



# The Commitments of the Cities and Territories of Italy for the Climate

## A) CHARTER OF THE ITALIAN CITIES AND TERRITORIES FOR THE CLIMATE

### Given that:

- In December 2009, in Copenhagen, the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP15) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will take place to finalise a new global climate agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol, due to expire at the end of 2012.
- According to the Kyoto Protocol, developed countries must reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to at least 5% below the 1990 base year levels between 2008 and 2012.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations attests that climate change is an unequivocal fact and that efforts and investments greater than the measures put in place so far are necessary in order to achieve at least the stabilisation of carbon emissions.
- Climate Action, the Climate Package undersigned in December 2008 by the 27 EU Heads of Government, foresees, for the EU Member States, the obligation – by 2020 and in comparison with 2005 levels - to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% and to increase energy efficiency and the production of energy from renewable energy sources by 20%
- The Covenant of Mayors is a European Commission initiative formalised in February 2009, which obliges the signatory cities to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by more than 20% by 2020 through a Local Sustainable Energy Action Plan.
- The Local Governments Climate Roadmap – introduced at the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 14) in Poznan - asks the national Governments to enable local administrations to tackle climate change by providing empowerment, skills and resources.



- The 2004 Aalborg Commitments outline the targets, actions and procedures for local sustainable development.
- Agenda 21, the United Nations Declaration on Environment and Development – agreed during the World Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 – considers cities and territories to be key players in the implementation of the measures required for sustainable development.

### **Considering that:**

- Since 1970 global greenhouse gas emissions have increased by 70% while the global atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrogen dioxide, as well as average global temperature, are rising mainly due to human activities.
- Almost 75% of the Italian population lives in urban areas (30% in the regional capitals) where over 75% of total energy is consumed.
- 80% of direct and indirect anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are produced by the cities.
- The civil sector is responsible for 40% of the overall energy consumption, mainly for the energy management of buildings.
- In Northern Italy, 70% of the buildings have a primary energy use more than two times that of the lowest energy efficiency category.
- Urban traffic is responsible for 35% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the transport sector while 95% of the energy consumption for mobility is from motorbikes, cars and private commercial vehicles.
- In Italy, in the last 50 years, the average temperature has increased by 1.4°C. In the cities the average temperature is 1-2°C higher than in the surrounding countryside, reaching peaks of 3-5°C.

**Italian Cities, Provinces and Regions commit themselves to adopting integrated policies and implementing actions for the adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 20% and to increase the social, environmental and economic equilibrium of the territory.**

**Italian Cities and Territories ask the Italian Government to afford them access to the Emissions Trading Scheme and the Market for Energy Efficiency Certificates and propose the exclusion of local investments in projects aimed at climate change mitigation and adaptation (energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, renewable energy diffusion) from the stability pact.**



Italian Cities and Territories ask the Italian Government to promote, in cooperation with the banking system, specific financial tools for energy redevelopment projects and to foster the involvement of Energy Service Companies and other specialised subjects to support local authorities.

Italian Cities and Territories urge the Italian Government to support, in the international context, the necessity of including a chapter regarding the role of cities and territories in the new global protocol on the climate which comes into force in 2012. They also request that local authority representatives are part of the governmental delegations at the Conference of the Parties, beginning with COP-15 in Copenhagen in 2009.

Local policies and actions will help the Government to reach the goals agreed in Brussels with the other European partners and will play a decisive role in the recovery of the economy by promoting innovation, supporting the internal market and improving Italy's competitiveness on the international stage.

*The Charter of the Italian Cities and Territories for Climate is an initiative of the Italian Local Agenda 21 Association, the National Association of Italian Municipalities and the Union of Italian Provinces.*

Rome, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009



## **b) THE COMMITMENTS OF THE CITIES AND TERRITORIES OF ITALY FOR THE CLIMATE**

In order to implement the commitments of the Charter, the signatory Municipalities, Provinces, Regions, Park Bodies and Local Governments of Italy intend to:

### **1. promote the Covenant of Mayors in Italy, that is to:**

- adhere to the Covenant of Mayors for the climate of the European Union according to its guidelines;
- promote the creation of cross-municipal technical supporting structures in order to facilitate the possibility of receiving funding for the outlining and implementation of a Local Energy Action Plan, as foreseen by the Covenant;
- assure the coordination at the national level of all the subscribers to the Covenant of Mayors through the work of the Italian Local Agenda 21 Association in collaboration with ANCI and UPI (the Italian Associations of, respectively, Municipalities and Provinces), the Ministry of Environment and any other officially recognised national supporting structures;
- promote the Covenant amongst neighbouring Local Governments in order to promote the development of cross-municipal Local Energy Action Plans;
- introduce benefit mechanisms in regional, national and European socioeconomic planning for those who sign the Covenant of Mayors.

### **2. intervene in territorial planning and management to develop more sustainable urban systems. In particular:**

- promoting the implementation of integrated management plans, according to the guidelines of the European Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment, with a particular emphasis on ecological cycles substantially connected to the increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions;
- integrating objectives and norms for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change in vast area territorial plans and urban plans with strategic and structural value;
- foreseeing, in Strategic Environmental Evaluations, a specific focus on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the climatic effects of planned actions;
- highlighting, within the consultative and participative procedures, the effects of planned activities on climatic risk and on environmental and energy efficiency;
- protecting the soil and territory in order to guarantee agricultural fertility, biodiversity protection and carbon and water storage;
- recognising the fundamental functions of the rural territory, not only agricultural functions but also those of landscape protection, biodiversity conservation and cultural identity preservation, as a complement to the urban areas.



### **3. update urban planning tools in order to improve the energy efficiency of residential, productive and service buildings, beginning with those of public property. In particular:**

- combining compulsory minimum energy efficiency standards with different forms of incentives to reach more ambitious targets, promoting the use of best technologies in order to reduce the emissions from new buildings and forms of compensation for the emissions that cannot be eliminated;
- foreseeing in the urban planning tools new norms which will oblige all new constructions to satisfy their own energetic needs with renewable resources, utilising district heating and energy efficient solutions;
- promoting awareness-raising, informative and training activities for the citizens, economic operators, project planners, researchers, technical staff of local administrations, property managers etc;
- subjecting buildings to energy audits and energetic certification, starting with public properties.

### **4. encourage energy production from renewable resources according to European Union targets. In particular:**

- including norms in the Urban Building Regulation that will gradually oblige all new buildings and renovations to satisfy their energy needs using renewable resources;
- encouraging the realisation of small scale energy production systems from renewable resources (photovoltaic, solar, thermal, wind, biomass, geothermal, hydroelectric, etc.) which will satisfy the need for local energy production without disfiguring the landscape;
- implementing informative and training activities for citizens (e.g. energy information points), participative and demonstrative activities in the schools;
- simplifying authorisation procedures for small scale installations;
- integrating the energy distribution grids for the purpose of enforcing efficiency and sustainability.

### **5. promote sustainable mobility and transport. In particular:**

- elaborating and implementing mobility plans integrated with urban and health planning; foreseeing greater involvement of local communities, also in order to promote more responsible lifestyles;
- introducing and improving the local public transport system, starting with rail, and favouring inter-modality between means of transport;
- promoting sustainable solutions for the management of airports and ports;
- promoting sustainable transport and logistical systems for goods management;
- promoting sustainable access to historical centres whilst searching for positive effects on landscape quality and sociability;
- developing secure cycle paths for movement in urban centres, supporting safe mobility projects for home-school and home-work journeys (with positive effects on individual health and wellbeing) and introducing disincentives for the utilisation of private means of transport;



- promoting the use of sustainable vehicles for people with reduced mobility and their distribution throughout the territory (bicycles assisted by an electric motor, electric vehicles, etc.).

## **6. assume the responsibility of the effects of climate change on culture, health, social conditions and biodiversity. In particular:**

- monitoring and studying the health effects linked to climate change;
- monitoring and studying the consequences of climate change on habitats and natural ecosystems and its effects on biodiversity;
- studying and analysing migration phenomena due to climate change;
- recognising, in the sharing of the sustainability principles and objectives of Agenda 21 for Culture, the basis for the success of policies that contrast climate change.

## **7. promote green public procurement, beginning with high energy efficiency purchases. In particular:**

- signing certified green energy supply contracts for public buildings;
- orientating public purchases towards goods and services with a lower environmental impact (i.e. locally produced, from the short supply chain or fair-trade), realising positive economic and energy savings (lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions);
- cooperating with local stakeholders (restaurateurs, hoteliers etc.) to spread best responsible consumption practices;
- promoting the use of renewable resources in buildings (locally produced wood etc.);
- rationalising public lighting and introducing more efficient lighting technologies starting with the replacement of traffic lights with low energy consumption devices.

## **8. promote eco-efficiency in production processes and the social responsibility of companies. In particular:**

- contributing to the diffusion of the environmental and social certification of both products and processes amongst the businesses present in the territory;
- promoting voluntary agreements and public-private partnerships to encourage the transition to a society characterised by lower fossil fuel consumption, high energy efficiency and energy production from renewable resources;
- realising new productive areas and converting existing areas according to the identified criteria to comply with Ecological and Social Productive Areas;
- spreading information and raising awareness on initiatives and innovations developed by companies for more sustainable products and processes.

## **9. support the creation of carbon deposits. In particular:**

- promoting soil protection and conservation policies;
- realizing specialised scientific educational and training activities on themes such as "carbon deposits" and "CO<sub>2</sub> cycles";
- encouraging the spread of urban green areas in order to contribute to "permanent" carbon storage;



- promoting short supply chains of forest biomass, also to prevent land abandonment.

## **10. reduce hydrologic (floods, droughts ...) and hydrogeological (landslides, aquifer vulnerability...) risks. In particular:**

- promoting coordinated and participatory management plans for the hydrographic and basin districts for the defence of the soil and of the water cycles which are integrated with territorial planning instruments, according to the directives of the European Union;
- promoting the spread of voluntary agreement tools between local governments, administrative bodies and institutions involved in territorial management in order to clearly define responsibilities and develop better cooperation;
- introducing suitable measures to achieve a territorial hydrogeological balance and to favour the naturalistic redevelopment of river basins in order to prevent flooding and landslide risks, to be carried out preferably using natural engineering techniques;
- promoting the maintenance of the territory by spreading good cultivation practices, preventing rural exodus, monitoring and preventing territorial damage phenomena, fires and desertification, enhancing mountain territories and improving the quality of life outside the urban areas;
- promoting actions for the improvement of water collection, derivation, distribution and consumption;
- promoting information and training activities on the theme of water management and the relationship with hydrogeological disturbance aimed at local authorities, citizens, schools and technicians.

## **11. intervene in the government of the urban climate and environment to improve the quality of life through the planning of green areas, water, refuse and spaces for socialising. In particular:**

- creating networks and systems of urban green areas in order to improve urban climate quality, social relations and the human-environment relationship;
- elaborating and implementing sports plans and programs to favour open air sports practice in urban green areas;
- carrying out cross sector and multi-actor initiatives (such as the action plan for social health and wellbeing) in order to identify and realise actions regarding lifestyles, to prevent road and domestic accidents etc.;
- promoting the reduction of refuse production, water consumption and the use of non-renewable raw materials (gravel, clay, metal-bearing rocks..), in order to promote permanent changes in lifestyles and everyday habits in favour of responsible consumption;
- promoting the introduction of technological and organisational innovations in order to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the supply of urban services such as waste management, drinkable water distribution and the sewage system.

## **12. support city and territorial networks in their role as promoters of**



**good practices, the circulation of information and the simplification of relations between different levels of territorial governments. In particular:**

- taking part in the periodic meetings of sustainable cities networks;
- promoting initiatives to facilitate a dialogue between urban and rural environments, also in order to launch fair economy districts;
- implementing international projects which favour the exchange of experiences between political and technical actors from various European cultures;
- improving decentralised cooperation experiences to put the European territories in contact with those that border the Mediterranean and those in the Southern hemisphere with the aim of increasing the understanding of the problems, the exchange of knowledge and the building of alliances to confront climate change;
- informing local communities about the significance of the Charter and of its commitments and involving citizens and businesses in the definition and implementation of the measures to be achieved.

**Municipalities, Provinces, Regions, Park Authorities and other Local Authorities of Italy signatories of the Charter will, within one year of signing, elaborate a Climate Plan which foresees the realisation of mitigation and adaptation actions, indicating the timing and expected results in terms of lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**

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