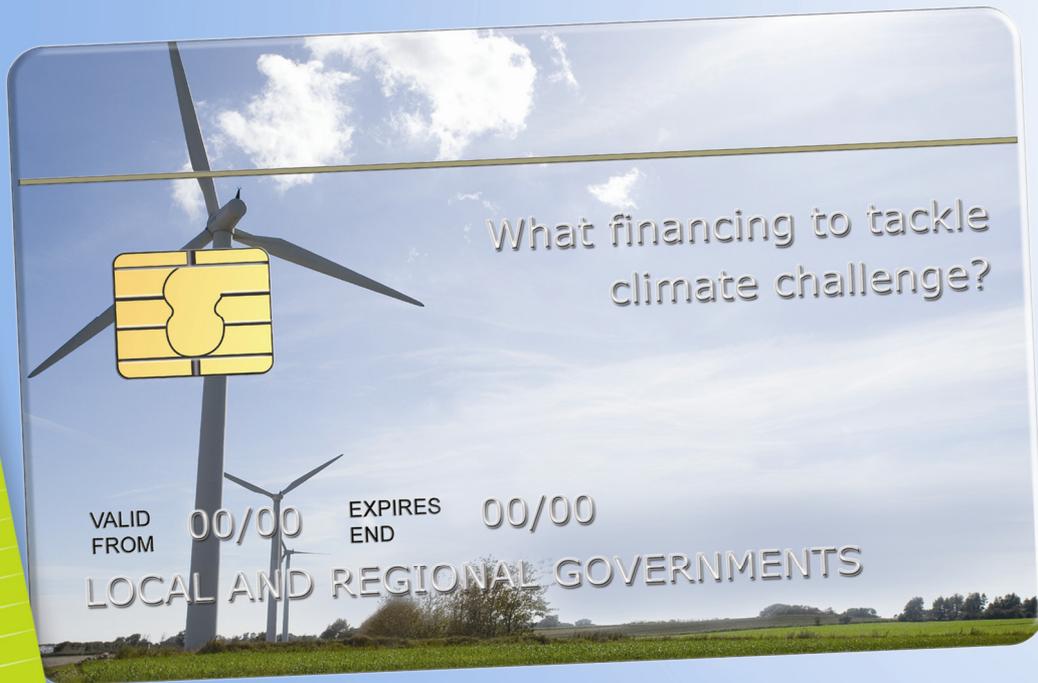




Resolution on the financing of local and regional actions against climate change



Conseil des Communes
& Régions d'Europe
Council of European
Municipalities & Regions

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS
VALID FROM 00/00 EXPIRES 00/00

RESOLUTION

**ON THE FINANCING OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL ACTIONS TO REACH
THE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE TARGETS**

CEMR Policy Committee,
Oslo, 3 June 2010

We, Mayors, elected representatives and officials from the municipalities, cities, provinces, counties and regions of Europe, meeting in Oslo, Norway, on 3 June on the occasion of the meeting of the Policy Committee of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, have agreed the following resolution:

Local and regional government can greatly contribute to the European and international climate objectives

1. Local and regional government can make a difference in the fight against climate change, considering their responsibilities in key fields such as spatial planning, energy, transport, public procurement or sustainable development, and their potential to influence the behaviour of the private sector and citizens.
2. Contributing to the achievement of the EU climate and energy objectives is both a chance and a challenge for local and regional government. Climate action has positive impacts in terms of economic development, green jobs, social cohesion and quality of life. Besides, not tackling the climate risk now may result in considerable costs in the future. However, investing in climate-friendly actions requires significant long-term financing, which local and regional authorities have difficulties to mobilize in times of financial and economic down-turn.
3. Cooperation between local and regional authorities is the way forward to fight climate change and adapt to its impacts. Thus, municipalities and regions can mutualise knowledge and expertise, easier access financing and adopt a more integrated approach, ensuring greater territorial, social and economic benefits. We believe that the Covenant of Mayors is a shining example of such successful partnerships.
4. We are convinced that the cooperation between private sector and public authorities is an essential part of the solution to finance local and regional climate policies. In particular, constructive collaboration through public-private partnerships should be further exploited. We also advocate for a greater offer of financial tools by private banks.

European and national support to better exploit the potential at local and regional level

5. The European Union is about to proceed to important policy reviews – of the European budget, the Cohesion Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy – and we call on the European institutions to recognise climate change as a funding priority for each of these policies, including the possibility for local and regional government to benefit from it.
6. National support is essential to ensure that local and regional authorities can fully exploit their potential of actions against climate change. We note with interest the local-national climate agreements and the climate and energy funds set up by some national governments, and we invite more Member States to initiate such cooperation schemes with municipalities and regions. Besides, national governments are in a position to stimulate knowledge building on climate and to support data gathering to help local and regional authorities assessing the impacts of their climate policies.
7. We acknowledge the efforts of the European Commission to provide access to financial support for local and regional authorities that commit themselves to ambitious climate and energy objectives. In particular, the launch of the ELENA facility of the European Investment Bank and the revision of the Structural Funds' Regulation are welcome. We would like to encourage the Commission to pursue these efforts and propose funding tools more adapted to smaller municipalities, in order to enable all local and regional government to take part and contribute with their citizens.
8. We welcome the pledge of the president of the European Commission, Mr. José Manuel Barroso, and the European Commissioner for energy, Mr. Günther Öttinger, to use the unspent money of the European Recovery plan – at least €115 million – to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at local and regional level. It is now essential that the Commission turns this announcement into concrete action. We also invite the Member States to back this proposal as soon as possible, so that the funds can rapidly benefit to innovative and ambitious policies of European municipalities and regions.
9. The auctioning of carbon allowances under the EU's emissions trading system (ETS) is an innovative tool to raise revenues for climate action. We ask for a political reflection on a financial mechanism enabling local and regional governments to benefit from a part of the new incomes which will become available from the auctioning of emission permits from European companies from 2013 onwards.

Committing more deeply to the Covenant of Mayors' initiative

10. By signing the Covenant of Mayors, more than 1700 municipalities already committed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable energy beyond the climate and energy objectives set up at European level. 70 regions, provinces and associations of local and regional authorities are also involved to support municipalities' efforts. CEMR considers that the Covenant of Mayors is a concrete and powerful demonstration of the will and capacity of local and regional authorities, and their representative associations, to act against climate change.
11. CEMR has been supporting the Covenant of Mayors from the start and is actively involved in the Covenant of Mayors' Office. We would like to express our wish to further contribute to the success of this initiative and officially recognize the Covenant of Mayors as a key pillar of our policy. Therefore, we take the decision that CEMR will become Supporting structure of the Covenant of Mayors.

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