



Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2017/2006(INI)

6.7.2017

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Regional Development

on the role of EU regions and cities in implementing the COP 21 Paris
Agreement on climate change
(2017/2006(INI))

Rapporteur: Gilles Pargneaux

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Regional Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that regions and cities have already shown their commitment to combating climate change as major contributors to the LPAA and NAZCA initiatives; welcomes initiatives such as the EU Covenant of Mayors and the Under 2 Degrees Memorandum of Understanding;
2. Calls for a better integration of regions and cities within the UNFCCC process, so as to establish a permanent direct dialogue between the different levels, starting at local and regional; stresses that this is particularly important given the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, which led many US states and cities to reiterate their commitment to reducing their GHG emissions;
3. Is concerned that extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, floods and droughts, are expected to affect many parts of Europe more frequently, making people and ecosystems more vulnerable as long as no adaptation measures are taken;
4. Calls for the creation of a system of Locally Determined Contributions, to be implemented in direct connection and complementarity with the National Determined Contributions (NDCs);
5. Calls on the Commission, the EIB and the Member States to focus on developing an appropriate administrative capacity of regions and cities in order to enable them to take full advantage of the public and private financing opportunities available at EU level;
6. Stresses the need to stimulate energy transition and local investment in climate mitigation and adaptation measures, by streamlining regulations, reducing bureaucracy, enabling innovative solutions, and encouraging partnerships with local communities and civil society, with a view to promoting climate action;
7. Welcomes the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's decision to draft a special report on cities and climate in 2023, and calls on the Commission to take an active part in its drawing-up and to champion a multi-level territorial vision of climate action.