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# Technical Platform for Cooperation on the Environment

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# Technical Platform for Cooperation on the Environment

## Local and Regional Authorities and Environment

Local and regional authorities are crucial actors in environmental protection, as they are often responsible for rule-making and undertaking investments, and can have inspection and oversight functions.

Therefore, local and regional authorities must be considered as genuine partners within the governance structure underpinning the implementation of EU environment law and participate jointly with the other tiers of government in the formulation of EU policies, not least through the Committee of the Regions.

The CoR Opinion on the role of local and regional authorities in future environmental policy (CdR 164/2010 fin) underlined the necessity of involving them in all phases of EU policy, and suggested to set up a regular forum to address regional and local problems and solutions in the application of EU environment law.

The Technical Platform became one of the actions referred to in the European Commission's 2012 Communication on better implementation in the area of environment (COM(2012)95 final).

The European Commission's proposal for a 7th Environment Action Programme seeks to give a renewed impetus to implementation.

## What is the Technical Platform for Cooperation on the Environment?

The Technical Platform is a new permanent forum set up by the Committee of the Regions' Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE) and the Directorate-General for the Environment (DG ENV) of the European Commission, aimed at fostering dialogue on local and regional problems and solutions in the application of EU environment law.

The objectives of the Technical Platform are:

- to allow dialogue on implementation issues of mutual interest and exchange of best practices at a technical level;
- to facilitate a cooperation between local and regional environmental administrations and DG ENV and the CoR's ENVE Commission;
- to overall contribute to improvements in environmental outcomes;
- to strengthen the cooperation between the CoR's ENVE commission and DG ENV;
- to provide technical input to the work of the CoR's ENVE commission, thereby reinforcing an evidence-based approach in its ongoing work in this field.

## How does the Technical Platform work?

### Who can participate?

The Technical Platform is mainly aimed at bringing together practitioners and officials from local and regional administrations in the European Union, experts and stakeholders, EU officials as well as interested CoR members.

In practice, the work of the technical platform is carried out through meetings co-organised by the Secretariat of the Committee of the Regions' Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy and the Directorate-General for the Environment of the European Commission, in cooperation with relevant ad-hoc partners on issues of the agenda.

Up to two meetings of the Technical Platform are to be held each year on thematic issues of common interest. These meetings will normally be held during or in association with the EU Green Week and the EU OPEN DAYS.