages energy efficient buildings and attracts investors to support the local energy actors.

#### Conclusions

**William Gillett** concluded the workshop by summing up the discussions:

- very stimulating ideas and reports were cited by the speakers from local/regional levels
- It is reassuring that cities, regions feel the necessity and the responsibility to act. This local voice should be heard at European level as well. Thus communication of these results is of paramount importance.
- Partnership at all levels is a key element in the successful mitigation of climate change.

#### 06B09

6 October 2009,  
16:45-18:30

#### Organiser:

20/20/20 regions against climate change regional partnership

#### Chair:

**William Gillett**, Renewable Energy, European Commission, Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI)

#### Speakers:

**Tadeusz Adamski**, Economy Department, Marshal Office of Śląskie Voivodeship, Poland

**Gianpiero Borzillo**, Lazio Region EU Brussels Office Environmental Issues, Italy

**Adrienn Buday-Malik**, Department of International Programs, North Hungary

**Atanaska Dimitrova**, EU Integration and environment, Burgas Municipality, Bulgaria

#### More information:

[mcdinardo@regione.lazio.it](mailto:mcdinardo@regione.lazio.it)  
[anett.ruszanov@norda.hu](mailto:anett.ruszanov@norda.hu)

*"Think global, act local!"*

# Theme B - Workshops

## Regions and climate change: Europe's way to sustainable regional development



### Environmentally friendly buildings: Industrial solutions for sustainable development in regions & cities

**06B10**  
**6 October 2009,**  
**16:45-18:30**

**Organiser:**  
SIEMENS

**Chair:**  
**Gunnar Liehr**, Siemens Building Technologies and member of EUBAC Work Group 3

**Speakers:**  
**Pirjo-Liisa Koskimäki**, European Commission, DG Transport and Energy  
**Enrique Buatas**, European Commission, DG Regional Policy  
**Susanne Berger**, Project Manager at Berliner Energie Agentur  
**Luc Lebon**, Building & Facilities Department, City of Antwerp

**More information:**  
European Building Automation Association: <http://www.eubac.org/>  
Directorate-General for Energy and Transport: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy\\_transport/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/index_en.htm)  
Siemens Building Technologies: <http://www.buildingtechnologies.siemens.com>

*"Siemens Building Technologies Division has completed more than 1,500 energy efficiency projects worldwide over the past ten years and helped customers achieve close to EUR 2 billion in energy savings. That is the equivalent reduction of 1.2 million tones of CO<sub>2</sub> or 6 billion kilometers driven."*  
(Mr Liehr)

#### Outline

The workshop aimed at facilitating an open discussion of European experts in the field of sustainable region and urban development about advantages and challenges of strategies for minimal environmental impact of buildings with simultaneous improvement of building performance and sustainable reduction of energy costs especially in the public sector.

#### Debate

The workshop was opened by **Pirjo-Liisa Koskimäki**, who gave a comprehensive overview of the Commission initiatives and activities on energy efficiency for buildings and the Status of the EPBD Directive. For Europe the main challenge is put on Renovation of buildings, like e. g. in the Energy Efficiency Action plan. The future policy line will be fully in line with the new targets for Green House Gas reduction measures. **Enrique Buatas** informed the audience about the cohesion policy actions that support sustainable development and presented the new energy-efficiency provisions in the ERDF regulation. The ERDF will be amended to go beyond its status of today. **Gunnar Liehr** gave a comprehensive introduction of state-of-the-art energy saving technologies for buildings and discussed the opportunities for reduction of green house gas emissions and resource usage especially in the public sector. He emphasized how Energy Performance Contracting can be used as an innovative financing technique for the public sector to raise capital with simultaneous lowering of energy costs (illustrated with case studies). **Luc Lebon**, change manager of the City of Antwerp, presented practical experiences from the City of Antwerp. Third party financing is one major objective to address the refurbishing of Buildings.

#### Conclusions

**Mr Gunnar Liehr** concluded "How to make a building green?":

- Minimising the environmental impact of buildings, together with the building performance and the reduction of energy costs could make a key contribution to the overall aim of mitigating climate change.
- "Most actions to reduce energy consumption in a building will reduce Green-house-gas emissions. Siemens Building Technologies Division has completed more than 1,500 energy efficiency projects worldwide over the past ten" Gunnar Liehr told participants at a workshop organized by Siemens on environmentally friendly buildings. Speakers also highlighted that cities account for a disproportionate share of greenhouse gas emissions but there are opportunities, especially in the public sector, to lower energy costs.



### Local strategies for sustainable development

#### Outline

**Benoît Théau** opened the seminar by giving the four themes which were debated and presented, that is to say: Renewable Energies, Internal Exemplarity, Mobility and Participation of the citizens. The implementation of the "Agenda 21" at the local level also constituted a recurrent subject. The different themes were introduced by a small video presenting the interview of Mr. Alain RETIERE, Director of CLIMSAT in Brest, the new satellite analysis center against the climate changes (program of the United Nations).

#### Debate

**Mircea Cosma** presented the Agency for Efficiency, Energy and Renewable Energies (AE<sup>2</sup>R), common initiative of the Judet of Prahova and the Municipality of Ploiesti. This Agency works, in a country which produce oil, gaz, coal,... and where the Energy issue has always been part of the landscape. Numerous projects are carried by the Agency: heat pump for the heating of rooms and hot water production, school buildings equipped with solar panels or even photovoltaic panels on public buildings, etc. According to the President, the main asset of the Judet is the University Petroleum-Gaz of Ploiesti. The Judet produces 24% of Green Energy nowadays. **Gianvito Bello** is convinced that the support provided by local authorities to Renewable Energies is compatible with the territories managed by them. A provincial Energy plan was launched in 2004 to inform the citizens and make it easier to implement such a production of Energy. Another goal is, for instance, to develop, in cooperation with the University of Sannio, a new economic field on alternative energies, which is already composed of 15 companies. Important projects are planned such as the creation a "solar temple", or projects for schools and public buildings. **Danielle Coune** underlines the internal measures the provincial administration has taken to act on the individual behavior of the provincial employees because the addition of some individual acts multiplied through 6500 officers can conduct to a huge energy economy. The Province of Liège has also taken measures towards its citizen such as allowance in case of settlings solar collector. **Jean-Louis Tourenne** underlines the social dimension of sustainable mobility. As far as public transports organisation is concerned, distant and fragile populations have to be taken into account to ensure attractiveness of our trains and buses: prices and fast access to major towns are determinant to improve the use of public transports. Local authorities also have a role to play to find alternative solutions in terms of energetic resources and materials used by transports: experimentation of biodiesel for public buses and new road materials is an example. **Raffaele Gareri** states that the local authorities have a very substantial influence on the definition and achievement of environmentally sustainable development; the Province of Brescia takes care of the community's natural heritage, promoting the spread of an environmental culture. The projects and the activities implemented aim at reaching a balance among environmental soundness, economic efficiency and social inclusion to improved the opportunities for citizens and tourists to enjoy our territory. The Province of Brescia maintains a continuous commitment to grant a development which meets the needs of the present, while preserving the environment for the future generations. **Loïc Raoult** explains the approach of "Côtes d'Armor 2020" which is a real process of sharing democracy inviting all citizen to give its opinion to draft the future of Côtes d'Armor till 2020. Main lines have been drawn such as sustainable development, innovation, continuing education, social coeducation etc.

#### 07B01

7 October 2009,  
10:00-12:30

#### Organiser:

Local Intermediate Authorities Acting for Europe

#### Moderator:

**Benoît Theau**, Journalist and documentary maker

#### Speakers:

**Danielle Coune**, General Director, Technical Services of the Province of Liège

**Mircea Cosma**, President of the County Council of Prahova

**Jean-Louis Tourenne**, President of the General Council of the Department of Ille-et-Vilaine

**Gianvito Bello**, Assessore for Energy and Transport

**Raffaele Gareri**, Director - Innovation and Territory Section

**Loïc Raoult**, Vice-President of the General Council of the Department of Côtes d'Armor

# Theme B - Workshops

## Regions and climate change: Europe's way to sustainable regional development



### Regions working together on a healthier Europe

**07B02**

**07 October 2009,  
14:30-16:15**

**Organiser:**

Veolia Environnement

**Chair:**

**Jean Claude Banon**, Veolia Environnement

**Speakers:**

**Evelyne Huytebroeck**, Brussels Region

**Michel Delebarre**, Mayor of Dunkerque, France

**Thomas Hackett**, European Investment Bank

**Olivier Barbaroux**, Dalkia

**More information:**

[www.veolia.com](http://www.veolia.com)

[www.eib.org](http://www.eib.org)

[www.ville-dunkerque.fr/](http://www.ville-dunkerque.fr/)

[www.evelyne.huytebroeck.be/](http://www.evelyne.huytebroeck.be/)

*"We believe that a significant solution to the needs for innovation and finance can come from a much stronger partnership between the public and the private sectors."*

**Outline**

Over the last 12 months, energy efficiency has become a priority, not only in terms of energy policy but also in relation to climate change as well as the economic and financial recovery. As the most significant potential lies in the transport and housing sectors, cities will be primary actors of energy efficiency. However, as Europe's policy is currently based on indicative targets and is seldom translated into legally binding obligations, little attention is being paid to the actual measures that are needed to give a significant boost to the uptake of energy efficiency measures in EU cities (e.g. the development of incentivising economic models). The current economic crisis also increases the difficulty for cities to finance large scale initiatives that will make a significant contribution towards achieving the objective set at an EU or national level. It is fair to say that cities are part of the solution but practical implementation may be a problem.

**Debate**

**Evelyne Huytebroeck** highlighted that in the Brussels region, 73% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions originate from buildings/housing and heating. She highlighted that any strategy to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from these sectors should be based on three fundamental principles: awareness-raising, incentive and assistance/support. Local governments play a fundamental role to promote energy efficiency but also to contribute to the emergence of new technologies (e.g. passive buildings) through public procurement. Energy certificates for buildings will also play an important role and should be defined at the EU level (as opposed to local schemes). **Michel Delebarre** insisted on the fundamental role that local authorities play in the fight against climate change. Any international agreement would not have any impact if it can not be directly relayed to cities and local authorities as they are the ones taking decisions in the field and they must be given adequate tools and means to take climate-minded decisions. Dunkerque's policy is also centred on incentives and assistance/support. In the case of Dunkerque, it includes strong cooperation with operators such as Dalkia but also industrial actors that are both part of the problem and the solution: the local authority must act on all fronts, including economic development, and it can only be achieved by creating a synergy across all sectors. **Thomas Hackett** outlined EIB's activities geared towards the promotion of environmental sustainability and the fight climate change. He highlighted the need to develop financing instruments involving higher level of risks than senior loans (i.e. public-private equity funds). A number of products are specifically directed to urban territories, including JESSICA (revolving financing instruments under Cohesion policy), JASPERS (technical assistance for the preparation of project applications) and the more recent ELENA (technical assistance to generate investment programmes in Energy Efficiency in the context of the Covenant of Mayors). **Olivier Barbaroux** highlighted the need to promote a systemic approach: the transition to a large scale adoption of energy efficiency measures should not focus solely on individual/sectoral solutions. It necessitates the integration of energy balance within adequate decision-making perimeters which in turn would foster the development of "mutualised" solutions. He also highlighted the need for both technical and systemic innovation. A solution to those needs can come from a stronger partnership between the public and private sectors to deliver the necessary infrastructure and services in an innovative and cost-effective manner.

**Conclusions**

It came out from the discussions that a number of actions could be promoted at the EU level, with a view to fully exploit Europe's energy saving potential:

- The development of support mechanisms to fully exploit the energy saving potential presented by existing technologies, including urban heating/cooling schemes and cogeneration;
- The promotion of a systemic approach to energy efficiency and the need to maintaining performance over time, in cooperation with all actors;
- Encouraging and incentivising cities, including through the development of mechanisms enabling to couple energy efficiency and economic-based decision making;
- Promote the use of products adapted for the financing of small projects.



### Urban-EU partnership: How to create sustainable cities?

#### Outline

**Birgit Georgi** opened the workshop taking quality of life as an entry point. While being of universal concern, it has many different individual interpretations – a tough task for policy-makers at all levels to balance the different interests.

**Corinne Hermant-de Callatay** pointed to the overarching role of cities in Europe for ensuring quality of life for all Europeans. In order to progress towards more sustainable cities, an interesting metaphor – that was proposed by the famous anthropologist Claude Lévy-Strauss – is to consider cities as "living organisms". Besides managing the horizontal interlinkages (involving all local actors and stakeholders) and the transversal cooperation (across sectors), it is indispensable to ensure the vertical integration between policies at the local, regional, national and European level.

#### Debate

**Pedro Ballesteros Torres** presented the Covenant of Mayors as an exemplary initiative to link the local and European level directly. It provides a platform enabling and coordinating multiple local actions to reduce the climate impacts of cities, which are the major energy consumers in Europe. Contrary to many national governments, cities seem to be more aware of not only the costs but also the benefits of climate change mitigation. **Ronan Uhel** pointed to the fact that the current way we achieve our high quality of life is also the way we risk it. Challenges like climate change can no longer be considered isolated; we need combined initiatives. Although having a huge impact on Europe, cities also offer big efficiency potentials, but with fragmented developments and urban sprawl we are losing it. Policies at all levels and in all areas are strongly enmeshed, but current governance ignores this. **Gerhard Urbainczyk** presented the local perspective. The city of Munich had joined several networks and initiatives combating climate change over the last years, including the Covenant of Mayors - a framework initiative. The city sees the advantages in having access to concentrated competence, being able to use synergies, and having a more direct connection to European policy. He presented also models of vertical integration in Munich which could be role models for urban-European integration.

#### Conclusions

The discussion was lively and led to the following conclusions:

- Cities are decisive for Europe and urbanisation offers an important efficiency potential to be exploited.
- Despite the subsidiary principle, local to European interrelations already exist and need to be consolidated/invigorated. Such integration and broad participation would facilitate synergies.
- In practice, integration is not easy to achieve due to sectoral interests, different cultures, lack of monitoring, but there is no other choice than to do it.
- Many initiatives, like Covenant of Mayors, the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment or the Leipzig Charter are going on in parallel. We do not need more tools, we need to implement the existing ones and coordinate the initiatives.
- Furthermore, appropriate institutional structures and efficient communication are key.

**07B03**

**7 October 2009,  
14:30-16:15**

#### Organiser:

European Commission, DG Regional Policy and European Environment Agency

#### Chair:

**Corinne Hermant-de Callatay**, European Commission, DG Regional Policy

**Birgit Georgi**, EEA

#### Speakers:

**Pedro Ballesteros**, European Commission, DG Transport and Energy

**Ronan Uhel**, European Environment Agency

**Gerhard Urbainczyk**, City of Munich

#### More information:

Covenant of Mayors:

<http://www.eumayors.eu/>

EEA:

[www.eea.europa.eu/theme/urban](http://www.eea.europa.eu/theme/urban)

City of Munich:

[www.muenchen.de](http://www.muenchen.de);

[www.muenchenfuerklimaschutz.de](http://www.muenchenfuerklimaschutz.de);

[www.muenchen.de/Rathaus/rgu/wohnen\\_bauen\\_energie/39004/](http://www.muenchen.de/Rathaus/rgu/wohnen_bauen_energie/39004/index.html)

[index.html](http://www.muenchen.de/bauzentrum)

[www.muenchen.de/bauzentrum](http://www.muenchen.de/bauzentrum)

[www.muenchen.de/bauzentrum](http://www.muenchen.de/bauzentrum)

*"Horizontal and vertical integration might be difficult but are key."*

*"The tools and instruments are there; we just need to implement them."*

# Theme B - Workshops

## Regions and climate change: Europe's way to sustainable regional development



### Learning from best practices to renew the Lisbon Strategy after 2010: A platform of EU cities and regions for climate change

#### 07B04

7 October 2009,

14:30-16:15

#### Organiser:

Committee of the Regions,  
Directorate for Consultative Works

#### Chair:

**Kay Twitchen**, CoR Member, DEVE  
Commission Rapporteur for the  
Opinion on the Covenant of Mayor

#### Speakers :

**András Szalay**, CoR Member, EDUC  
Commission

**Roland Zinkernagel**, City of Malmö,  
Covenant of Mayors

**Annamaria Monterisi**, Regione  
Puglia Innovation and Technology  
Agency (ARTI)

#### More information:

[www.eurmayors.eu](http://www.eurmayors.eu)  
<http://www.managenenergy.net/com.html>

The CoR recent Opinions on "How regions contribute to the achievement of EU climate change and energy policy goals, with a special focus on the Covenant of Mayors":

(<https://toad.cor.europa.eu/BrowseDocuments.aspx?type=1&folder=cdr\deve-iv\dossiers\deve-iv-031>)

"Addressing energy efficiency through ICTs":  
(<https://toad.cor.europa.eu/BrowseDocuments.aspx?type=1&folder=cdr\educ-iv\dossiers\educ-iv-030>)

can be found on the CoR's Website ([www.cor.europa.eu](http://www.cor.europa.eu)).

#### Outline

Drawing on the experience of the Lisbon Monitoring Platform, the Committee of the Regions, in cooperation with the Covenant of Mayors, is now promoting a new Climate Change Platform of EU Cities and Regions. The new Platform will support exchanges of best practices between the EU local and regional authorities and help monitoring developments on the ground in the different climate change-related policy fields, from reducing greenhouse gas emissions to adaptation to the impact of climate change (e.g., on agriculture, water and land management, etc.). At the political level, it will allow the EU local and regional authorities to voice their concerns, feeding into the EU legislative and implementation activity and political debate. As a first step towards the new Platform, a collection of regional and local best practices in the field of sustainable energy will be carried out by end 2009. In her introductory remarks, **Kay Twitchen** stressed that, besides mitigating climate change, investments in sustainable energy also help overcoming the economic crisis by creating new jobs.

#### Debate

**András Szalay** stressed that the local and regional authorities have a key role in facing climate change, given their competencies and responsibilities in the fields of territorial planning, energy supply, building and transports. ICTs can be of great help to reduce the quantity of energy needed to provide a service, operate a machine or manage a building. To help disseminate the relevant know how, the European Commission and the CoR are preparing a guide on these topics for local and regional administrators. **Roland Zinkernagel** reported that the City of Malmö has set two objectives: (1) in 2020 all the administrations' own activities will be climate-neutral, (2) in 2030 the whole city will use 100% renewable energy. To pursue these objectives, Malmö has adopted a cross-dimensional approach looking at energy production, energy efficiency, traffic, consumption and fair trade, biological diversity and education for sustainable development. Actions were tailored on the specific problems of the city's different neighbourhoods.

**Annamaria Monterisi** presented the Apulian Regional Environmental and Energy Plan (PEAR), aimed at halving the growth trend of regional energy consumption, with respect to the preceding 15 years, by 2016. Regional Law n. 13/2008 "Rules on sustainable living" provides guidelines for sustainability of new buildings as well as existing ones, incentives to encourage compliance, a certification for sustainable buildings. Certification is beneficial to all stakeholders involved: businesses, professionals and end users. During the debate, **Pedro Ballesteros** (European Commission, DG TREN) stressed the importance of stricter cooperation between cities and regions in dealing with climate change issues. This is why the Lisbon Monitoring Platform and the Covenant of Mayors are launching the new Climate Change Platform of EU cities and regions, to support exchange of good practices, monitor developments on the ground and convey the concern of regional and local authorities to the EU institutions. Several speakers also stressed the contribution of territorial climate change policies to creation of new, skilled jobs and the need for a cooperation between public authorities and private sector.

#### Conclusions

In her remarks, **Kay Twitchen** stressed the role of prime movers that local and regional authorities actually play in acting for adaptation and mitigation, as they drive markets for greener products and services and stimulate citizen and firms to reduce energy consumption. The EU needs to support them with more funding and help to disseminate best practices. The Covenant of Mayors, co-promoted by the CoR and the EC, is a good example of what needs to be done. A great boost is expected from the ongoing co-operation between the Covenant and the US Conference of Mayors as well as from the new Climate Change Platform.

*"Most of the changes needed in order to meet the adaptation and mitigation challenges of climate change will be carried out by local and regional authorities, but they have to be supported by the EU institutions if they have to succeed."*

(Kay Twitchen)



### Intelligent Energy Europe Programme – Cities and regions working towards a sustainable energy future

#### Outline

The workshop was opened by **Vincent Berrutto** and **Roman Doubrava** offering the audience with to-the-point information on the importance of local and regional actions to reach the ambitious energy targets set at EU level as well as on opportunities offered to them through EU funding programmes, such as Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE). The challenges linked to energy security and climate change require joint and integrated actions at all governance levels and it is encouraging to notice that more than 900 cities and regions across Europe are already leading the way, committing themselves to ambitious energy targets through their signature to the Covenant of Mayors. This initiative represents a useful umbrella where cities and regions can share experiences with peers and experts and benefit from their guidance. The IEE programme also gathers more than 400 projects that developed tools, methodologies and experiences that can be transferred to other contexts.

#### Debate

**Dr. Gerhard Urbainczyk** described the successful climate policy which was introduced in the City of Munich at the beginning of the 1990s. He presented some of the key instruments used to reach the targets set at local level. The elaboration of a sustainable energy action plan for the city was one of the milestones of the strategy as it helped in setting priorities of actions and in securing grants. This action plan was elaborated with the contribution of local stakeholders and according to a tangible scheme. The experience from Munich fed into the preparatory work of the Covenant of Mayors, of which the city is member. Other components of the success of the climate policy in Munich are the high political support; the ownership of the city utility, i.e. energy supplier (Stadtwerke Muenchen) which helps the Council to shape the energy mix of the city; the launch of internal contracting procedures to invest into energy efficiency measures; a local energy saving grant programme; as well as their participation in IEE projects. **Jaime Briales Guerrero** gave an exhaustive presentation on the activities undertaken by the energy agency of the City of Malaga. He stressed that the contribution of the energy agency in energy-related projects was key to the successful implementation of these projects. The energy agency closely works with the city administration in defining priorities for the city and in implementing concrete activities to maximise awareness of the community as well to achieve tangible energy savings. He highlighted that a good level of support from the political level is an essential part in the success of a local energy agency. **Anke Merziger** presented the IEE project 'Energy Neighbourhoods' that aims at generating a behavioural change in households of 9 countries through their participation in a climate bet. The project achieved tangible results as it reached more than 5,000 households and generated on average 10% reduction energy consumption in these households. The success factor of the project is the use of energy masters that act as intermediates between project leaders, the city administration and the households and give constant advice to participants. The project demonstrates that real energy savings can be achieved without making big investments and through a change of day-to-day behaviours. **Yannick Regnier** outlined the main objectives of the recently launched IEE project 'RES Champions League'. This project consists in the benchmarking of local and regional authorities in terms of their power installed in renewable energies. This benchmarking is of interest to cities and regions for positioning themselves in the European sphere as well as to learn from the best performing cities. But most importantly, this project is about creating contacts and generating a dialogue between cities but also with the citizens.

#### Conclusions

**Vincent Berrutto** concluded the workshop by summing up the discussions as follows

- Cities and regions do not have to reinvent the wheel as many successful energy efficiency techniques and guidance are available to them.
- Walking the path of energy efficiency is not only about using the appropriate techniques or instruments, it is also a question of good practices and good housekeeping rules.
- Careful baseline analyses of the communities as well as the development of a precise sustainable energy action plan are crucial to the success of any climate strategy.

He also stressed how the IEE programme can support cities and regions through upcoming calls for proposals or through the large wealth of experiences already gathered by the 400 funded projects.

#### 08B02

8 October 2009,  
9:15–11:00

#### Organisers:

European Commission, DG Transport and Energy and Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI)

#### Chair:

**Vincent Berrutto**, IEE Energy Efficiency, Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation

#### Speakers:

**Roman Doubrava**, European Commission, DG Transport and Energy

**Gerhard Urbainczyk**, City of Munich, Germany

**Jaime Briales Guerrero**, Agencia Municipal de la Energia de Málaga, Spain

**Anke Merziger**, Beratungs- und Service-Gesellschaft Umwelt mbH., Germany

**Yannick Régnier**, Comité de liaison des énergies renouvelables, France

#### More information:

IEE:

<http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/>

Covenant of Mayors:

<http://www.eumayors.eu/>

Intelligent Energy e-library:

<http://www.iee-library.eu/>

# Theme B - Workshops

## Regions and climate change: Europe's way to sustainable regional development



### Territorial cohesion, integrated coastal zone management, islands and maritime policy

**08B03**

**8 October 2009,**

**9:15-11:00**

**Organiser:**

European Commission, DG Environment

**Chair:**

**Birgit Snoeren**, European Commission, DG Environment

**Speakers:**

**Jacques Delsalle**, DG Environment, Adaptation to Climate Change

**Philipp Schmidt-Thomé**, Geological Survey of Finland, Finland

**Florence Bouteau-Cron**, Regional Council of Aquitaine

**Cyril Mallet**, Bureau de Recherches Géologiques, Aquitaine, France

**Gertjan Nederbragt**, Province of Noord-Holland, The Netherlands

**More information:**

EU policy Adaptation to the effects of climate change:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/index_en.htm)

Integrated Coastal Zone Management and OURCOAST initiative:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/home.htm>

BALTCICA:

[www.baltcica.org](http://www.baltcica.org)

ANCORIM:

<http://littoral.aquitaine.fr/Gerer-les-risques-cotiers-sur-l.html>

SUSCOD:

<http://www.northsearegion.eu/ivb/projects/details/&tid=118>

**Outline**

The Commission's White Paper on Adaptation to Climate change stresses the need for early adaptation and stepped-up efforts for coastal zones, which count among the most vulnerable areas to the impacts of climate change. The workshop looked at ways ahead, based on the experience of adaptation projects in Europe's regional seas.

**Debate**

**Jacques Delsalle** presented the Commission's White Paper on Adaptation. To understand vulnerability, one should not only look at possible direct climate impacts, but also the adaptive capacity of communities and potential indirect socio-economic effects through for instance impaired eco-system services. The White Paper announces a "clearing house" to support the built up of a robust knowledge basis in Europe. The development of vulnerability indicators is part of this effort, primarily for support to policy at EU level. **Philipp Schmidt-Tomé** presented climate change adaptation concepts for regional development, based on the experiences gained in the SEA-REG, ASTRA and BALTCICA projects. He underscored that adverse land planning and management already aggravate impacts of natural hazards. Climate change impacts on top need to be examined, but should not distract from other causes of risks. Uncertainty in climate models exists, but this should not be a barrier to taking action. Financially reasonable adaptation measures will be necessary and examples are already available. To implement such measures existing instruments can be used, such as spatial planning and building codes. The communication process is most important especially on uncertainties, e.g. natural hazard occurrences, magnitudes and climate change impacts. **Florence Bouteau** and **Cyril Mallet** presented the organisation of coastal management in the Aquitaine region, which is based on a partnership of the state and regional administrations and scientists. As part of this set-up a coastal observatory is put into place to organise and facilitate access to the many coastal plans, indicators and data in Aquitaine. However an effective knowledge base to risk management in the Aquitaine coast cannot be seen in isolation from adjacent coastal regions and the Atlantic region. Hence the Atlantic Network for Coastal Risks Management (ANCORIM) was launched. Apart from a web-portal, the project will develop case studies with alternative scenarios for coastal development. Beyond the Atlantic region, the Aquitaine region recognises the need for cooperation with other networks and projects to achieve a coherent approach to coastal information. **Gertjan Nederbragt** stressed that the urgency to act in coastal areas at risk is an opportunity for regional authorities to enhance their performance not only in relation to risk management, but also in a broader sense towards more sustainable coastal development. The key to success in this respect is the application of the EU principles on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). The new SUSCOD project will develop a practical assistant to coastal managers to apply the principles in planning and management at the regional and local scales. Integration of long-term climate change impacts in development concepts and strategies will be part of the SUSCOD activities. Birgit Snoeren invited participants to visit the OURCOAST website and register on the mailing list, as a means to constitute an EU-wide community of coastal practitioners. Participants in the workshop underscored the need for coordination of policies, and joint-up actions. Opportunities for further exchange of experience should be used, such as during the Maritime Days 2010.

**Conclusions**

The workshop conclusions are:

- Coastal zones are under high development pressure. Climate change further aggravates impacts of certain natural hazards, but it is not the only cause of the degradation of the coastal environment.
- An integrated approach to coastal planning and management is therefore needed. The EU Recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management provides common principles for this purpose. The application of these principles needs to be further supported, through the exchange of experiences and the development of practical assistance for the implementation in regional and local contexts.
- Experience has shown that establishing effective communication platforms between all coastal stakeholders is essential. Facilitating access and sharing of scientific information is one part of this task. Cooperation between different authorities and stakeholders, to achieve a more integrated set of policies and measures is a major challenge but forms the core of good territorial governance.
- Assessing vulnerability is a costly exercise. Priorities should therefore be set, in the selection of areas to be covered by detailed vulnerability assessments and the choice of adaptation measures. Innovative approaches to living with natural hazards should be promoted.
- The Cohesion policy offers funding opportunities for coastal management and risk prevention. Networking among projects should be stimulated, also beyond the individual regional seas programmes.



### Smart Cities: Integrated ICT solutions for the low carbon city of the future

#### Outline

The workshop was opened by **Manuel Monteiro** who started by presenting the Unit H.4 "ICT and Sustainable Growth" – its mission and policy instruments. He presented Commission Policy on making ICT work for energy efficiency (ICT4EE) as well as opportunities to participate in research and innovation projects under the FP 7 and CIP programmes respectively. He spoke also about the plans for the future, among which the elaboration of a Practical Guide for regional/local authorities to be developed by October next year, as a support for their decision-making processes and also for policy initiatives at European level.

#### Debate

**Vin Sumner** gave a presentation and demonstration of the project DEHEMS (*Digital Environment Home Energy Management System*), an EU funded climate change initiative showing how ICT enables new energy efficient processes and can drive new values and behaviours. DEHEMS aims at extending the current state-of-the-art use of innovative digital technologies and applications to support greater energy efficiency at home, focussing on how intelligent meters and sensors can be used to create more accessible and user-friendly management systems for home energy and encourage behaviour change. Concerning the Support Action GENESYS (*Good practices for European developers of advanced ICT-enabled energy-efficiency Systems*), **Francesco Niglia** highlighted the objectives of his project for supporting the knowledge awareness on Information Technologies for the Energy Efficiency: namely, organizing meetings among researchers, industries, private capital; supporting the industrialisation of innovative ideas; development of a technology portfolio for the EC; supporting the running ICT4EE roadmaps; and dissemination and awareness of results. Presenting the project BeAware, **Giulio Jacucci** tackled the importance of raising awareness regarding environment and energy, through engagement. He explained that the first step is to understand people and suggested the use of games strategy to involve people residing in cities. **Roberta Pascolini** and **Andrea Campagna** presented the innovative transport systems in Lazio Region and project CATS (*City Alternative Transport System*) which aims at increasing the public awareness about innovative public transport systems based on highly automatic cars (showcase to be implemented in Formello Municipality). Three possible innovative transport systems were analysed: personal rapid transit, car-sharing and "platooning" (group of vehicles) (CRISTAL) and mini bus providing an on-demand service and "platooning". **Wolfgang Hoefs** presented the use of ICT in transport, specifically in mobility (smart urban mobility and new mobility concepts), and opportunities to apply for funding in the future calls. In this respect, he presented topics proposed for call 6 (ICT for mobility of the future) within the Work programme 2009-2010 and future directions in the Work programme 2011-2012. Participants showed a high interest for the subject and underlined the need for much more attention to the way in which ICT supports sustainable growth as a whole. ICT should be seen as a tool to contribute to economic development. They suggested also including urban planning and local authorities' actions into the concept of 'smart cities'.

#### Conclusions

**Mr. Monteiro** concluded the workshop by summing up the discussions:

- The final goal in applying ICT is sustainable growth and a holistic view is necessary.
- The process started by developing pieces, in order to arrive at the global picture. ICT for energy efficiency should move from buildings to neighbourhoods, to cities and regions.
- The impact of ICT in urban environments, for energy efficiency, mobility, should be integrated with the urban planning, in the concept of 'smart cities'.
- Attention should be further paid to industrialisation of ICT solutions and entering on new niche markets.
- The issue of lack of awareness should also be tackled; different strategies should be envisaged, including games to involve people in environmental issues.
- Communication and dissemination must have an essential role.

#### 08B05

8 October 2009,  
11:15-13:00

#### Organiser:

European Commission, DG Information Society & Media Directorate-General

#### Chair:

**Manuel Monteiro**, European Commission, DG Information Society & Media

#### Speakers:

**Manuel Monteiro**, European Commission, DG Information Society & Media, on behalf of Colette Maloney, European Commission, DG Information Society & Media DG

**Vin Sumner**, Clicks and Links, United Kingdom

**Francesco Niglia**, INNOVA, Italy

**Prof. Giulio Jacucci**, Helsinki University, Finland

**Roberta Pascolini**, Regione Lazio, Italy

**Andrea Campagna**, Centre for Transport and Logistics, Italy

**Wolfgang Hoefs**, European Commission, DG Information Society & Media

#### More information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/sustainable\\_growth/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sustainable_growth/index_en.htm)

<http://www.dehems.eu>

<http://www.genesys-project.eu>

<http://www.energyawareness.eu>

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/programmes/esafety/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/programmes/esafety/index_en.htm)

<http://cordis.lu/ist/so/esafety/home.html>

<http://www.eSafetySupport.org>

<http://www.eSafetySupport.org>

*"ICT is a key to delivering the fundamental yet urgent changes required in local and regional communities."*

# Theme B - Workshops

## Regions and climate change: Europe's way to sustainable regional development



### Eco-innovation and European Cohesion Policy

**08B06**

**8 October 2009,  
11:15–13:00**

**Organiser:**

European Commission,  
DG Environment

**Chair:**

**Hervé Martin**, European  
Commission, DG Environment

**Speakers:**

**Helene Blanchard**, Environment  
and Risk Prevention, Region Rhône-  
Alpes, France

**Niels Henrik Mortensen**, Danish  
Environmental Protection Agency,  
Denmark

**Beatriz Yordi**, Eco-innovation,  
Executive Agency for  
Competitiveness and Innovation

**Mark Hidson**, Sustainable  
Procurement, ICLEI

**More information:**

CIP eco-innovation:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/  
eco-innovation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation/index_en.htm)  
ECREIN:  
<http://www.ecreinetwork.eu/>  
ICLEI:  
<http://www.iclei-europe.org/>

*"Regions can be blocking or powerful catalysers. Regions and municipalities are actors powerful in moving things forward or slowing them down."*

**Outline**

The workshop was opened by **Hervé Martin**, who gave participants an introduction on the European policy framework in the eco-innovation area. Environmental technologies have the potential to reduce pressures on natural resources and boost EU competitiveness. The European Technologies Action Plan (ETAP) aims to stimulate eco-innovation and the take-up of environmental technologies on a broad scale. These technologies are good for business, reduce pressure on the environment and can create new jobs. The Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs leads to the development of an ambitious European innovation policy and calls for a shift towards a knowledge-based and resource-efficient economy. The chairman also raised a thought-provoking question about the place and role of the SMEs in this context. SMEs constitute a significant share of the economy in Europe and at this stage decisions are to be made regarding their participation in eco-innovation programmes. Pilot projects are underway but there is a need for them to be more daring and real.

**Debate**

**Helene Blanchard** presented the results of ECREIN project (European clusters and regions for eco-innovation and eco-investment network project). The presentation highlighted the various frameworks and conditions of implementation for financial and economic instruments in support of eco-innovation at regional level. Many companies want to reduce their carbon footprint and become green but face a number of obstacles. Regional authorities are well suited to help them achieve these goals. The Rhône-Alpes region created one-stop-shops to help SMEs achieve green targets and allow them to eco-innovate. Eco-innovation is a vision of the future. The economic actors must come together, therefore the public and the private sectors need to be mobilized. The next ECREIN+ project gathers 12 regions and the Assembly of European Regions working together on the creation of regional instruments in support of eco-innovation and facilitating take-up of such technologies. **Niels Henrik Mortensen**: Eco-efficient technologies will see impressive global growth rates in the coming decades, but the market is highly competitive and focuses on utilising new and emerging technologies. A large number of Danish companies are active participants and they have found a number of niche areas. The Danish Cleantech Cluster gathers a total of 720 environment companies with 120,000 employees, along with 41 knowledge institutes focusing on eco-efficient technologies. This makes the environment cluster one of Denmark's largest business clusters. Some 60 % of the cluster's production is exported and the export growth rate is 8% per year. Several factors made this success possible: taxation on natural resources; strong environmental policy, strong public engagement in renewable energy means that Danish enterprises are forced to compete on quality and not on price. Strong environmental protection regulations are still being implemented and it is only a matter of time before new areas of growth will be found. **Beatriz Yordi**: Eco-innovation is not only good for the environment but also good for business. However, barriers to market penetration are particularly challenging for environmental technologies. The promotion of eco-innovation through the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme contributes to the implementation of the Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP) which aims to encourage the take-up of environmental technologies on a broad scale. The yearly calls for proposals concentrate on sectors with considerable innovation potential and with the highest environmental gains (e.g. construction, food and drink). This instrument, managed by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation, is designed to help small and medium-sized companies place their products on the market, bridging the gap between Research & Development and the market place. Environmental as well economic benefit needs to be substantial. **Mark Hidson**: Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of local governments as well as national, regional and local organisations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. Mr Hidson began his presentation with a short introduction on the theme, a definition of what sustainable innovation involves – "the purchase of goods or services that meet advanced environmental and social criteria and that do not yet exist or require new features, hence require research and innovation to realise the requirements". Public authorities have a huge influence on the market, their role as an actor can actually shift the market bringing along new business sectors and protecting the environment. The requirements on product or service purchased are to provide long term economic stability, stimulate green growth & provide work with SMEs & local suppliers. There are mechanisms that facilitate dialogue with SMEs and local suppliers before and after implementing a new strategy to adapt their products to changed requirements.

**Conclusions**

- Eco-innovation and technology are a necessity – we need to intervene at all levels.
- There is a clear link between SMEs – the fabric of the economy and the authorities closest to them – the towns and the cities. Europe has the power to regulate them, set up networks to find best practices.
- Some regions in Europe are more ambitious and better developed in their policy and programmes and their experiences should be more widely spread throughout Europe.