

CEPS Task Force on Global Climate Change Policy and the Increasing Role of Cities

Key messages from the first meeting

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Objective(s)

- explore how cities and their actions could *facilitate and possibly accelerate the implementation* of current and future EU and national climate change commitments.
- Create a network, take stock of initiatives, identify/think through key issues & develop concrete recommendations

Cities and international cc negotiations

- **joining national negotiations delegations;**
- **involvement in national strategies;**
- **CDM and JI;**
- **Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) by developing countries**
- **Incentives that can be provided through low-carbon zones, participation in the carbon market or a green stimulus package;-**
- **solidarity actions (e.g. finance or technical assistance) between industrialised and industrialising countries.**

Municipalities are fully or partially in charge of

Legal responsibilities

- City planning
- Urban transport
- Public information
- Local taxes
- Grants

“Corporate” emissions

- Lighting (streets, traffic)
- Management of local utilities
- Local car fleets
- Social housing

**... Yet cities have limited influence on emissions
(McKinsey: 15%)**

Key element for EU: empowerment

- Legal tools
- Comparison of performance (“best practice”)
- Experimental work (“pilot projects”)
- Monitoring, reporting and verification methodologies

EU focuses on networking and best practice (by and large)

Many initiatives

- C40
- Aalborg commitments
- Climate Alliance of European Cities and European Cities for Climate protection
- World Mayors Council on CC
- ICLEI: Local gov for sustainability
- Eurocities
- Metroplis
- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- EU and member state finance initiatives
- Action under EU 6th Environmental AP
- OECD studies
- UN-Habitat: Cities and CC initiative
- Asian Cities CC Resilience Initiative
- World Bank – CC Adaptation handbook for mayors

Many initiatives (Cont'd)

- World Bank – Cities, CC and Finance Symposium at Barcelona CarbonExpo
- IPC3 – an IPCC for mayors
- IHDP – Urbanisation and Global Environmental Change Project
- WB – Energy Efficient Cities Assessment framework
- WB – City Indicators project
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Covenant is key EU initiative

- mayors of some 500 (around 630 by mid-August) cities representing 100 million citizens participating in a permanent network of exchange and to apply good practices in energy efficiency and low carbon initiatives.
- “signatories to the Covenant commit to submitting their local Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) within the year following adhesion. These cities are then expected to provide periodic public reports outlining the progress of their Action Plans.

EU finance on case by case – patchy; gaps ...

Issues for this Task Force

- Scaling up of Covenant of Mayors? Finance?
- MRV and GHG accounting rules insufficient
- Boundary issues: focus on cities may miss opportunities; overlap with cc policy instruments
- Crucial importance of quantitative targets to free budgetary resources
- Strategic partnerships (funding institutions, cities, industry)
- Empowerment (new mandates)
- Tangible and practical actions
- Technical: Identification of reduction potential, costs, technology needs, policies, capacity needs, funding, maintenance vs investment, double counting,
- **CEPS proposal to establish system whereby cities performance can be evaluated (?)**