



Networking action to involve Local Governments in the EU and international energy and climate debate

Newsbit

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for European local governments and their associations

Dunkerque 2010 calls for European cities and towns to shape low carbon, greener futures

Improved recognition on the role local and regional authorities in the post-2012 international climate agreement can effectively support the creation of smart, sustainable economies – this was one of the main messages delivered at the 6th Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference in Dunkerque in mid-May 2010.

Approved by more than 1,800 participants, the [Dunkerque 2010 Call on Climate Action](#) represents a strong view by local governments where they reiterate their call to national and international governments to move forward together in a post-2012 agreement. “Any strategies or measures at European and national level intended to overcome the current economic and financial crisis must actively pursue and support the transformation of our economy to become low carbon, climate resilient and sustainable”. Another call addressing broader sustainability issues is also available on the website – www.dunkerque2010.org.

LG Action goes live – video collection of positioning

The LG Action project positioning collection from local governments (LGs) across Europe – to maps their needs / challenges / contexts – is ongoing. Video interviews made during the Dunkerque 2010 Conference show some typical positioning items – view these on: [Messages from Dunkerque 2010](#).

LGs are invited to make use of available opportunities to submit their input prior to COP 16 in November 2010, using:

- Online questionnaire
- City Climate Catalogue (with free text submission option)
- Interviews (also video) , conferences and meetings

Results are fed into European and international policy discussions, and will directly benefit the Covenant of Mayors initiative. The project is also aimed at improving local-national dialogues and provides advocacy for enabling framework conditions to support local climate and energy action. So far two [European Local Government Positioning papers](#) are available. The final paper will be presented in early 2011.

Further interviews will follow, and items collected - so stay tuned and [post your input](#) before COP16!

Backing numbers: Low additional costs for stepping up to an EU target of 30%

The European Commission recently presented an [of the costs, benefits and](#) for moving beyond the EU's greenhouse gas reduction target for 2020 from 20% below 1990 levels to 30% once the conditions are met.

Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action, said: "Whether to increase our reduction target for 2020 from 20% to 30% is a political decision for the EU leaders to take when the timing and the conditions are right. Obviously the immediate political priority is to handle the crisis. But as we exit the crisis, the Commission has now provided input for a fact-based discussion."

Five key points of the communication are:

- Costs of meeting the 20% GHG reduction target have fallen by one-third. In 2008 the costs in 2020 were estimated at least €70 billion a year. Now, they are estimated at €48 billion.
- The additional costs in 2020 of going from the 20% to the 30% reduction target are estimated at €33 billion a year, leading to the total costs of estimated €81 billion a year in 2020.
- Achieving a 30% reduction target would reduce imports of oil and gas by some €40 billion a year in 2020.
- Stepping up to a 30% reduction target would reduce costs related to air pollution by €6.5-11 billion per year.
- The potential for further emission reductions is proportionally higher in Central and Eastern Member States. EU's cohesion policy can be an important instrument to mobilise the necessary public and private finance.

Bonn talks: Cancun can deliver if promises of help are kept

Today, 31 May 2010, the UN climate negotiations continue in Bonn, Germany. UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer already briefed the press about his expectations, saying that the process will be on track if the focus is kept on a common way forward towards a concrete and realistic goal in Cancún: "There is a growing consensus on what that first goal can be - namely, a full, operational architecture to implement effective, collective climate action." According to de Boer, Cancun can deliver an effective operational architecture, if promises of help to developing countries are kept – more details in [De Boer's speaking notes](#).

We will keep you posted on highlights relevant to local governments.

Upcoming Events – consult the [LG Action event calendar](#)

- UNFCCC June Talks - 31 May-11 June 2010 - Bonn, Germany
- SAVE Energy, SAVE Water, SAVE the Planet - 3 - 5 June 2010 - Sofia, Bulgaria
- Breakfast at Sustainability's – Using water more effectively - 7 June 2010 – Brussels, Belgium

The LG Action consortium:



LG Action associates: local government associations and networks that connect to LG Action and actively inform and involve their members:



LG Action supporters: local government networks supporting LG Action aims and ad hoc activities:



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