

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

Ref. 14-130710

NINTH MEETING OF THE EEA EFTA FORUM

Grímsnes- og Grafningshreppur
26-27 June 2014

Opinion on the 2030 framework for climate and energy policies

Rapporteur: Torhild Bransdal

The EEA EFTA Forum of Local and Regional Authorities:

- A. Having regard to Annex XX of the EEA Agreement on Environment and Annex IV of the EEA Agreement on Energy;
- B. Having regard to the Communication from the Commission of 28 January 2014 on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030;
- C. Having regard to the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions of 31 January 2014 on the Green Paper on Framing 2030 Climate and Energy Policy;
- D. Noting the reinforced subsidiarity principle set out in the Lisbon Treaty and its explicit reference to the local and regional dimension and self-government;
- E. Noting the proportionality principle as laid down in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
- F. Acknowledging the impact of European Union law on local and regional authorities in the EEA EFTA States through the EEA Agreement;
- G. Noting the role of the Forum as a body in the EFTA structure:
 - 1. welcomes the 2030 framework for climate and energy policies as it brings predictability for market actors in the period after 2020;
 - 2. supports a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 40% by the end of 2030 in the European Union and that these reductions be made within the EU;
 - 3. questions whether the EU-wide target of 27% renewable energy share is ambitious enough for the Union to reach its 2050 target of 80% greenhouse gas emissions;
 - 4. underlines that local and regional authorities are in a position to shape the communities of the future through long-term spatial planning, policy formulation and provision of services in fields such as water supply, sewage, waste management,

reduction of food waste, energy production and distribution, ICT networks, roads and public transport;

5. stresses that local and regional authorities have a key role to play in moving EU towards a carbon neutral society having significant legal powers and responsibilities in this field and being closest to the citizens;
6. regrets that the framework does not adequately address the potential of local and regional action to support the EU's climate and energy targets;
7. asks for continued support at EU and national level to translate long-term strategy into actions at local level, be it through financial support and/or support for capacity building and exchange of good practices;
8. Asks the EFTA Ministers and the European Council to take into account the opinion of the Forum in discussions on climate and energy policy.