Recommendations and best practices for regional and national endorsements and commitments in the Climate City Contracts

Introduction

The development of the Climate City Contract is a process that aims to mobilise governmental and non-governmental actors and engage them in a city's journey towards climate neutrality. The Climate City Contract is a living document that outlines concrete actions and estimated costs required to achieve climate neutrality in a city by 2030. Stakeholders wishing to support this ambition can express endorsements and/or concrete commitments within the Climate City Contract, prepared by each Mission City. The Climate City Contract is comprised of three parts: 1) Commitment, 2) Action Plan, and 3) Investment Plan.

The '**Commitment**' part of the Climate City Contract includes the *Signatories* section, listing all actors who want to support a city's journey towards climate neutrality. Each signatory is asked to sign and submit an individual commitment that is included in the *Annex* to the Commitment part. The content and structure of the individual commitment depend on the interests of each signatory, ranging from high-level endorsements to concrete commitments. The more specific they are, the better for the process.



A template for a basic endorsement was included in the Climate City Contract Resource Pack, which is a collection of helpful materials for cities to use when preparing their Climate City Contract. This is the simplest way for stakeholders to show their support for the city's Climate City Contract process.

It is desirable for individual commitments to get more specific over time, detailing concrete actions and projects that help cities achieve climate neutrality. Systematic iterations of the Climate City Contract provide cities the opportunity to re-engage signatories and refine their commitments. National and regional authorities are key actors who should ideally be involved in every city's Climate City Contract process. Without their support, it will be challenging for cities to accelerate climate action and achieve climate neutrality by 2030.

This document provides an overview of three distinct categories of commitments: **high-level endorsements**, **high-level commitments**, and **commitments proposing concrete actions**. These categories were developed by the NetZeroCities project specifically for this analysis of regional and national commitments in Climate City Contracts.

For each commitment category, the document offers recommendations for regional and national authorities interested in submitting such commitments, along with best practice examples drawn from existing Climate City Contracts. These best practice examples, submitted by regional and national authorities, are compiled in the final section of this document and referenced throughout, with page numbers indicating where each example can be found.

This project has received funding from the H2020 Research and Innovation Programme under the grant agreement n°101036519.

High-level endorsement



In a **high-level endorsement**, national and regional authorities express their overall appreciation and support for the city's 2030 climate neutrality ambition and its Climate City Contract. This endorsement signals that national or regional authorities recognise the city's commitment to the EU Cities Mission and its ambition to accelerate climate action beyond national climate targets, understanding that this will require significant resources and collaboration between actors across the national ecosystem. However, this endorsement does not outline any concrete commitments or action points from national or regional authorities.

The template for a basic endorsement, included in the Climate City Contract Resource Pack, reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, hereby commit to help make [name of the city] climate neutral by 2030. We agree on the joint ambition and commitments, as formulated in [name of the city] Climate City Contract."

This endorsement includes three key elements:

- the signatory supports the 2030 climate neutrality ambition of the city
- the signatory agrees with the actions outlined by the city to achieve climate neutrality
- the signatory wants to help the city achieve its climate neutrality objective

Recommendations for national and regional authorities submitting a high-level endorsement

- Clearly acknowledge the important role of the EU Cities Mission in achieving local, regional, national, European and international climate targets. Describe its role and impact within your national context.
- Acknowledge the city's role as a front-runner and highlight its potential to inspire and share experiences and insights with other cities at the national/regional level.
- Express your intention to support the city in its pursuit of climate neutrality by 2030, ideally by specifying ways the regional or national level can contribute.
- Highlight connections between national or regional climate objectives and the targets or actions outlined in the city's Climate City Contract. Describe how local climate neutrality efforts contribute to achieving broader national or regional climate targets.
- Recognise the need for stronger multi-level governance and collaboration to create conditions enabling cities to achieve climate neutrality.

Best practice examples from submitted Climate City Contracts



The importance of the EU Mission on 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030 is clearly stated.

The national level emphasises the importance of climate change mitigation on both local and national political agendas, while also recognising the EU Cities Mission's crucial role in this context (Norway, page 15). It clearly defines the role of the EU Cities Mission, which is to support more than 100 European cities on their journey towards climate neutrality and use them as role models for other municipalities (Austria, page 7).

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The city's achievements and efforts to achieve climate neutrality are acknowledged.

The commitment document acknowledges the substantial work and effort the city has already invested in achieving climate neutrality. It mentions key climate strategies, initiatives and actions undertaken by the city and expresses hope for the city to serve as a role model and lighthouse for other cities in implementing the national climate ambitions (Austria, page 7).

The intention to support Mission Cities by fostering an enabling environment is confirmed.

The ministries affirm their intention to foster a policy, governance and financial environment that enables the Belgian Mission Cities to achieve maximum impact, also beyond their own territories and communities (Belgium, page 10).

The correlation between ambitious local, regional, and national climate targets is emphasised.



The national level recognises that the city's participation in the EU Cities Mission and its Climate City Contract is closely related to national actions aimed at implementing international climate obligations. It emphasises a wish for the national and local level to work together to accelerate progress on common goals and create significant changes. The commitment document also references the National Energy and Climate Plan, noting that the actions outlined in the Climate City Contract will contribute to achieving its goals (Poland, page 23).

The local 2030 climate neutrality objective is recognised as a challenge that requires better multi-level governance and collaboration.

The commitment document acknowledges that achieving climate neutrality by 2030 presents a significant organisational and budgetary challenge for cities, requiring close collaboration across all levels of government. It identifies key regional and national authorities that should collaborate with the city and outlines national and regional support measures and projects that have provided support to the city to date (Austria, page 7).

High-level commitment

In a **high-level commitment**, national and regional authorities go beyond expressing overall appreciation for cities' climate ambitions by outlining current national programmes, initiatives and actions that deliver support for cities to achieve climate neutrality. They may also highlight high-level, strategic actions they pledge to implement to support cities on their path to climate neutrality. However, this commitment does not include any concrete actions, projects, success indicators or timelines.

Recommendations for national and regional authorities submitting a high-level commitment



- Provide more details about your involvement as a national or regional authority in implementing the EU Cities Mission in your country. For example, by indicating the national/regional coordinating authority, indicating other relevant national/regional authorities, identifying concrete contact persons, or describing your role and responsibilities.
- Outline existing national/regional programmes, initiatives and mechanisms that can support cities in their climate neutrality efforts. Ideally, include information on plans to integrate the Cities Mission approach into the existing instruments, for example, by

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incorporating urban climate neutrality into existing support schemes or allocating additional resources for urban climate neutrality.
- Acknowledge that future national or regional climate plans, strategies, and initiatives will incorporate the Cities Mission approach and the specific context of Mission Cities. Ideally, outline how the needs and circumstances of Mission Cities will be addressed in these upcoming plans or strategies.
- Express your support for facilitating the exchange of experiences and insights between Mission Cities and other cities at the regional or national level, as well as for scaling up and replicating innovative solutions, practices and initiatives.

Best practice examples from submitted Climate City Contracts



The responsibility for coordinating the EU Cities Mission within the national context is assigned to a specific national ministry or agency.

The commitment document clearly identifies the national ministry responsible for coordinating the implementation of the EU Cities Mission and overseeing the work of the Mission Cities in the country. This ministry recognises the need for enhanced multi-level governance and coordination, committing to initiate and explore different approaches to achieve this (Norway, page 17).

National ministries or agencies relevant for the implementation of the EU Cities Mission within the national context are identified.

The commitment document specifies that the coordinating ministry collaborates with several other ministries to implement the EU Cities Mission in the country. They are responsible for policy areas relevant to climate neutrality, such as digitalisation, public governance, climate and environment, industry, agriculture, energy, transport, health, education and research (Norway, page 17).

Existing national/regional programmes, initiatives and activities that support cities in their work towards climate neutrality are identified.

The commitment document highlights national initiatives, tools, guidelines and funding instruments as helpful resources for cities working towards climate neutrality. One highlighted resource is the roadmap for smart and sustainable cities and communities in Norway, which will be updated in 2024-2025 to incorporate insights and principles from the EU Cities Mission (Norway, pages 18-22).

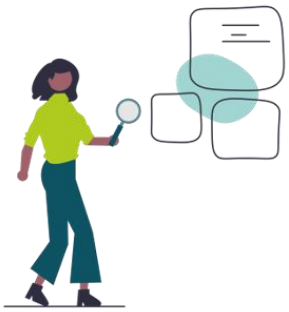
The commitment document outlines initiatives from the National Recovery and Resilience Plan that promote climate neutrality in cities. For instance, it includes the issuance of grant calls for municipalities and local entities to implement low-emission zones and support the sustainable and digital transformation of urban transport (Spain, pages 33-34).

Relevant high-level support activities to be provided by national or regional authorities are outlined.

- Conduct a permanent dialogue with Mission Cities to help them achieve climate neutrality (Poland, page 23).
- Build a cooperation platform between national ministries and cities involved in the Cities Mission (Poland, page 23).
- Implement a shared strategy for sustainable urban development in the region, using funding from the European Regional Development Fund (Region of Gothenburg, page 35).
- Develop a framework to facilitate the sharing and transparency of data and indicators relevant to the EU Cities Mission and the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change (Region of Valencia, page 26).

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Support is provided to facilitate scaling up Mission Cities' initiatives and extending the reach of their outcomes.



The region expresses its support for facilitating coordination between municipalities in the Gothenburg metropolitan region to enable upscaling of initiatives and regional reach (Region of Gothenburg, page 35).

The ministry is exploring how the national level can support deploying the knowledge and outcomes generated by the work in the Mission Cities (Norway, page 17).

The region commits to promote, transfer and scale up innovations and systemic transformations with a metropolitan vision, thereby helping to overcome municipal boundaries (Region of Valencia, page 25).

Consider ambitious cities' needs and circumstances in the development of future climate plans and strategies.

The ministry states that the measures in the updated Medium-term Climate Change Policy Plan, aimed at achieving carbon neutrality in Finland by 2035, will consider the specific situations and needs of cities with ambitious climate policies (Finland, pages 12-13).

Commitment proposing concrete actions

In a **commitment that proposes concrete actions** to support cities in their climate neutrality work, national and regional authorities outline specific actions, projects and support measures tailored to cities' needs. Each action should include details on timelines, expected outcomes and success indicators. These actions provide essential, targeted support beyond high-level commitments, offering cities meaningful resources to accelerate their climate goals.

Recommendations for national and regional authorities submitting a commitment proposing concrete actions



- Establish a national mission for climate-neutral cities that draws inspiration from the EU Cities Mission, adapting its approach and methodology to fit your country's unique context.
- Allocate resources to establish a national platform for climate-neutral cities in your country to foster dialogue and collaboration among local, regional and national authorities, as well as with the private sector, research institutions and civic organisations, to accelerate the transition towards climate neutrality.
- Provide targeted solutions and support for specific interventions outlined in a city's Climate City Contract, such as funding for specific projects, assistance in overcoming legislative barriers or providing access to expert support for project implementation.
- Commit to address specific national or regional legislative or regulatory barriers that hinder or delay a city's progress towards its climate goals. This includes exploring innovative solutions, such as regulatory sandboxes, to overcome these obstacles.
- Assist cities in securing funding for their decarbonisation projects by leveraging regional and national funding sources.
- Establish new funding programmes or dedicated funds to support cities in achieving their climate neutrality goals.

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Best practices examples from submitted Climate City Contracts

A National Mission for Climate Neutral Cities was created, and a national platform was launched.

The commitment document highlights the adoption of the Mission approach within the national context, leading to the development of a National Mission for Climate Neutral Cities. It further details specific national funding instruments, including a dedicated Research, Technology, and Innovation (RTI) Focus Area for climate-neutral cities, designed to support Austrian cities on their path to climate neutrality. Additionally, the document references other funding programmes that complement this RTI Focus Area, providing a comprehensive support framework (Austria, page 7).

A multi-stakeholder collaboration platform for advancing climate neutrality in cities was created.

The commitment document introduces the multi-stakeholder innovation and collaboration platform for advancing the climate neutrality of Spanish cities, citiES 2030. The platform supports the implementation of the Cities Mission in Spain by providing a wide range of services, including capacity building, drafting and monitoring Climate City Contracts, and developing local systemic innovation platforms to design transformative project portfolios (Spain, pages 31-32).

Concrete city-level projects identified to receive regional or national support.

The commitment document highlights national support for a large-scale sustainable mobility project identified by the city in its Climate City Contract as a priority action in the mobility and transport sector. The national ministry will facilitate the project's implementation by providing funding through a dedicated national funding programme (Austria, page 8).

Conclusions

As Climate City Contracts evolve through iterations, the expectation is that regional and national commitments will also become bolder and more detailed, outlining concrete actions to support cities in achieving their climate neutrality goals. Such support from regional and national authorities will be critical for addressing key challenges, including regulatory and legislative barriers, funding gaps, limited skills and expertise, and the engagement of important stakeholders such as regional and national private sector actors.

As national support structures adopting the EU Cities Mission approach continue to emerge, national versions of Climate City Contracts have also been developed. This trend first emerged in countries like Sweden and Spain, where national platforms have supported cities in developing national Climate City Contract. Meanwhile, Austria's national support structure has assisted cities in developing and improving strategies to achieve climate neutrality by 2040. Such national Climate City Contracts, or similar strategies, also present an opportunity for regional and national authorities to make concrete commitments to support cities in their climate neutrality efforts.



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Translation

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

between

the provincial capital of Klagenfurt at Lake Wörthersee,

the Federal Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) and

the regional government of Carinthia.

on the implementation of the Austrian participation in the EU mission "100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030" (EU Cities Mission).

Relevance of the EU Cities Mission

In its climate targets, the European Union has pledged to reduce CO2 emissions by at least 55 percent by 2030 compared to the level of 1990. The basis for this is the European Green Deal (EGD) as a key activity of the European Commission. This includes a sustainable growth strategy for a climate-neutral and resource-conserving economy. With the Climate Agreement of Paris in 2015, Austria also committed to limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, if possible even below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

At an urban dimension, the European Commission launched the mission "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030", which supports 100 highly ambitious European cities to becoming climate neutral by 2030. These European model cities are to serve as role models for all cities in Europe and also globally as pioneers of climate neutrality. Successful measures and learning effects are to be replicated on the basis of their experience and best practices are to be replicated and promoted in order to promote the achievement of climate neutrality in all cities.

An indispensable prerequisite for successful climate protection is solid anchoring at the local level, in the cities and municipalities. The provincial capital of Klagenfurt at Lake Wörthersee has already been an exemplary in the field of climate actions, as impressively demonstrated by its Smart City Strategy, and has thus created the prerequisites as the only Austrian city to be included in the group of European pilot cities (100 in the EU, another 12 in associated countries) of the EU Cities Mission. Klagenfurt will be an important role model and lighthouse in the implementation of national ambitions for climate protection measures and a pioneer for cities and municipalities in Austria.

Achieving climate neutrality by 2030 is a major organizational and budgetary challenge for a city, which in the case of the City of Klagenfurt requires close cooperation with the regional government of Carinthia and the Federal Government. The BMK (federal ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology) has already significantly supported the application of the city of Klagenfurt by financing the preliminary project "Mission KS 30" within the framework of "FIT4UrbanMission".

In addition, with the national mission "Climate Neutral City – Klimaneutrale Stadt", an RTI focal point was initiated, in which Austrian cities are supported on their way to climate neutrality. The BMK's RTI offerings are supplemented by other funding programs such as "EBIN -Emission-free buses and infrastructure".

Translation

Key project KEBIP

A key project of the city of Klagenfurt on the way to climate neutrality by 2030 and thus for the ambitions within the framework of the EU Cities Mission is the KEBIP project (Klagenfurt Electric Bus Investment Project) with an investment volume of € 144 million. The KEBIP project was selected by an independent, international jury of experts of the BMK's EBIN funding program as particularly worthy of support. The next step is to ensure its implementation.

Joint Declaration of Intent

Due to the importance of the city of Klagenfurt, as the only Austrian EU Mission City and its lighthouse effect, which reaches far beyond Austria, the BMK and the regional government of Carinthia, continue to support the provincial capital Klagenfurt at Lake Wörthersee in the participation in the EU-Cities Mission to achieve climate neutrality by 2030 and in the measures required for its achievement.

On the part of the BMK and the regional government of Carinthia, we are in favor of the participation of the provincial capital Klagenfurt in the mission "100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030". We acknowledge the corresponding role model and pioneer function on the way to climate neutrality in Carinthia and in entire Austria.

As partners at the federal, regional, and city levels, we consider the mission "100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030" as a valuable opportunity to learn from and with other committed European cities, to build capacities in the field of climate protection and, in close cooperation with the city, the regional and federal government and the European Union to work together on the process of achieving climate neutrality and shaping the corresponding pathway. We expect this European mission to provide important impetus and solution modules for achieving the climate targets at the national and regional level.

Vienna, 31.01.2023

Signature

Federal minister Leonore Gewessler, BA

Klagenfurt

Signature

Regional governor of Carinthia, Dr. Peter Kaiser

Klagenfurt

Signature

Mayor of the provincial capital of Klagenfurt at Lake Wörthersee, Christian Scheider

Appendix: Letter of Support from the Federal Government

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Minister of Development Cooperation and of Major Cities
Minister of Climate, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Green Deal

Brussels, 6th of October 2023

"EU Mission on Climate Neutral and Smart Cities"

Commitment of the Federal Government in supporting the 4 selected Belgian EU Mission Cities

The EU Mission "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030" aims to support the just transition towards climate neutral and smart European cities in 2030. As such, European cities can substantially contribute to the Green Deal target of reducing emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and, in more practical terms, to offer cleaner air, safer transport and less congestion and noise to their citizens.

As part of the 112 European cities selected for this EU Mission, the City of Antwerp, the City of La Louvière, the City of Leuven and the Brussels Capital Region are taking bold steps to accelerate their efforts and, as trailblazers, contribute to Belgium's path towards a climate neutral and sustainable future.

The Climate City Contract they deliver within the framework of the EU Mission consists of an Action Plan, Commitments and an Investment Plan. The presented pathways for an accelerated climate transition within each of these cities will, amongst others, address identified barriers and define breakthrough projects to leverage actual and future impact. Policy coherence across different authorities and innovative finance are important levers to facilitate the successful implementation of the action plans that will be shared with the European Commission.

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As Belgian Federal ministers in charge of Development Cooperation and of Major Cities, and of Climate, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Green Deal respectively, we recognise that the efforts at city level will contribute to the realisation of the climate ambition at national level. We confirm our intention to contribute to a policy, governance and financial context in which these Belgian EU Mission cities can create maximum impact, including beyond their own territory and communities.

Under the Belgian presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2024, we intend to organise a high level event in the context of the EU Mission on Climate Neutral and Smart Cities. In doing so, we aim to contribute to the exchange of knowledge and expertise between Belgian and European cities, including through the support for innovation and research networks and identifying potential incoherence in policies. With respect, gratitude and pride for the courage of our EU Mission Cities to radically formulate answers to this complex societal challenge called climate transition, and to enhance this challenge as the number one opportunity for a healthy and prosperous future for all.

Caroline GENNEZ
Minister of Development Cooperation and of Major Cities

Zakia KHATTABI
Minister of Climate, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Green Deal

Final version 9 Oct 2023 / MEE and MEnv

VALTIONEUVOSTO
STATSRÅDET

CLIMATE MISSION FINLAND 2030

National commitment to Climate City Contracts for EU Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities

Background for national-level participation in the mission

EU missions are a new collaborative approach developed under Horizon Europe to address some of the greatest challenges of our time. One of the five missions launched by the European Commission in 2021 is to "deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030", or the Cities Mission (referred to as the Climate Mission below). Based on an open call conducted by the Commission, six Finnish cities were selected to be among the 100 European cities participating: Tampere, Turku, Helsinki, Espoo, Lahti and Lappeenranta.

The six Finnish cities of the Climate Mission are committed to leading the way by being some of the first cities to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and by acting as centres for experimentation and innovation. At the same time, the cities are supporting and promoting Finland's achievement of the national goal of climate neutrality by 2035. According to emission calculations by the Finnish Environment Institute, the six cities were able to reduce their per capita CO_2 emissions by an average of 47% between 2007 and 2023.

Cities play a key role in achieving carbon neutrality, as their active climate work contributes directly to emission reductions in various sectors. Cities can actively influence the amount of their own greenhouse gas emissions (carbon footprint) and, in many ways, promote and accelerate emission reductions (carbon handprint) among residents, companies, communities and other stakeholders. Key areas in this include the energy system, transport, city planning, construction, carbon sinks and public procurement. Cities offer great opportunities for pioneering and innovation, as well as networks of operators. The largest cities also have significant in-house development resources, expertise and opportunities to invest in sustainable solutions and infrastructure.

The Finnish cities participating in the Climate Mission have prepared a Climate City Contract (CCC), which will be concluded with the European Commission. It is strongly recommended that Climate City Contracts be built on three levels, including the national level. In several other EU countries, the ministry level has entered or is entering into the Climate City Contract. The primary purpose of the national-level commitment is to better link national and city-level actions in climate policy through close vertical coordination. Thus, the mission provides a strategic alliance of climate work between cities and central government.

In order to stay on the emissions reduction path, we need more and stronger cooperation and partnerships between central government and cities. Traditionally, central government can support cities through legislation, economic steering measures or by sharing information and information steering. These can be strengthened and developed with new measures and tools to support and empower cities' climate action. Through joint and systematic climate work, Finland can create a new competitive advantage and thereby improve the international competitiveness of our country. Environmentally sustainable solutions, the circular economy, energy efficiency, the transition to renewable energy and the related development work all create new innovations, jobs and export opportunities for Finland.

The Government Programme emphasises climate and energy policy and zero-emission solutions as well as co-operation for stopping the biodiversity loss. It places particular emphasis on the carbon handprint and nature handprint, which can be significantly

increased and promoted by concrete measures, as cities are export drivers and testbeds for smart climate solutions.

At the application stage of the Climate Mission, the national level was strongly involved in supporting the Finnish mission cities, and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment drafted support letters for the Finnish cities that expressed interest in the mission. A national Climate Mission network has been established in Finland to bring all relevant actors to the same table for discussions, information sharing and cooperation. The network has also supported the Finnish mission cities in concrete terms by launching a co-creation project to support the cities' work. The aim of the project is to help, in a targeted way, the Finnish mission cities to prepare and carry out effective climate action, as well as to provide support for the joint preparation of the outputs required by the mission.

Commitment of the national authority

With this contract appendix, the national authorities undertake, within the framework of the Climate Mission, to contribute to the transformation of the cities into climate-neutral entities that use smart solutions for climate work by 2030. The national authorities strive to do this through their own national actions, which complement the actions of the cities themselves.

An ambitious climate policy and investments in the green transition will strengthen the Finnish economy both immediately and in the longer term. Green investments will create work in Finland during the construction phase, but they will keep increasing the domestic value added even after their completion. In addition to the emergence of new production, the abandonment of fossil fuels will make the Finnish economy more domestic and also more stable and predictable in relation to the fluctuations of the global market.

According to the Finnish Climate Change Act, the national carbon neutrality target will be achieved in 2035. The climate emission reduction targets are 60% from the 1990 level by 2030, 80% by 2040 and 90–95% by 2050. The Climate Change Act identifies the significant role and obligation of cities and municipalities in achieving these climate targets.

According to the EU's Effort Sharing Regulation, by 2030 Finland should reduce emissions from the effort sharing sector by 50% from the 2005 level. The Medium-term Climate Change Policy Plan (KAISU) will be updated during the term of Petteri Orpo's government in accordance with the Climate Change Act. In connection with the update, the objectives for the different sectors and the necessary new measures will be reviewed.

Measures of the national authority

The participation of national authorities through various measures includes direct and indirect actions in support of the mission cities. Here, support is understood in a broad sense and may take the form of, for example, policy support (parallel objectives and their reinforcement), the identification and compilation of existing initiatives in support of the Climate Mission (indirect funding), or the channelling of cities into possible financial instruments.

Some key measures of the national authority to support the Climate Mission cities in achieving their objectives in the coming years are presented below.

<u>Medium-term Climate Change Policy Plan</u>
According to the Finnish Climate Change Act, the Government must adopt a Medium-term Climate Change Policy Plan (KAISU) each parliamentary term. The objective of the plan is the carbon neutrality of the whole of Finland by 2035. The preparation of the new Medium-term Climate Change Policy Plan has started with the updating of the baseline projections for different sectors. After updating the baseline projections, evaluations of the necessary

new measures will be made, taking into account the Government Programme. The emission reduction effects and financing needs of the new measures will be assessed at the same time. The planning of new measures will also take into account the situation and needs of cities with ambitious climate policies.

Climate and energy strategy

A climate and energy strategy is being prepared. The strategy will cover all of the sources of greenhouse gas emissions (emissions trading sector, effort sharing sector, land use sector) and sinks (land use sector). The preparation of the climate and energy strategy emphasises emission reduction measures, a well-functioning energy market, clean electricity production and Finland's energy security as part of the sustainability transition. Impacts related to society and competitiveness are also at the heart of the strategy. Finland's goal is to increase its climate handprint and to advance its carbon neutrality through effective and sustainable means. A smooth permit process is a prerequisite for the creation of clean investments.

Municipal Climate Change Solutions Programme

The Municipal Climate Solutions Programme accelerates, promotes and funds local climate work. So far, the programme has funded nearly 150 different climate projects around Finland, and it will continue until the end of 2024. The programme has brought the climate work of municipalities and regions to the centre stage of the preparation and implementation of national climate policy.

Agreements concerning land use, housing and transport

The agreement procedure concerning land use, housing and transport (MAL) with the seven largest city regions will be continued to strengthen the partnership between the government and the city regions in related matters. Agreements concerning land use, housing and transport promote a low-carbon and sustainable urban structure and transport system, the digitalisation of transport and the planning of residential areas and housing production to meet the need. The agreements ensure the prerequisites for the growth and accessibility of city regions through investments in infrastructure and housing production. A denser community structure makes it possible to mitigate climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the consumption of natural resources, as well as prevent the reduction of carbon sinks. The central government finances the state subsidies of agreements concerning land use, housing and transport.

Ecosystem agreements

The main objective of ecosystem agreements is innovative and pioneering cities that, based on their strengths, take advantage of the opportunities offered by digitalisation, other new technologies and carbon neutrality in order to achieve sustainable growth. Approximately five (5) of the 16 city regions with ecosystem agreements have direct content in their agreement providing for the development of climate change mitigation and smart solutions. This makes ecosystem agreements one of the important government instruments to support the implementation of the Climate Mission, especially from the point of view of the carbon handprint.

Business Finland/Decarbonized Cities Programme

The objective of the Decarbonized Cities Programme is for ten cities worldwide to significantly reduce their carbon emissions thanks to Finnish expertise by 2030. Competence in integrated system solutions is key to achieving this goal, and it will also give a concrete boost to the carbon handprint beyond the borders of Finland.

Circular Economy Programme

The Circular Economy Programme aims at the sustainable use of natural resources. The network of expertise on the circular economy (KiSu) supports municipalities and companies in, for example, finding funding opportunities as well as through education and co-creation projects. Currently, ministries, research institutes, 20 municipalities and a number of regions

and key industries are preparing a proposal for a voluntary commitment to promote the circular economy. In this "green deal" process, they make assessments of future directions and goals and develop together the most effective measures to promote the circular economy. The objective is a circular economy commitment for the whole of Finland.

Energy aid and energy efficiency
The objective of energy aid is to promote the development of new and innovative solutions for achieving a low-carbon energy system in the long term. Energy aid can be granted to companies and communities of all sizes, such as municipalities, parishes and foundations. Energy aid can be granted for investment or research projects that promote energy savings or efficiency in energy production or use. The aid is granted by Business Finland or the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment.

Networking to achieve sustainable and climate-neutral development
The government has launched networks to pursue carbon neutrality, which support and provide members of the networks with expert assistance, information and development ideas, as well as implementing the government's goals for strengthening a climate-neutral society.

Towards Carbon Neutral Municipalities (HINKU) is a network that brings together municipalities with ambitious aims to reduce greenhouse emissions, businesses that offer environmentally friendly products and services, and climate and energy experts. The HINKU network involves nearly 100 municipalities and five regions. The network shares information on best practices in climate change mitigation, supports municipal climate work and creates demand for climate-friendly products and services.

Finnish Sustainable Communities (FiSu) is a network of resource-smart pioneering cities and municipalities striving for zero emissions, zero waste and globally sustainable consumption. The aim of the network is to help develop new low-emission operating methods and solutions that build sustainable wellbeing and growth based on local strengths.

Duration and nature of the commitment

The commitment is a cooperation document through which the government demonstrates its support for the work of the Climate Mission cities and the will to cooperate with the cities that have signed a Climate City Contract. It does not formally bind the parties, for example to funding. The commitment can be updated, if necessary, in addition to the updates of the cities' Climate Contracts every two years. This document serves as a contract appendix for the cities that have drawn up a Climate City Contract.

Signatures

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of the Environment make the commitment on behalf of the national authority

Petri Peltonen
Secretary of State (acting)
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment
Finland

Juhani Damski
Secretary of State
Ministry of the Environment
Finland

ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Minister

To the cities of Oslo, Stavanger and Trondheim

Your ref	Our ref	Date
	22/1655-	June 2024

Horizon Europe Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart cities

Norway participates fully in the Horizon Europe programme and recognizes that participation in the programme is important to achieve global, European and national political ambitions. Mitigating climate change is of high importance on the political agenda both at the national and municipality level. Hence the Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart cities (Cities Mission) is very important in this respect.

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is coordinating the work of the Cities Mission in Norway. The Norwegian government is fully supporting the ambitions of the three Norwegian cities, Oslo, Stavanger and Trondheim, in their ambitions to reach climate neutrality.

The Government expects Norwegian municipalities to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to adapting to a changing climate. Numerous policy documents and guidelines are stating this and are providing guidance on how it can be done. There are also several existing national policy tools and support mechanisms that can support the cities in their work.

Norwegian municipalities have a high degree of autonomy and have the authority for spatial planning, as well as societal planning in their respective municipality. The Norwegian planning system is based on a national framework that guides municipalities in their planning as to what topics that must be taken into consideration in the municipal planning. Climate change mitigation is one of them.

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The attached document is elaborating how the Norwegian government strives to help the cities in reaching their aim of climate neutrality and thus supporting the Cities Mission.

Yours sincerely



Erling Sande

Relevant national measures supplementing EU-tools and mechanisms

1. **General**
2. **Funding arrangements**
3. **Financing**
4. **Other measures**
5. **Research & development**

1. General

Participation in the EU Missions is anchored at the highest level of the Norwegian Government because they are cross-disciplinary and relevant for the policy areas of several ministries. For the Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is coordinating the work and is cooperating particularly closely with the Ministry of Digitalisation and Public Governance and the Ministry of Climate and Environment in the follow-up of the mission. Other relevant ministries are the ones responsible for industry, agriculture, energy, transport, health and education and research.

In addition, the close cooperation with Research Norway and Innovation Norway is of utmost importance. They have an important role in mobilizing different actors in the private sector and in the research communities. Other agencies and directorates are also involved.

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is fully aware of the need for multilevel governance and coordination in the follow-up of this Mission, and the Ministry will take an initiative to exploring ways of achieving this. The work will be seen in relation to other national strategies and initiatives, and in relation to potential changes in laws and regulations.

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is furthermore looking closely into how we can help to deploy the knowledge and outcomes from the work being done in the cities that are directly involved in the mission. To support the cities' transition and to build capacity in multilevel governance, working mission based, in innovation and on implementation we have involved the organisation Design and Architecture Norway (DOGA). DOGA is one of the Government's agencies for innovation and value creation.

DOGA has considerable experience in creating meeting places between creative talents, business actors and the public sector and to find new solutions. We would like to use DOGA in developing a national hub for existing networks and actors with the intent to deploy knowledge and experiences.

The main policy tools for reducing emissions in Norway are national measures like CO_2-taxes and the emissions trading system, but there are also several existing policy tools and

support mechanisms in the Norwegian political system that can support the cities in their work. This paper elaborates on this.

1. Funding arrangements

a. Urban Growth agreements

Norway has agreements between the state, counties and municipalities to enhance the integration of land use and transport policy in order to achieve a national goal of zero growth in personal car transport. They include considerable state financing of transport projects in order to promote public transport, biking and pedestrians. The Zero Growth target in personal car use and introduction of zero emission cars combined, will contribute to significant GHG-reduction. Today, five Norwegian city regions have Urban Growth Agreements: Oslo area, Bergen area, Trondheim area, Stavanger area and the city of Tromsø. Proposals for new agreements have recently been concluded in two new urban areas: The Kristiansand area and Fredrikstad/Sarpsborg. According to our National Transport Plan 2025-2036 further two city regions can be included. In addition, the Norwegian National Transport Plan 2022-2033 introduced a new funding scheme for environmental urban transport covering the city regions of Bodø, Ålesund, Haugalandet, Grimstad/Arendal and Vestfold. State funding to urban areas has increased significantly over time and is nearly 7,5 billion NOK (0,7 billion EUR) in 2024. According to the new National transport plan 2025-2036 the government will allocate 88 billion NOK to urban areas over the next 12 years. This amounts to approximately 7,3 billion NOK per year.

b. Other funding arrangements

The cities can apply, but the scope of the arrangement is not necessarily climate neutrality, and their application will be in competition with other applicants:

"Klimasats" is a support scheme administered by the Norwegian Environment Agency for municipalities and county municipalities that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to the transition to a low-emission society. Funding contributes to everything from making ambitious climate requirements in public procurement and additional costs for using emission-free technology, to comprehensive transport and land-use planning that provides more efficient and sustainable communities. Since its inception Klimasats has provided funding for more than 2000 projects all across Norway, and about 144,8 million Euros have been allocated in total to the scheme in the national budget.

Enova SF, which is owned by the Ministry of Climate and Environment, contributes towards Norway's emission reduction commitments and contributes to the transition to a low-emission society. Enova supports climate and energy solutions across the economy mainly through the granting of investment aid with an aim to reducing barriers and stimulating lasting market development. Enova manages the Climate and energy Fund based on 4-year agreements with the ministry of climate and Environment. Approximately 730 million euros are added to the fund annually. The rolling four-year agreements between Enova and the Ministry give Enova a wide degree of freedom and flexibility to respond quickly to new opportunities and to support those

projects that offer the greatest opportunities to influence developments. Among Enova's current support programs, the most relevant for cities are the support for construction machinery and mobile charging stations, support for heavy zero-emission vehicles, as well as several programs for energy use in buildings.

The Green Platform Initiative provides funding for enterprises and research institutes engaged in green growth and restructuring driven by research and innovation. Cities may be project partners. The objective is to trigger opportunities for green value creation through major projects. These should comprise the whole value chain from research and knowledge production to testing, commercialisation and industrialisation of sustainable, green products and services. The Research Council of Norway, Innovation Norway and Siva manage the funds through different types of applications and policy instruments to ensure that users find the process easy.

The **Environmental Technology Scheme** (Innovation Norway) provides funding for innovation projects. The purpose of an innovation project is to develop or significantly improve a new product, process or service. At the core of the project are research and development activities. The grants for innovation projects are intended to strengthen the enterprise's competitiveness and trigger the potential for sustainable growth. This scheme might also be relevant for an enterprise's co-operation.

2. Financing

Kommunalbanken Norway (KBN) is a local government funding agency 100 per cent owned by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development. Today, KBN is defined as a state instrumentality serving a public policy function of providing low cost funding to Norwegian municipalities. Among the banks tasks is to offer green loans with lower interest rates for projects that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency or represent an adaptation to climate change, within seven categories: (i) buildings, (ii) renewable energy, (iii) transportation, (iv) waste and circular economy, (v) water and wastewater, (vi) land use and area projects and (vii) climate change adaptation. By choosing green loans from KBN to finance sustainable investments, customers will have access to the green bond market while the bank does the framework, administration and reporting work. Per Q1 in 2024 KBN's total lending portfolio was 357 billion NOK (31 billion Euro). The green lending portfolio was 54,2 billion NOK (4,8 billion Euro).

Innovation Norway provides loans and guarantees to companies throughout the country that have growth potential. **Innovation loans** are offered primarily to small and medium-sized businesses throughout the country and in all industries and sectors, but the offer also applies to large companies. Innovation loans are not limited to specific purposes. Innovation loans can be used for the top-up financing of corporate and socio-economically profitable development and investment projects, where the company does not have, or can only partially provide, satisfactory security. Innovation Norway's involvement must be decisive for the implementation of the project. A specific allocation for **Green Growth Loans** has been added. Innovation Loans may contribute to financing projects run by businesses within the

framework of a Climate-Neutral and Smart city-project provided the normal applications that apply to the scheme is met.

3. Other measures

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is developing different kind of **tools to help municipalities and regions in climate work, such as**: (i) The Area Data Tool (ADV) to calculate how changes in land use and transport systems affect the transport system, (ii) Tool by the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy research to calculate GHG – emission from land use changes. (iii) Work is ongoing to develop tools related to area statistics for use in land-use planning.

On behalf of the Government, the Norwegian Agency for Public and Financial Management (DFØ) has developed an **action plan for increased share of climate- and environmentally friendly procurements and green innovation**, which among others contains a "green competence boost."

The National Programme for Supplier Development (LUP) is set up to accelerate innovations and development of new solutions through the strategic use of public procurement, while at the same time contributing to new market opportunities for these innovations. LUP is a driving force for increased use of innovative procurement and a facilitator of practical assistance that increases the innovation effect of public procurement in Norway. The programme may assist a Climate Neutral and Smart-City project.

The Ministry of Climate and Environment and The Ministry of Trade and Fisheries have published a **Nation Action Plan for circular economy** which sets out national ambitions and priorities with an aim to increase resource efficiency and circular economy initiatives. In addition, The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities has developed a guide for the county municipalities and municipalities' work with circular economy.

Norwegian Innovation Clusters program – Nordic Edge. One cluster within the program is specifically dedicated to foster smart city-development. Nordic Edge is a non-profit organisation working in close cooperation with private companies, municipalities and city administrations to promote solutions for smarter cities and communities. See https://nordicedge.org/

Updating the roadmap for smart and sustainable cities and communities in Norway. The roadmap is a guide for local and regional authorities developed in 2019 by Design and Architecture Norway (DOGA), the Norwegian Smart City Network and Nordic Edge; smartby-veikart-19x23cm-eng-v1_delt.pdf (doga.no). This guide will throughout 2024 and 2025 be updated to include insights and principles from the Cities Mission and New European Bauhaus principles.

4. Research and Development

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) invests around 10 billion NOK (0,9 billion Euros) in research and innovation annually on behalf of the Norwegian government. RCN aims to promote a society where research is created, used and shared, and thus contributes to restructuring and enhanced sustainability.

RCN funds several R&I initiatives that address the Cities Mission challenges, for example:

- Joint calls across thematic portfolios financing climate and environmental research and climate mitigation and adaptation including circular economy. The calls are cross-sectoral and target both public and private sector. They will contribute to reduce CO2 emissions and help the cities meet their climate commitments.
- Active participation through joint calls in the European partnership Driving Urban Transition (DUT).
- The Centres for Environment-friendly Energy Research (FME) carry out long-term research targeted towards renewable energy, energy efficiency, CCS and social science aspects of energy research. Research activities are carried out in close collaboration between research groups, trade and industry, and the public administration, and key tasks include international cooperation and researcher training. The centres are established for a period of maximum eight years (5 + 3).
- The Green Platform Initiative (as mentioned above).

Norway as an associated country to EU

Norway is an associated country to 11 EU programs in total. We participate in these programs on an equal footing with EU member states, based on the EEA Agreement. Amongst them we participate in the Horizon Europe, the Digital Europe, The COSME and the ERASMUS+ programs, and we believe that it is important to explore synergies between these different funding instruments, where for example different phases of an initiative could be funded by different sources depending on what activities are planned.

Norway participates in **InvestEU.** Innovation Norway is the national contact point.

The Research Council and Innovation Norway, in collaboration with agencies responsible for other programs in which Norway participates, have the ambition to ensure that relevant actors receive information and guidance on how they can take advantage of the synergies between different programs, for example links between Horizon Europe and other EU programs.

As an associated country we are not eligible to receive funding from The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), The Cohesion Policy Funds or the LIFE program. It is our understanding that the overall set of national programs described above could be able to compensate for this.

In addition, under the condition of the EEA agreement, Norway provides funding for research and innovation that could perhaps be used to fund project activities. The EEA and Norway

Grants help to reduce social and economic differences in Europe and strengthen links and cooperation between Norway and 15 European countries. A considerable part of the funding goes to research and innovation activities. The funding aims to generate high quality research and innovation collaborations between research and innovation clusters in Norway and the recipient countries. In Norway, the Research Council and Innovation Norway are responsible for contributing to developing the programs and providing advice to Norwegian actors. The Government expects Norwegian actors to use the EEA and Norway Grants as an opportunity to build networks, expertise and capacity, with a view to collaboration in Horizon Europe. The Government will work to ensure that the EEA and Norway Grants for research and innovation are organized in a manner that supports Horizon Europe, are attractive to Norwegian partners and enable applicants to take advantage of the links to Horizon Europe.

Minister of Climate and Environment
Republic of Poland

Paulina Hennig-Kloska

DAM-WP.4228.2.2024.KN
3301232.13238300.10696459
Warsaw, 12-09-2024

Mr.
Aleksander Miszalski
Mayor of the City of Kraków

Dear Mayor of the City of Kraków,

This is the letter of appreciation for the City of Kraków for undertaking efforts to develop the Climate City Contract.

The Ministry of Climate and Environment recognizes the urgent need for actions to be taken to achieve climate neutrality, mitigate the effects of climate change, and accelerate the efforts towards a sustainable future of cities. Therefore, we support the initiative of the City of Kraków, which aims to develop and implement the Climate City Contract.

The aforementioned Climate City Contract of the City of Kraków is closely related to national actions undertaken to implement international climate commitments. We strongly believe that we can accelerate progress on our common goals and create significant changes at the local and national level by supporting and participating in these commitments.

The Ministry of Climate and Environment coordinates the implementation of the National Energy and Climate Plan until 2030. The National Plan is a strategic document developed by the Member States of the European Union, in which they define the goals and means for achieving the so-called EU climate and energy targets. In particular, this concerns the aim of climate neutrality in 2050. The plan includes strategies for: reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing the contribution of energy from renewable sources, improving energy efficiency and other actions aimed at limiting the impact of human activity on climate change.

The National Energy and Climate Plan until 2030 presents objectives and targets as well as policies and actions in 5 fields of the energy union, i.e.: energy security, internal energy market, energy efficiency, decarbonisation and research, innovation, and competitiveness. The Ministry of Climate and Environment approves all actions of the City of Kraków defined in the Climate City Contract that will contribute to these goals.

In addition, the Ministry of Climate and Environment expresses its willingness to jointly overcome challenges and conduct a permanent dialogue in order to systematically increase climate resilience of the cities and help them to achieve climate neutrality. The Ministry of Climate and Environment will also make efforts to build a cooperation platform involving other ministries, using the previous experience of the Ministry and local governments participating in the Mission of 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030.

Your sincerely

Paulina Hennig-Kloska
Minister of Climate and Environment

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Ministry of Climate and Environment

We follow EMAS - managing the institution, we care for the environment.

Ministry of Climate and Environment
/ – digitally signed/

Commitments of the Generalitat Valenciana towards climate neutrality in the city of València

For its part, the Generalitat Valenciana, as the government of the Valencian Community and a key actor in the multilevel governance necessary for the transformation of the City of València and the achievement of the goal of a climate neutral, inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable city by 2030, has demonstrated its support to the City of València in its transition to climate neutrality by signing the Declaration of Intent "València Climate Neutral City by 2030" on 21 January 2022, which included a set of commitments now extended with the signing of the Climate City Contract of the City of València with the following:

+ To recognise the role of the cities of the Valencian Community, and in particular the city of València, as interlocutors and references for the European Mission of Cities by supporting the platforms and spaces for multi-actor collaboration that the city of València promotes to demonstrate how systemic innovation and open knowledge can lead the social, economic and environmental transformation pursued by the European Cities Mission.

+ Aligning the strategic focus of the missions, by positioning the Valencian Region as one of the first 118 regions to participate in the EU mission on climate change adaptation, in support of the European Green Deal and the EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. The main objective is to accelerate their transformation towards climate resilience, helping them to better prepare for and manage climate change-induced risks. This approach includes the integrated vision with municipalities, including the city of València.

+ Promoting, transferring and scaling up innovations and systemic transformations from a holistic and global perspective with a metropolitan and supra-municipal vision, thereby helping to overcome municipal boundaries that limit action against climate change.

+ Promote the implementation of comprehensive actions that address climate action transversally, such as the development of mechanisms for public procurement, regulation and financing, from the perspective of the benefits and co-benefits in the fight against climate change. The approval of Law 6/2022 of 5 December on climate change and ecological transition of the Valencian Community is a legislative instrument that implies the need to draw up Climate Action Plans for Valencian municipalities, as

well as the establishment of ambitious targets for emissions reduction, renewable energy production and energy efficiency, among others.

+ To develop the instruments of the European Green Deal and RePowerEU for the decarbonisation of the economy, through the matters within its competence.

+ Support the implementation of measures that contribute to the mitigation and adaptation of Valencian municipalities, including the city of València. The regional administration has been recognised as Coordinator of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, with the vision of decarbonising its territory, strengthening its capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change and ensuring that its citizens have access to safe, sustainable and affordable energy. Funding lines have also been established, as well as instruments to help decision-making, examples of good practices, training sessions and technical assistance.

+ Strengthen research-innovation-city collaboration towards the transformation of cities by working together with city councils and universities in their role as facilitators of urban transformation.

+ Develop a framework to facilitate the sharing and transparency of data and indicators that are relevant to the achievement of the objectives of the European Cities Mission and the European Adaptation Mission.

+ Promote the creation of a green tax system as an incentive for a new cycle of investment and innovation in line with climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, and as an accelerator towards a green transition that adequately reflects the value of ecosystems, including the creation of a green transition fund to accelerate this transition.

+ Promote actions that simplify bureaucracy and improve capacities and processes by increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of investments derived from European funds in cities.

+ Define the instruments to promote the supply of 100% renewable energies to Valencian municipalities by 2030, encouraging self-consumption and photovoltaic energy production on roofs and parking areas, transferring the RePowerEU measures to regional regulations, and supporting new production and distribution models, such as

local energy communities, including the participation of public building roofs, such as educational centres, in renewable energy generation projects.

+ Establish mechanisms to facilitate urban systemic innovation in the form of living labs and sand boxes, also promoted through the RIS3 of the Operational Programme of the Valencian Community.

+ To promote and support the Declaration of an event of exceptional public interest for the European Cities Mission in the chosen cities of the Valencian Community.

+ Promote metropolitan mobility policies through the Metropolitan Transport Authority, FGV and the Regional Ministry of Territorial Policy, Public Works and Mobility that encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport with actions such as: park-and-ride car parks, public transport for companies and industrial estates, improvement of rail transport, the infrastructure network of cycle-pedestrian lanes and VAO lanes, among other measures to promote sustainable mobility.

+ Deepen the renovation and rehabilitation of the Generalitat Valenciana's building stock in order to achieve, together with the City Council, that the city's public buildings are Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (nZEB) by 2030.

+ Promote housing policies that make it possible to take advantage of and multiply the effects of the wave of energy renovation promoted by Europe.

+ Promote the resilience of the coastline, the improvement of the health of coastal and continental water and the renaturalisation of the territory with special protection and improvement of the green and blue infrastructures of the city of València, which will act as carbon sinks.

+ Promote the circular economy, waste reduction and sustainable collection and treatment at the regional level, promoting a regional circular economy law and environmental education at the municipal level to bring about a change of behaviour in society, ensuring the involvement and critical and conscious vision of citizens.

+ Promote sustainable agriculture and local urban food that will have an impact on the decarbonisation of the territory.

+ Study the feasibility of transferring the approval of an innovation mission associated with the decarbonisation of our territory to the entire territory of the Valencian Community, creating research, innovation and financing instruments aimed at achieving the climate mission that can accelerate the transformation of cities.

Likewise, the Government of the Generalitat Valenciana is committed to continue working in partnership with the Government of the city of València to expand, specify and follow up and update these commitments in successive reviews of the València Climate City Contract.

Monitoring, updating and amending the climate city contract and its annexes

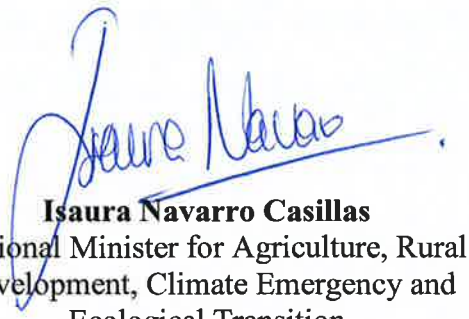
This document and its Annexes, which form an integral part of it, are configured in the framework of an iterative process, as a dynamic and flexible document that will be subject to monitoring, updating and modification in order to review and adjust the commitments, actions and/or investments necessary to achieve the City's climate neutrality objectives.

The signatories commit to monitor, at least every two years, the progress of the commitments undertaken in this Climate City Contract and its Annexes and to update them accordingly. This monitoring and updating is without prejudice to the fact that specific monitoring, review and updating methodologies are set out in the different Annexes.

When necessary for the better achievement of its objective, when it does not affect its essential purpose, and provided that it implies a specification, improvement or upward review of the objectives and commitments undertaken, the signatories may introduce modifications to it and/or to any of its Annexes. These modifications shall preferably be made within the framework of the biennial monitoring and shall be sent to the other signatories for information purposes.



Joan Ribó i Canut
Mayor of València



Isaura Navarro Casillas
Regional Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development, Climate Emergency and Ecological Transition

Supporting statement of National Government for the climate neutrality of Spanish Mission Cities

I hereby place on record the Spanish Government's commitment to support the climate city contracts presented by the cities, which were selected by the European Commission on 28 April 2022 to participate in the European Cities Mission: Madrid, Barcelona, Sevilla, Valencia, Zaragoza, Valladolid and Vitoria-Gasteiz.

This support contributes to the ecological and energy transformation of cities and to a greater climate and social resilience, which is materialised in the Spanish State's framework of competences, among others, in the following aspects:

1. **The impulse of a regulatory framework aligned with the systemic innovation and public-private collaboration** required by the European Mission of Cities. In this context, it highlights:

    + The Spanish Urban Agenda, approved in February 2019, which highlights the need to achieve sustainability in urban development policies. It is constituted as a working method and a process for all the actors involved in cities that aspire to an equitable, fair and sustainable development from the different fields of action. This strategy is developed around 30 specific objectives and 291 action lines, which includes all villages and cities regardless of size and population, and it addresses economic, social and environmental sustainability.

    + Law 7/2021, of 20 May, on climate change and energy transition. This institutional framework guarantees, through its various measures, the coordination of sectoral policies, ensures coherence between them and synergies to achieve the objective of climate neutrality, and increases our capacity to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

The work commitment on the regulatory developments of the Law is clear. Due to the implications for the European Mission Cities, the following stand out: (i) in the energy field, work is being done to establish a framework to deploy energy efficiency in industries and buildings, and renewable energies as vectors towards decarbonisation, (ii) in terms of emission-free mobility, the mandate for cities to adopt sustainable urban mobility plans with mitigation measures, such as low-emission zones, is included, iii) in the area of green procurement, we are working to establish measures to integrate the fight against climate change in public procurement procedures, such as the inclusion of emission reduction and carbon footprint criteria specifically aimed at the fight against climate change as specific technical requirements in procurement specifications.

2. **The launch of the Multi-stakeholder Collaboration Platform for the Climate Neutrality of Spanish Cities (citiES 2030),** a tool created *ad hoc* and already in operation to facilitate the implementation of the Cities Mission.

   With the implementation of this platform, the Government of Spain not only fulfils one of the initial activities of the Mission, but also becomes a reference for the other countries and cities in the programme.

   This platform is a multi-stakeholder innovation and collaboration infrastructure to support and accelerate the transformation of Spanish cities towards climate neutrality.

   The platform's main beneficiaries are city councils of Spanish cities with more than 50,000 inhabitants or provincial capitals that want to achieve full or partial climate neutrality by 2030, as well as cities with more than 20,000 inhabitants that want to initiate this process.

   The platform offers cities a range of services, including:

   + Training, learning and skills enhancement

+ The support for the development of local systemic innovation platforms for the design of transformative project portfolios;

+ The assistance in drafting and monitoring climate city contracts and the design of roadmaps in a multi-stakeholder environment;

+ The connection with related processes in other European cities; the incubation of multi-city projects; the citizen participation and activation;

+ The assistance to cities to structure transformation financing schemes, involving financial actors;

+ The strategic communication.

The Platform's governance is multi-stakeholder and multi-level, with the aim of facilitating, ordering and guaranteeing directionality and stability in these collaborations. In this way, it relies on the participation of the actors of the quintuple helix:

+ The public sector (administrations and public agencies).

+ The private sector (companies, financial sector, urban infrastructure sector and professional associations).

+ The academia (universities and research centres).

+ The civil society (NGOs and neighbourhood associations).

+ The media.

3. **The support to mobilisation of green investments.** A good example is the deployment of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan through the mobilisation of an unprecedented volume of investment that prioritises not only mitigating the effects of the crisis, but also the transformation of our country towards a sustainable and inclusive economy.

   The Recovery Plan recognises the fundamental role of cities in economic and social transformation, due to their capacity to generate short-term activity with a pull effect on industry and key sectors, and their importance in terms of the climate emergency. Thus, it includes initiatives aimed at essential aspects for the climate neutrality of cities, such as:

   + The improvement of sustainable mobility, with the promotion of electric and fuel cell vehicles and the extension of recharging infrastructures, through the different MOVES programmes.

   + The promotion of the renovation of urban residential environments, housing, buildings and neighbourhoods, with the priority objective of decreasing energy consumption and promoting decarbonisation in the household stock.

   + The development of energy communities that promote social innovation and citizen participation in renewables, energy efficiency and electric mobility, thereby contributing to fair and inclusive decarbonisation in urban areas.

   + The promotion of self-consumption for the energy use of urban roofs and decks, storage behind the meter and renewable HVAC in homes.

   + The development of transformative strategies and initiatives for urban renaturalisation, helping to increase green infrastructure and biodiversity in Spanish cities and favouring Nature-Based Solutions to respond to their socio-environmental challenges.

   + The support for the implementation of waste regulation, in collaboration with the autonomous communities and cities, with investments in

digitalisation for environmental management, through the Recovery Plan.

+ The deployment of calls for grants to municipalities and local entities for the implementation of low-emission zones in cities and the sustainable and digital transformation of urban transport.

4. **The monitoring of the progress of the seven cities through the information processed in the citiES 2030 Platform**, with the aim of integrating the urban transformation roadmap into the country's decarbonisation process.

As part of the iterative process of the European Cities Mission, the Spanish Government will participate in the monitoring and updating of the commitments made in the climate neutrality agreements of the cities of Barcelona, Madrid, Sevilla, Valencia, Valladolid, Vitoria-Gasteiz and Zaragoza, supporting the recognition and dissemination of the progress achieved.

Signed by Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Third Vice-President of the Government of Spain and Minister for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge

GÖTEBORGS REGIONEN

Letter of Support to Gothenburg Climate City Contract

Gothenburg aims to be in the forefront of the climate transition of cities. The ambition is to be one of the world's most progressive cities when it comes to preventing and addressing environmental and climate problems.

The complexity and severity of the issue calls for strategic and integrated actions. The Climate City Contract outlines the path forward to realize such actions. It establishes the ambition for the City of Gothenburg to bring about systemic change to reach climate neutrality by 2030.

We, the undersigned, hereby commit to support and collaborate towards a climate neutral Gothenburg by 2030. We agree on the joint ambition and commitments, as formulated in the City of Gothenburg's Climate City Contract. We aim to support this goal with the following actions:

- Facilitating coordination between the City of Gothenburg and the other twelve municipalities that comprise the Gothenburg metropolitan region to enable upscaling of initiatives and regional reach.
- Initiating, coordinating and implementing climate initiatives together with the City of Gothenburg, municipalities in the Gothenburg Region, and other actors, for example around circular economy and the shared regional waste management plan, sustainable transport, and the energy transition.
- Implementing the shared strategy for sustainable urban development in the Gothenburg Region in partnership with the City of Gothenburg, produced with funding from the European Regional Development Fund.

Date: 2024-03-07
Place: Gothenburg, Sweden

Maria Sigroth
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The Gothenburg Region
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