



**Local & Regional
Europe**

COP22: COP of Action

Marrakesh Summit on climate change:

**Municipalities and regions as catalysts for
successful action**

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FOREWORD

« It has been an intense year after COP21 – the COP of “negotiation” and now here are, advancing towards COP22 - the COP for “action”. Since our focus remains the combat against climate change, CEMR/PLATFORMA and its member associations urge the EU to remain ambitious in its goals, showing leadership worldwide, as they have done following the ratification of the Paris Agreement in October.

Collaboration, partnerships and the right framework for action remain crucial to achieve our common goals of decarbonising our societies, creating green jobs and providing a sustainable world for future generations. The Climate Chance summit for non-Party stakeholders held in September was a key opportunity to engage in the fight against climate and mobilise actors. CEMR/PLATFORMA showed it clearly through its engagement in co leading role two of the coalitions set up there: circular economy and decentralized cooperation. By doing this we continue supporting our members in their actions towards a 40% reduction of emissions by 2030. The adoption of the [Nantes Declaration](#) of climate actors focuses on “Strengthening concrete action to bridge the gap between current commitments and the objectives of the Paris Agreement” and calls for access to targeted funding for towns and cities to fight climate change. The declaration states: “We call upon the implementation of mechanisms allowing local and regional governments [...] to access new financing tools, such as the Green fund”.

On behalf of local governments and regions, we request the following from the EU institutions and national governments:

1. A EU **structured dialogue** to integrate the subnational dimension into the UNFCCC process and assist in the implementation of the **Paris Agreement**
2. The **right place for COPs** in international Sustainable Development and UN Habitat III processes
3. The use of EU, national and subnational governments’ **financial resources**, **political frameworks**, and innovation and research **tools** to combat climate change
4. Improved **EU policy and legislative process** to mainstream local climate action in EU and national policies and link to EU and international related initiatives to climate.
5. Action to facilitate the **exchange of good practice** and city to city cooperation at sub-national level, in Europe and globally »

Councillor Linda Gillham
CEMR spokesperson on environment
Runnymede Council, UK



OUR FIVE KEY MESSAGES

1. A EU structured dialogue to integrate the subnational dimension into the UNFCCC process and assist in the implementation of the Paris Agreement

2009 was the year when the EU institutions recognized in their conclusions ahead of COP15 the role that the subnational level in the combat against climate change. We have seen major improvements up to COP21 where European and international networks of cities and regions conveyed joint messages ahead of COP21. **A further step needs to be formalised within the process, which allows sub-national government and national associations to join the EU delegation during COP negotiations and the wider process, strengthening the interaction and link with the Committee of the Regions. This approach needs to be imbedded as part of a permanent structure, thereby establishing the foundation of a good governance model.**

Strong and unified positions including the subnational level can be achieved if their involvement is structured and takes place at an early stage. This in turn facilitates the work of the EU Institutions to build consensus between stakeholders and therefore, we urge that this approach be supported and further strengthened. Now that the Paris Agreement has been ratified by the EU - thus allowing the entering into force of the Agreement itself - CEMR/PLAFTFORMA call on the EU to facilitate that the implementation in the Member States considers the subnational level perspective. And not only in the Member States of the EU, but all states that have ratified the Paris Agreement.

2. The right place for COPs in international Sustainable Development and UN Habitat III processes

COP21 was a milestone, and COP22 in Marrakesh will build on this success if its **outcomes are linked to the implementation of the agreed Sustainable Development Goals** (in particular, goal 11, encouraging action by cities on mitigation and adaptation towards 2030) and the **Urban Agenda of Habitat III** (3rd UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development). Most of the specific commitments for local governments will come indirectly via new EU climate regime. Assessment of the local financial capacity and the question of legal competences in Europe must take place before implementation of new legislation or measures, to prevent unrealistic expectations or costly regulatory outcomes.

3. The use of EU, national and subnational governments' financial resources, political frameworks, and innovation and research tools to combat climate change

Key factors to combat and adapt to climate change are the following: appropriate political frameworks, deployment of innovative financing instruments, funding of climate mitigation and adaptation policies and actions and recognition such as public procurement (as a voluntary instrument to stimulate sustainable growth and eco-innovation) to enhance the transition towards a circular economy. **But this cannot be done without EU Institutions and Member States being more proactive in their relations with the sub-national level, finding new ways of financing and funding.** The European Structural and Investment Funds, are crucial and remain the major European tool to support the implementation of local projects in the field of climate mitigation and adaptation. Access to the international Green Climate Fund or the Global Environmental Facility should be facilitated only in those cases where concrete efforts and actions are already in place and proven efficient. The engagement of the politicians of regions and municipalities responsible for climate and energy dossiers is a success factor, as is the need to build awareness and to give ownership to citizens in the territory. However, all this can only be achieved with sufficient sustainable resources.

4. Improved EU policy and legislative process to mainstream local climate action in EU and national policies and link to EU and international related initiatives to climate.

As part of the better regulation process, **we request that the EU institutions and National governments give local authorities early recognition in the decision-making processes.** They have to acknowledge them as

public institutions with legal personality, as component of the State structure, below the level of central government and accountable to citizens, encompassing different tiers of government. Initiatives such as the EU Urban Agenda, the Territorial Agenda 2020, the EU Climate and Energy Package and its legislative review or the National Strategies on Climate, have the potential to introduce such an approach and working method of partnership with regions and municipalities. Links to similar EU and International climate initiatives (like the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy - GCM) need appropriate consideration to avoid administrative burden on the public authorities.

5. The facilitation of the exchange of good practice and city to city cooperation at sub-national level, in Europe and globally

The EU should intensify its support to co-operation previously established among networks of cities and regions and joint action initiatives, exchanges of practice, projects, tools or high level events, targeting non UN State Actors and especially local governments. More alliances need to be constructed while respecting the competence and mandate of each one. Decentralised cooperation should be systematically included within the Covenant of Mayors in Sub Saharan Africa - CoMSSA and the GCM.

OUR ACTIONS

CEMR/PLATFORMA are proud of our values: 1) We the local and regional actors are confident and on the right track; 2) We support the EU approach to the objectives of COP22; 3) Climate action is an opportunity for green job creation and growth. Based on these values, CEMR/PLATFORMA show commitment through our actions:

Multi-governance engaged in tackling climate: a bottom-up approach and a global multi-actor climate governance with the appropriate local financial means, are equally valuable and important considerations, as well as appropriate regulatory instruments at national and international level.

Local examples set by sub-national governments: sub-national governments can play a leading role in Europe and beyond in the Local Government Climate Roadmap and the Global Climate Action Agenda. Initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors (with targets looking into 2030), the CoMSSA, the GCM or new coalitions on circular economy set up at the Climate Chance summit are very concrete examples with a European and international dimension towards a low carbon economy.

Promoting climate change local policies at the European level and influence future EU legislation; to reach ambitious strategy with a strong involvement of local and regional authorities.

Encouragement of networks to join forces efficiently: collaboration and alliances between all networks working globally on climate mitigation and adaptation have already made a real and substantial difference. Key COPs like COP21 have already shown that this engagement exists and that roadmaps have been implemented to coordinate actions and messages. Furthermore COP22 is the COP for action; these collaborations should be continued.

Decentralised co-operation across the world: serious commitment to international development co-operation must enable genuine implementation of measures. PLATFORMA, whose Secretariat is hosted by CEMR, defends the unique role that European local and regional governments play towards the improvement of daily lives of communities in partner countries in areas such as climate and energy.

CEMR/PLATFORMA remain convinced of the progress so far ahead of COP22 and encourage all Non state actors and Member of the COP to work together to achieve sustainable societies.

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About CEMR

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) is the broadest organisation of local and regional authorities in Europe. Its members are over 50 national associations of municipalities and regions from 41 European countries. Together these associations represent some 150 000 local and regional authorities.

CEMR's objectives are twofold: to influence European legislation on behalf of local and regional authorities and to provide a platform for exchange between its member associations and their elected officials and experts.

Moreover, CEMR is the European section of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the worldwide organisation of local government.

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