



Climate Alliance



energycities



Brussels, 22 June 2017

## Joint statement of the Urban 5 – one voice, thousands of local governments<sup>1</sup>

# Localising the energy transition

Delivering the objectives of the Energy Union and implementing the Paris Agreement will require the combined effort of stakeholders at all levels of government. A strong role for local governments is crucial for success. Democratically elected, closest to the citizens and trusted most across administrative levels, they are well-positioned to localise the energy transition (i.e. implement it on the ground), delivering clean energy, providing hundreds of thousands of jobs and encouraging public participation.

The current negotiations around the Clean Energy Package and the upcoming debates on the EU budget provide a unique opportunity to empower cities and regions to deliver on green energy, green jobs and citizen engagement. To make the energy transition a success story, local governments need to be involved in a real policy-dialogue with member states, operate in a favourable regulatory framework and have the necessary resources. Jointly, we therefore call for:

1. **A robust governance framework that empowers local governments** to substantially contribute to the energy transition, that builds on available local plans, and that complements local efforts to improve the quality of life of citizens, e.g. by ending subsidies to fossil fuels;
2. **Ambitious energy and climate targets for 2030 and 2050** that bring Europe on track with the Paris Agreement, underpin the efficiency first principle, and boost local-level investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency and building renovation;
3. **A planning and reporting system**, under the governance regulation, whereby member states have to ensure that barriers hampering local stakeholders in delivering the Energy Union are identified, addressed, and removed;
4. Better **access to finance for cities, towns and regions to enable investments** in the local energy transition, including energy efficiency, decentralised generation and distribution of energy, decarbonisation efforts, and system integration;
5. A regulatory framework that **encourages citizens and energy communities to participate in the energy transition** through the right to self-produce and consume electricity, as well as through continued support schemes, guaranteed priority grid access and priority dispatch for renewable energy.

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<sup>1</sup> The Urban 5 comprises five large city networks which operate in the EU and are committed to sustainable urban development: Climate Alliance, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), Energy Cities, EURO CITIES, and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.