

Position of the MOT on the public consultation survey on the Future of the Covenant of Mayors initiative

September 2015



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I. Introduction

The Committee of the Regions has launched a survey on the Future of the Covenant of Mayors initiative in order to feed into the own-initiative opinion.

The network of the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) would like to participate in this consultation, in particular on aspects linked with cross-border cooperation.

Presentation of the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT - Transfrontier Operational Mission):

The Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, created in 1997, is both an association and a French inter-ministerial structure, which has the main objective of facilitating cross-border projects. Its missions are operational assistance to leaders of cross-border projects (project development, legal structures, studies, etc.), networking, assistance in the definition of overall strategies in cross-border cooperation, and implementation of European projects. The MOT brings together within its network sub-national authorities and their groupings, associations, cross-border structures, large corporations, states, etc. involved in cross-border cooperation and situated on both sides of the border. It has almost 70 members, from 11 European countries.

To date, the MOT has concentrated its work on cross-border proximity cooperation and assistance in the definition of policies regarding cross-border territories.

Website: www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu

II. The MOT contribution – answers to the survey

Fields marked with * are mandatory

Q1. Renewing the CO2 reduction commitment

* 1.1 Do you think the Covenant of Mayors initiative should continue beyond 2020 with a new CO2 emissions reduction target?

Yes

No

1.2 For 2030, the new target for reducing CO2 emissions should be:

At least 30%

At least 40%, as the EU target.

At least 50%

Other

1.3 Please specify your reason(s) for not extending the Covenant of Mayors beyond 2020:

Lack of financial resources of the participating cities and communities

Lack of technical expertise in the participating cities and communities

Lack of personnel in the participating cities and communities

Lack of support from citizens and stakeholders

Changes in the local political priorities

Unfavourable national framework for the implementation of relevant measures

Lack of political support at EU level for local sustainable energy policies

Other

By 2050, the EU aims to cut its emissions substantially — by 80-95%, compared to 1990 levels — in order to limit the increase in global warming to 2°C compared to temperatures in pre-industrial times.

* 1.4 Should the Covenant of Mayors also have a voluntary longer-term target, in addition to the 2030 target?

Yes

No

1.5 What should such a long-term target for the Covenant of Mayors initiative be?

Carbon neutrality by 2050

80-95% GHG reduction by 2050, compared to 1990, as stated in the EU “Roadmap for moving to a competitive low-carbon economy in 2050

Other

I have no opinion

Q2. Adding new commitments

The EU 2030 Policy Framework also sets an EU target of at least 27% of renewable energy in the final energy consumption and at least 27% extra energy savings by 2030.

* 2.1. Should the Covenant of Mayors initiative include additional commitment?

Yes, both renewable energy and energy savings

Yes, only renewable energy

Yes, only energy savings

No

I have no opinion

2.2. Which targets would you recommend for these commitments?

Same as the EU targets (i.e., at least 27% by 2030)

Higher than EU targets

Lower than EU targets

I have no opinion

* 2.3 Would you participate in concrete activities on topics such as transport, fuel poverty or demand response, to help with the energy transition?

Yes

No

Choose one or more answers

Sustainable transport

Energy poverty alleviation

Demand response

Decentralised cooperation to support other cities

Q3. Making the link between mitigation and adaptation [1]

Developed within the framework of the Covenant of Mayors, the Mayors Adapt [2] initiative was set up by the European Commission to encourage cities to take action to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. Relying on the Covenant's successful principles (e.g., voluntary commitment and political ownership at the local level, multi-level governance and participatory approach), Mayors Adapt currently involves close to 200 cities across Europe.

* 3.1. Should mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and therefore the Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt, be brought together under one single umbrella initiative?

Yes

No

I have no opinion

3.2 Please specify the reasons for your opinion:

It creates “win-win” solutions, since mitigation and adaptation measures are complementary.
It helps to harness political support and therefore reinforces the whole climate agenda.
It strengthens the work between the different municipal departments involved.
It eases reporting.
It fosters cooperation with relevant local stakeholders.
It is more cost-efficient.
It meets the expectations of citizens and local stakeholders.

3.3. How should the commitment to "adaptation" be integrated into the Covenant of Mayors?

As an optional commitment
As a mandatory commitment

3.4. Please specify the reasons that support your view.

Adaptation measures are not a top priority in our political agenda.
We do not have a mandate to develop and implement adaptation measures.
Adaptation measures are managed by separate entities.

Q4. Committing to a renewed Covenant of Mayors initiative

* 4.1 According to the possible developments for the Covenant of Mayors mentioned above, which renewed commitments would you be ready to sign up to?

CO2 reduction target only
CO2 reduction target and Adaptation
EU 2030 Framework targets (i.e. CO2 reduction, higher share of renewable energy, increased energy efficiency) only
EU 2030 Framework targets (i.e. CO2, renewable energy, energy efficiency) and Adaptation
 Not applicable
I have no opinion

Q5. Please help us further by providing any additional comments relevant to the Covenant of Mayors:

[open text field (max. 500 characters)]

Cross-border agglomerations face specific difficulties with regards to planning and differences between local, regional and national energy policies on either side of the border. The cross-border dimension should be taken into account in energy policy and integrated into territorial programming to ensure cohesion in the energy sector across a cross-border territory. Cooperation of neighbouring local authorities, businesses and research/development actors may lower costs. Local energy production (use of cross-border “smart grids” ...) may help resolve supply problems.

Additional information (beyond the 500 characters)

Cross-border energy cooperation
www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en/resources/topics-of-cooperation/themes/theme/show/energy/

Cross-border conurbations
www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en/resources/territories/cross-border-conurbations/

We very much support the Covenant of Mayors initiative and are convinced that agglomerations participating in the initiative on both sides of the border may also more easily cooperate.

Q6. Respondent Profile

* 6.1 Type of actor

Covenant of Mayors and/or Mayors Adapt Signatory
Covenant of Mayors Coordinator
Covenant of Mayors Supporter
Local and Regional Energy Agencies
Academia
Other – Cities or towns
Other – Provinces, Regions, etc.
 Other – Networks of local authorities
Other

* 6.2 Are you a member of the Committee of the Regions

Yes
No
I don't know

* 6.3 Country

FRANCE

* 6.4 Organisation/Institution you are representing

Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)

* Confidentiality: All individual responses will be kept confidential.

Privacy statement: I am informed and give my consent to the conditions according to which my data will be collected and processed. The data is collected and processed according to Regulation (EC) 45/2001. If needed, the Data Protection Officer of the Committee of the Regions may be contacted at data.protection@cor.europa.eu and you have the right to have recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor at edps@edps.europa.eu. Please note that your answers may be transmitted to CoR rapporteurs and other EU institutions and the Covenant of Mayors Office for information. Should you not agree to this, please inform us accordingly. I agree.

Yes
No

[1] Adaptation means anticipating the adverse effects of climate change and taking appropriate actions to prevent or minimise the damage they can cause, or taking advantage of opportunities that may arise. (Source: DG Climate Action website)

[2] Cities signing up to Mayors Adapt voluntarily commit: 1) to contribute to a more climate-resilient Europe (i.e. the overall aim of the EU Adaptation Strategy), 2) to develop local adaptation strategies or plans within the first two years of signing, and 3) to review the outcomes every two years. Mayors Adapt showcases cities' commitments, provides opportunities for networking and exchange of good practices between cities, provides technical support as well as links with EU funds.