

TWELFTH MEETING OF THE EEA EFTA FORUM

Brussels
16-17 November 2015

**Opinion on local climate measures in the context of the 2015 Paris Climate Conference
(COP21)**

Rapporteur: Christian Haugen

The EEA EFTA Forum of Local and Regional Authorities:

- A. Having regard to the upcoming Paris Climate Conference (COP21);
 - B. Having regard to the European Union Committee of the Regions opinion „Towards a global climate agreement in Paris” of 15 October 2015;
 - C. Having regard to the Forum’s opinion on the European Union 2030 framework for climate and energy policies of 26 June 2014;
 - D. Noting the role of the Forum as a body in the EFTA structure.
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1. Emphasising the key role played by local and regional authorities in achieving and strengthening national climate change targets. Because 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 in a position to shape 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 EU 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 standardized calculation methods with common baseline assumptions in order 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 encouraging 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. Asks the EEA EFTA Ministers to take into account the opinion of the Forum in discussions on climate policy and COP21.