Basic information

2017/2006(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Role of EU regions and cities in implementing the COP 21 Paris Agreement on Climate Change **Subject** 3.70.03 Climate policy, climate change, ozone layer 4.70.04 Urban policy, cities, town and country planning 4.70.05 Regional cooperation, cross-border cooperation	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
REGI Regional Development	VALLINA Ángela (GUE/NGL)	29/11/2016
	Shadow rapporteur SPYRAKI Maria (PPE) DĂNCILĂ Viorica (S&D) TAKKULA Hannu (ALDE) ROPĖ Bronis (Verts/ALE) ZULLO Marco (EFDD)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	PARGNEAUX Gilles (S&D)	14/02/2017

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Climate Action	ARIAS CAÑETE Miguel

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/02/2017	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/02/2018	Vote in committee		
27/02/2018	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0045/2018	Summary

12/03/2018	Debate in Parliament		
13/03/2018	Decision by Parliament	T8-0068/2018	Summary
13/03/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/03/2018	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2017/2006(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	REGI/8/09064

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE612.062	25/10/2017	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE607.983	24/11/2017	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE615.459	14/12/2017	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0045/2018	27/02/2018	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0068/2018	13/03/2018	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2018)366	30/08/2018	

Role of EU regions and cities in implementing the COP 21 Paris Agreement on Climate Change

2017/2006(INI) - 27/02/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Regional Development adopted an own-initiative report by Ángela VALLINA (GUE/NGL, ES) on the role of EU regions and cities in implementing the COP 21 Paris Agreement on climate change.

Members welcomed the role played by the EU in the Paris/COP 21 Agreement and its role as world leader in the fight against climate change. They emphasised that cities need to play a decisive role in tackling climate change, in coordinated interdependence with national authorities and their surrounding regions.

Noting that local authorities are responsible for implementing the majority of the mitigation and adaptation measures for climate change and most of the EU legislation on the subject, Members stressed the need to act on urban planning, mobility, public transport and infrastructure, the energy performance of buildings, education campaigns, smart cities, smart grids and regional subsidies in order to implement the Paris Agreement.

Members warned of the societal costs caused by GHG emissions that are currently affecting urban infrastructure, public health and social care systems which are - at certain times and in certain cities and regions - overburdened and which face a precarious economic situation. These systems will thus be placed under additional strain and will be required to meet growing and more complex needs. The Commission are the Member States are urged to embark on providing access to **financial measures** that take account of the specific features and of the long-term value of local energy communities for the energy market, the environment and society, and to promote the role of single prosumers in connection with renewables, with a view to greater self-sufficiency and self-generation.

The report reiterated the need for regions to implement Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings and Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency and called for the Structural Funds to be focused or boosted in order to promote energy efficiency in public buildings and self-sufficiency in municipalities through regenerative energy.

The EU and cohesion policy: Members emphasised the key role that cohesion policy has to play in tackling the challenges of climate change at regional and local level. They reiterated the need to **increase the post-2020 cohesion policy budget** and stressed that cohesion policy should pay particular attention to urban investment in air quality, the circular economy and climate adaptation.

They also emphasised that, in the future Multiannual Financial Framework, the mainstreaming of climate objectives should be further improved, for instance by linking cohesion policy investment more closely to Member States' overall plans to deliver the 2030 target.

The report stressed the importance of using additional financial instruments and policies, such as the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the Connecting Europe Facility and Horizon 2020, in order to finance projects that will help mitigate or adapt to climate change.

Cities and regions: Members urged cities and regions to cooperate and incorporate the fight against climate change into the institutional agenda as a matter of urgency. They stressed the need for sustainable and energy efficient housing projects and smart buildings that will save energy as well as the importance of cities taking a leading role in promoting the use of public transport and in promoting the **electrification** of public and private transport.

Cities should tailor their own urban planning by investing in green infrastructure, mobility, public transport and smart grids to meet the targets set out in the Paris Agreement. National authorities should promote decentralisation and give better effect to the subsidiarity principle, thereby enabling local and regional authorities to play a stronger role in tackling climate change.

Members recognised the special responsibility on the part of cities to tackle climate change given that they account for 70 % of global CO2 emissions and reiterated Parliament's commitment to achieving the successful global roll-out of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. They encouraged all EU and non-EU cities to join the Covenant of Mayors.

Members believe that the **transfer of knowledge** and experience should be encouraged at local and regional level, given the wealth of experience acquired by individual regions and cities, as well as by certain regional environmental protection or energy agencies.

Role of EU regions and cities in implementing the COP 21 Paris Agreement on Climate Change

2017/2006(INI) - 13/03/2018 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 513 votes to 70 with 96 abstentions a resolution on the role of EU regions and cities in implementing the COP 21 Paris Agreement on climate change.

Members welcomed the role played by the EU in the Paris/COP 21 Agreement and its role as world leader in the fight against climate change. They emphasised that **cities need to play a decisive role** in tackling climate change, in coordinated interdependence with national authorities and their surrounding regions.

General context: noting that local authorities are responsible for implementing the majority of the mitigation and adaptation measures for climate change and most of the EU legislation on the subject, Parliament stressed **the need to act** on urban planning, mobility, public transport and infrastructure, the energy performance of buildings, education campaigns, smart cities, smart grids and regional subsidies in order to implement the Paris Agreement.

Parliament recognised t**he vital role of regions, cities and towns in promoting energy transition** and in pushing for climate and energy-related targets from below. It stressed the need to **stimulate the energy transition and local investment** in climate mitigation and adaptation measures. Cities and regions were called upon to take the lead in the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy production in order to reduce GHG emissions and air pollution.

The Commission and Member States were urged to embark on providing access to **financial measures** that take account of the specific features and of the long-term value of local energy communities for the energy market, the environment and society, and to promote the role of single **prosumers** in connection with renewables, with a view to greater self-sufficiency and self-generation.

Parliament reiterated the need for regions to implement Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings and Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency and called for the **Structural Funds to be boosted** in order to promote energy efficiency in public buildings and self-sufficiency in municipalities through regenerative energy.

The EU and cohesion policy: Members reiterated the need to **increase the post-2020 cohesion policy budget**, stressing that cohesion policy should pay particular attention to urban investment in air quality, the circular economy, climate adaptation, green infrastructure development solutions, as well as the energy and digital transition. In addition, the future planning of ESI Funds should be better integrated with the national energy and climate plans for 2030 and the mainstreaming of climate objectives should be further improved in the in the future Multiannual Financial Framework.

The resolution stressed the importance of using additional financial instruments and policies, such as the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the Connecting Europe Facility and Horizon 2020, in order to finance projects that will help mitigate or adapt to climate change. Recognising the role of Integrated Territorial Investment and Community-Led Local Developments (CLLDs), Parliament called for integrated local bottom-up approaches and strategies to ensure more efficient use of resources.

Cities and regions: Members urged cities and regions to cooperate and incorporate the fight against climate change into the institutional agenda as a matter of urgency. They recommended that urban authorities implement smart long-term **urban planning strategies** and emphasised the need for **energy-efficient and sustainable housing** projects as well as smart buildings.

They also stressed the importance of cities taking a leading role in promoting the use of public transport and in promoting the **electrification** of public and private transport.

Cities should tailor their own urban planning by investing in green infrastructure, mobility, public transport and smart grids to meet the targets set out in the Paris Agreement. Regions have to improve green city arrangements by promoting energy and digital transformation. Members recognised the special responsibility on the part of cities to tackle climate change given that they account for 70 % of global CO2 emissions and reiterated Parliament's commitment to achieving the successful global roll-out of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. They encouraged all EU and non-EU cities to join the Covenant of Mayors.

Lastly, the resolution stressed the need to encourage the **transfer of knowledge and experience** at local and regional level, given the wealth of experience acquired by individual regions and cities, as well as by certain regional environmental protection or energy agencies.