



## RECOGNITION OF THE ROLE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE AHEAD OF UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN COPENHAGEN IN DECEMBER 2009 - COP15

### EU TEXTS

This informative note intends to gather the EU Institutions texts where the role of local and regional authorities has been recognised ahead of COP15. We include references to the EU Council (Member States), European Parliament, European Economic and Social Committee and Committee of the Regions.

The EU lobbying actions have been taken by the following associations and networks of local authorities: Climate Alliance, CEMR, EURO CITIES, Energy cities and ICLEI Europe.

#### 1. MEMBERS STATES

The Environment Council of 21 October 2009 refers to the local level in its “Council conclusions on EU position for the Copenhagen Climate Conference”:

- *“Highlights the role which local authorities will play in implementing mitigation and adaptation actions and calls for recognition of that role in the Copenhagen agreement” (reference in the introduction).*

Text of the Environment Council conclusions:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/110634.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/110634.pdf)

The European Council of 29-30 October 2009 has endorsed the conclusions of the Environment Council:

- *“The European Council endorses the conclusions adopted by the Council on 21 October 2009 (doc. 14790/09), which together with these European Council conclusions and the attached guidelines give the Union a strong negotiating position. It will allow the European Union to play a constructive role during the final phase of the negotiating process, in particular on key issues such as financing, technology transfer, adaptation, mitigation and good governance.”*

Text of the European Council conclusions:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/110889.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/110889.pdf)

## 2. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The EP adopted the resolution “The EU Strategy for the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change” on 25 November 2009. Article 66 and 67 refer to local authorities:

- *Article 66: “Stresses the great importance of local citizens receiving comprehensive information and consultation and taking part in decision-making processes, and particularly encourages urban centres, regions and conurbations to launch their own information campaigns, with government support, which might be linked to specific reduction targets”.*
- *Article 67: “Recognises, given the fact that by 2030 two thirds of humanity will live in urban centres, that cities, local and regional authorities have a crucial role in implementing practical climate actions; welcomes the commitment demonstrated by the World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement, and calls for the EU to promote the engagement of cities, local and regional authorities in the development and implementation of national climate change strategies, including Mitigation Action Plans and Adaptation Programmes of Action”.*

Text of the EP resolution:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2009-0089+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

## 3. EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

They EESC voted its opinion “Towards a comprehensive climate change agreement” on 5 November 2009. There are two references to local governments:

- *Paragraph 12.4: “The EESC strongly believes that the European Council should encourage Member States, within their own national domains to support and facilitate the involvement of local and regional governments, business, trade unions and other representatives of organised civil society in promoting climate change strategies and initiatives”.*
- *Paragraph 12.5: “The EESC also believes that local, regional and national authorities should cooperate more closely to help build a solid knowledge base on impacts and consequences of climate change, through mobilisation of their citizens and the private sector. There is, for example, a commitment by some 500 municipalities to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by more than 20% by 2020 within the framework of the EU Initiative Covenant of Mayors”.*

Text of the EESC opinion:

[http://eescopinions.eesc.europa.eu/viewdoc.aspx?doc=\\esppub1\esp\\_public\ces\nat\nat439\en\ces1705-2009\\_ac\\_en.doc](http://eescopinions.eesc.europa.eu/viewdoc.aspx?doc=\\esppub1\esp_public\ces\nat\nat439\en\ces1705-2009_ac_en.doc)

#### 4. COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

The Committee of the Regions' opinion dates from 18 June 2009. The references to local and regional authorities are the following:

- *Article 1: important role that regional and local authorities play in the fight against CC*
- *Article 3: LA and RA already play an important role in fighting climate change*
- *Article 7: Carbon free economy*
- *Article 10: UNFCCC texts acknowledge role of LA and RA in "adaptation", but not in "mitigation"*
- *Article 11: subsidiarity principle and provision of sufficient financial and human capacity to various levels*
- *Article 12: awareness raising campaigns with support of RA and LA*
- *Article 18 LA and RA should be involved in nation climate change strategies and action plans*
- *Article 19: support for Covenant of Mayors*
- *Article 20: Community budget framework be such that al European LA and RA are equally equipped*
- *Article 23: increase transparency of EU ETS, especial at local and regional level*
- *Article 29: variation in progress across EU cities and regions in reducing CO2 emission and energy consumption*
- *Article 30: regional climate actions plan and/or sustainable energy plans provide the link between the local and national initiatives*

Text of the CoR opinion:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:211:0061:0064:EN:PDF>