



European Committee
of the Regions

ENVE

Commission for
the Environment,
Climate Change and Energy

Clean energy policies for the greening of towns, cities and regions: the Energy Union and local/regional sustainable development

3 July 2017
Kultuurikatel
Tallinn



Estonian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union





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3 July 2017 | Kultuurikatel (Tallinn Creative Hub), Põhja puiestee 27a, 10415 Tallinn

Conference

Clean energy policies for the greening of towns, cities and regions: The Energy Union and local/regional sustainable development

The conference aims to discuss local and regional policy recommendations on the European Commission's proposals contained in the 2016 "Clean Energy for All European" package on the Energy Union. The CoR will adopt its opinions on these proposals at its plenary session of 12-13 July 2017. The CoR's policy recommendations relating to the EU sustainable energy policy and the electricity market will be discussed in a broader perspective, which seeks to link them with other, closely related policy areas, focussing on EU energy infrastructure policy.

Best practice will be shared by Estonian cities and regions, thus providing a clear link between the CoR's political work and evidence of local and regional best practice in the area of sustainable energy.

The speakers at the conference will include representatives from the European, national, regional and local levels of governance, in conjunction with representatives from academia, NGOs and other stakeholders looking to share best practice.

On this occasion, the CoR wishes to enlist the support of the Estonian Council presidency as institutional partner and raise awareness among a range of other stakeholders of its key messages on the Energy Union legislative proposals, which include:

- *drawing the attention of the EU institutions and Member States' governments to the Preamble of the UNFCCC 2015 Paris Agreement, which calls on all states to recognise the importance of engaging all levels of government in addressing climate change;*
- *including an explicit reference to the institutional role of local and regional authorities in planning, implementing, monitoring and reporting climate change and energy policies – in cooperation with the Member States – in the regulation on Energy Union governance, so as to ensure the application of the principle of better regulation;*
- *putting energy efficiency first, by improving framework conditions for sustainable energy investment including smart grids, and ensuring market access and grid connection to small local and regional renewable energy providers;*
- *stressing that in order to achieve the goals of the Energy Union, Energy Union governance mechanisms must provide an enabling framework for local and regional authorities in the area of finance and market rules, so as to reassure investors of a long term policy commitment capable of boosting economic benefits for citizens and for business.*

The conference is co-organised by the CoR ENVE Commission and the Estonian Presidency of the Council.

8.30

Registration

9.00

Session 1: Welcome to Tallinn, a city working towards the ideal of the European Green Capital

Moderator: Sirpa Hertell (FI/EPP), CoR ENVE Vice-Chair

Kalev Kallo (EE/ALDE), CoR member, Chairman of Tallinn City Council – Welcome

Markku Markkula (FI/EPP), President of the CoR - Contribution of the CoR to the EU Energy Union policies and links between the EU environmental and energy policies

Marko Pomerants, Parliament of the Republic of Estonia, Head of the Constitutional Committee - Greening EU cities: national policies in support of a comprehensive approach to sustainable urban development and the importance of green energy

Taavi Aas, Acting Mayor of the City of Tallinn - Best practice of the City of Tallinn in energy efficiency and energy innovation: working towards the ideal of a green capital

DISCUSSION

10.15 **PRESS CONFERENCE / Coffee break**

11.00 **Session 2: Cities, towns and rural areas in relation to Energy Union governance: energy efficiency first and empowering LRAs to implement ambitious 2030 targets**

Moderator: Bruno Hranić (HR/EPP), CoR rapporteur on Energy Union governance, clean energy policy and energy innovation

Aivar Kokk, Chairman of the Estonian Parliament's Economic Affairs Committee (Riigikogu) – Estonian energy policy priorities in the context of the EU presidency and their contribution towards the local and regional sustainable economic development

Michiel Rijsberman (NL/ALDE), CoR rapporteur on energy efficiency and the energy performance of buildings - Energy efficiency first: the practical implications of the Energy Union at the local level, focussing on the Covenant of Mayors

Marta Toporek, Lawyer, Climate & Energy Efficiency Project Leader, ClientEarth - Local and regional issues: links between energy efficiency and governance in the context of the Winter package proposals

Brian Curtis (UK/Workers - Gr. II), member of the EESC, rapporteur on Energy Union Governance – The EU's interinstitutional process regarding the EC's proposal on Energy Union governance and involvement of civil society in multi-level governance

Endrik Arumägi, Leading Expert, Tallinn University of Technology - Deep integrated renovation practice in Estonia - Energy Efficiency/ Greening measure in a large scale

DISCUSSION

12.30 - 14.00 **Lunch**

14.00 **Session 3: Electricity market design, competition law and EU energy infrastructure policy: evolving framework conditions for local and regional sustainable energy investment**

Moderator: Vytautas Kanevicius (LT/ECR), CoR member

Ando Leppiman, Deputy Secretary-General for Energy and Construction of the Ministry for Economic affairs and Infrastructure, Estonia – Keynote address on the state of play regarding electricity market policy in the EU: interinstitutional discussions and the implications of the new policy proposals for Estonia

Catharina Sikow-Magny, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission - The role of energy infrastructure development in the context of Energy Union objectives with a focus on ensuring the functioning of a single EU market for energy

Leigh Hancher, Professor, Director of the Florence School of Regulation Energy Law and Policy Area, Counsel at Allen & Overy LLP – Regional operational centres: a legal perspective

Thomas Schomerus, dr. habil. sc. iur., Professor of Energy Law at the Leuphana University, (Germany) - An EU law perspective on the barriers and opportunities for local and regional sustainable energy projects

Tatiana Marquez Uriarte - Directorate-General for Competition, European Commission - The role of competition in the clean energy transition – the key legal challenges and future perspectives of EU policies

DISCUSSION

15.30

Conclusions and outlook

Markku Markkula, CoR President

DISCUSSION

15.45

End of the conference

15.45-18.45

Study visits

Study visit 1 – Smart transport in Tallinn, visit to the renovated tram station

New transport solutions in Tallinn, free public transport in the city, integrated and smart chip-based e-tickets, introducing the work of the city transport centre and visit to an operating tram station.

Study visit 2 – Tallinn water purification plant in Ülemiste

Quality of drinking water has a significant impact on public health and well-being. Tap water quality in the capital city has been very good, and therefore we encourage people to drink tap water. More than 90% of the residents of Tallinn receive their water from Ülemiste Water Treatment Plant (surface water). Nearly 10% of the people drink water from borehole pumping stations (ground water). It takes 15 hours of purification in order to turn surface water into drinking water.

Study visit 3 – District heating in Tallinn (renewable heating solutions), visit to Utilitas Power Plant in Iru

The Utilitas Tallinn AS power station is one of the heating companies in Tallinn. In 2015, 41% of the heat at the Utilitas Power Plant was produced using alternative fuels. The aim for 2018 is to increase it to 80%. In the Utilitas Group there are 8 district heating stations around Estonia.

Study visit 4 – Smart city solutions in Ülemiste district in Tallinn

Ülemiste City is a contemporary city district located on the 36-hectare territory of the former Dvigatel factory in the immediate vicinity of Tallinn Airport and home for a large number of innovative companies. The objective of the development is to grow the Smart City into the largest knowledge-based business environment in the Baltics.

Development of the campus began in 2005. By now, a well-functioning economic structure has been established. More than 120 000 m² of modern office space has been created to complement ca 125 000 m² of industrial and warehouse area. By 2014, close to 340 companies operate in Ülemiste City employing ca 8000 people.

<http://mainorulemiste.ee/ulemiste-city/?lang=en>



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