



**Committee of the Regions**

**ENVE-V-012**

**91st plenary session  
30 June and 1 July 2011**

**OUTLOOK OPINION  
of the  
Committee of the Regions  
on  
CLIMATE CHANGE MAINSTREAMING AND THE FUTURE EU  
BUDGET**

THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

- reiterates that local and regional authorities have a key role to play in the implementation of the Europe 2020;
- stresses that energy efficiency of buildings is a key concern;
- believes that increased transparency is needed to guide investments. Statistics for energy use and production should be public along with statistics of emissions;
- proposes that at least one separate specific priority line of the 2014-2020 Structural Funds should be dedicated to sustainable use and production of energy, giving this objective all the visibility and importance it deserves;
- calls for a specific urban strand of the Cohesion Policy which should provide support for the development of Sustainable Energy Action Plans, improvement and expansion of district heating, CHP, energy production and use of RES, public lighting, public transport and soft modes, energy efficiency in buildings, etc.) and create supporting services for local authorities such as local and regional energy agencies;
- reiterates that the ESF should focus on building human capacities at local level that will be crucial for the development of low energy cities in the future and will boost the local economies;
- supports more efficient funding mechanisms which could foster public private partnerships. In this area it would be e.g. low/none interest loans, bank guarantees, local revolving funds and other innovative financial engineering tools, which in accordance with the principle of additionality should be used in combination with the funding provided at the local and regional level from the Structural Funds.