

E U R O P E A N E C O N O M I C A R E A

FORUM OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE EEA EFTA STATES

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SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE EEA EFTA FORUM

Reykjavík
28-29 June 2018

Opinion on future climate and energy action in the context of the 2018 Katowice UN Climate Conference (COP24); a local perspective

Rapporteur: Mr Runar Bålsrud

The EEA EFTA Forum of Local and Regional Authorities:

- A. Having regard to the upcoming Katowice UN Climate Conference (COP24);
- B. Having regard to the European Union Committee of the Regions (CoR) draft outlook opinion “Climate governance after 2020: a European and global perspective – a contribution to the UNFCCC COP24” to be tabled at the CoR Plenary on 4-5 July 2018;
- C. Having regard to the Forum’s opinion on “Local climate measures in the context of the 2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP21)” of 17 November 2015;
- D. Having regard to the Forum’s opinion on “the European Union 2030 framework for climate and energy policies” of 26 June 2014;
- E. Noting the role of the Forum as a body in the EFTA structure.
 1. Emphasising the key role played by local and regional authorities in achieving and strengthening national climate change strategies. As they deal with mobility, transport, urban planning, construction, energy and green infrastructure, local and regional authorities are indispensable players in the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resilience to the effects of climate change;
 2. Underlining that local and regional authorities are instrumental in shaping the climate friendly communities of the future through long-term coordinated spatial and transport planning, policy formulation and provision of services in fields such as water supply, sewage, waste management, reduction of food waste, energy production and distribution, and ICT networks;
 3. Stresses that local and regional authorities have a key role to play in moving Europe towards a carbon neutral society having significant legal powers and responsibilities in this field and being closest to the citizens;

4. Stresses the importance of standardised calculation methods with common baseline assumptions for municipalities to calculate the effects of emission reduction measures in a beneficial way;
5. Highlights that a market for emission reductions, where local and regional authorities can describe planned climate measures and sell the calculated emission reductions to the national government, is a feasible way to encourage municipalities to reduce their CO₂ emissions and become more climate-friendly;
6. Calls for increased funding to be made available to local and regional authorities to enable them to effectively carry out measures to mitigate climate change and for adaptation;
7. Stresses the importance of cooperation and calls for consultation with local and regional authorities in the formulation and implementation of all climate strategies as the competent authorities and in line with the principle of subsidiarity;
8. Calls for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) regulatory framework to formally involve local and regional authorities;
9. Calls on national governments in the EEA EFTA States to strengthen the focus on public procurement and reward schemes that favour green choices in municipalities and regions and for citizens in general;
10. Calls for coordination among all public authorities to be promoted and guaranteed, and for the involvement of the public, and of social and economic stakeholders, to be fostered;
11. Asks the EEA EFTA Ministers to take into account the opinion of the Forum in discussions on climate policy and the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24).