



The role of cities and regions as drivers of global climate leadership in the post-Paris climate and energy governance. Best practices in Europe, China and the US

Stakeholder conference at the Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union

19 April 2016, from 9:00 to 12:30

With the support of  Stiftung
Asienhaus

Context and Policy background

The implementation of the **intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs)** to the Paris agreement and the scaling-up of future ambition through the **five-year review cycle** will require actions at **all levels** (international, regional, local) and **all actors** (governments, regions, civil society and private actors) to fulfill the commitments made in Paris and accelerate **the pace of decarbonisation** at global scale. The **Lima-Paris Action** managed to mobilize a multi-stakeholder movement, bringing together a large number of cities, private actors and civil society organisations to **scale up climate action** and speed up the uptake of innovative solutions.

Regions and cities could play a vital role in reaching **national climate and energy targets**, strengthening **resilience**, adopting **climate adaptation** measures and cooperating towards a more sustainable future. The United Nations Development Programme estimated that **50 to 80 % of climate adaptation and mitigation measures** will be implemented at the subnational or local levels. The 2015 UNFCCC report “Climate Action Now – A Summary for Policymakers 2015” also underlines the vital role of non-state actors such as companies, cities, regions and provinces in achieving larger reductions in current and future emissions.

The stakeholder conference aims to highlight the role of **subnational and local initiatives** in tackling climate mitigation and adaptation challenges, and discuss how EU institutions could better integrate these initiatives in **existing institutional partnerships and sectoral dialogues with the US and China**. The conference will showcase some **successful local and regional models**, such as the Covenant of Mayors, the Sustainable Energy Community Initiative, 2 Under MOU Initiative, C40 technical and financial assistance model, as well as concrete bilateral city partnerships, and explore innovative solutions to common climate challenges that cities and regions are facing.

The event will focus geographically on the role of the **EU, China and the US** as the three largest emitters and the major global players in shaping the international climate and energy governance. The bilateral partnerships between European and Chinese cities could be seen as a complementary tool for fostering collaboration on climate mitigation and adaptation through joint R&D projects, study exchange programmes, training programmes for young professionals and start ups, green technological innovations and driving eco demand.



Draft Programme

Introduction by the hosts

Heinrich Böll Foundation, European Union

Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union

Introduction session: Subnational and local actors as laboratories for policy innovation in climate and energy actions. Best practices at EU and global level

09:00 – 09:45

The goal of the introduction session is to provide a broader political context about the importance of subnational and local actors in the formulation and implementation of climate adaptation, climate mitigation measures, sustainable energy action plans, as well as promoting local leadership and awareness. The panel will showcase some successful European and global initiatives supporting sustainable energy communities and driving low-carbon developments at local level. The opening discussion will also shed light on some of the challenges that local and regional authorities are facing with regard to climate financing, internal capacity, environmental monitoring systems and energy management.

Speakers

Sirpa Hertell, Vice Chair of the ENVE Commission, European Committee of the Regions (tbc)

Yunus Arikan, Head of Global Policy and Advocacy, ICLEI (tbc)

Claire Roumet, Executive Director, Energy Cities

Neil Walmsley, C40

Q&A session

Panel debate 1: EU-China climate and energy dialogue in the new green economy. Unlocking the potential of city partnerships in tackling climate mitigation and driving eco-innovation

09:45 – 10:45

The following questions could be tackled during the discussion:

- How EU institutions could integrate these initiatives in existing partnerships with China?
- What implication could China's shift to a less energy-intensive economic model have for EU-China energy dialogue and bilateral trade relations?
- Which best practices exist so far on green innovations and sustainable urban development at city level in China? What can the EU learn from China?
- How can bilateral city partnerships unlock the green growth potential and contribute to significant reduction in CO2 emissions in Europe and China?
- How can China and the EU tackle common challenges such as the grid integration of renewables, market uptake of low-carbon technologies and decarbonising the city transport systems?
- How civil society actors could be better involved in bilateral city partnerships? What added value could they bring?



Speakers

Jo Leinen, President of the China Delegation, European Parliament (tbc)

Pedro Ballesteros, DG Energy's Special Envoy on "EU-China Partnership on Urbanization" und the "EU-China Mayors Forum", European Commission (tbc)

Rüdiger Wagner, Executive Director, Environment and Health Division, City of Bonn

Wen Bo, Scientific Advisor for National Geographic Society's Air and Water Conservation Fund/ China's Advisor for the Global Greengrants Fund (GGF)

Dai Chunyan, Green & Low-Carbon Development Think Tank Partnership (tbc)

Q&A session

Coffee and networking (10:45- 11:15)

Panel debate 2: How could regional climate cooperation be better embedded in the EU's transatlantic relations? The Under 2 MOU initiative for global climate leadership

11:15 – 12:15

The following questions could be tackled during the discussion:

- How EU institutions could integrate these initiatives in existing sectoral dialogues with the US?
- What impact did the Under 2 MOU Initiative have on major energy indicators, the political commitment of sub national governments, the institutionalization of sustainable energy practices in regional and local public authorities, as well as the mobilization of stakeholders so far?
- What potential does it hold for future local and regional cooperation on climate mitigation and climate adaptation?
- Which best practices exist so far on green innovations and sustainable urban development at city level in the US? What can the EU learn from the US?

A representative from DG Clima, European Commission (tbc)

A representative from *The Climate Group* (tbc)

Angelina Galiteva, Board of Directors, California Independent System Operator/Founder and President of Renewables 100 Policy Institute

Stacy Lee, Senior Advisor, Mayor's Office of Sustainability, New York City (per Skype) (tbc)

Q&A session

Closing remarks: 12:15-12:30

Lunch reception: 12:30 – 13:30