



26 June 2023

Dear COTER Chair Boc,
Dear ENVE Chair Trzaskowski,
Dear SEDEC Chair Hristova,

The European Missions are vital instruments in the Green Deal actions portfolio, with the Mission on 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 being the most concrete. One and a half years into its implementation, the Cities Mission can already demonstrate a clear impact and added value at local, regional and national levels.

Twelve mission cities have submitted their Climate City Contracts for review by the European Commission, with many other cities set to follow in the second half of the year. At the same time, national structures and networks built around mission cities are emerging in countries across Europe, enabling cities to work together with national ministries and other institutions to address the challenges faced by cities in their journey towards climate neutrality.

To achieve climate neutrality by 2030, the regions of the 100 mission cities must also get involved. Regional authorities allow taking into account territorial diversity, especially in terms of competences. Due to its great proximity to citizens, the regional level can enable them to be more involved in the Mission. This key recommendation was also put forward by the Conference on the Future of Europe organised by the CoR. Moreover, most regions are responsible for climate, environmental or mobility and are already supporting the journey of cities and urban communities to accelerate their climate transition. Involving regions in the Cities Mission would therefore enable the creation of synergies with regional and national programmes.

Above all, given the role of many regions as managing authorities in the Cohesion Policy, their involvement in the Cities Mission could enable us to start working towards the post-2027 programmes. For instance, the Cohesion Policy needs to include strong direct references to the European Missions, including in support of a proper implementation of the actions proposed by mission cities in their Climate City Contracts.

Given the need to activate regional support, the Mission Board requests the assistance of the CoR for the Cities Mission with local and regional authorities (LRAs), but also national authorities.

In order to enhance cooperation between the Mission Board and the CoR allowing us to work on multi-level governance in the most efficient way, the Mission Board has proposed to add this point to the agenda of its plenary meeting on 26 June and address it at the annual conference of the Cities Mission on 27 June.

As a next step, the Mission Board would like to propose the co-organisation with CoR of an event with regions to showcase success stories and opportunities from city-region joint action. The event should kick-start a conversation on “mission regions” that may also involve the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission.

Yours sincerely,

The Mission Board for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities

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