

SOMMET CLIMATE CHANCE EUROPE

07-08 mars 2022

#SCCE2022



Adapting Buildings: empowering municipalities to decrease GHG emissions and energy poverty through sustainable building renovations

Description :

Realizing the Just Transition and the Energy Transition as well as achieving climate neutrality and securing energy autonomy of the Union are no easy tasks for EU policy makers. Local authorities and citizens are addressing these EU challenges in part by adapting building stock, ensuring GHG emissions reductions and energy security as well as addressing energy poverty. Building renovations, in order to decrease energy demand and to decarbonise buildings, is as central to these tasks as it is to address the health and well-being of citizens. Along with improving their energy performance – a focus in the Fit-For-55 package of the European Green Deal – what socially inclusive methods and best practices can be applied to adapt buildings to withstand the effects of climate change throughout Europe? How can we strengthen the role of local actors in the building sector?

Chair : **Andreas Wolter**, Vice-Mayor of Cologne, Climate Alliance President

Moderators :

- **Thomas Brose**, Director of Climate Alliance
- **Noelani Dubeta**, EU Policy Coordinator

Speakers :

Round 1 :

- **Glen Dissaux**, City councillor of Brest and Vice-president of Brest métropole
- **Eric Piolle**, Mayor of Grenoble
- **Tristan Riom**, 5th Deputy Mayor in charge of Energy and Buildings of Nantes

Round 2 :

- **Dora Biondani**, Project manager, Climate Alliance
- **Samuel Laval**, Research officer, Climate Chance Observatory
- **Jan Schwarz**, Project manager, Climate Alliance

Summary of discussions :

- **Local authorities are best positioned to tackle the upgrading of buildings** by retrofitting and renovating them to be more energy efficient, as they are also the closest to their citizens' everyday needs and realities.
- **Europe could offer further assistance concerning buildings, not only through policy making but by providing further funds, such as for social cohesion.** The amount of money we need

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to bring in social cohesion policies is not lost, and it is a must. Social cohesion is not a plus to deal with climate change, but a prerequisite.

- **Information and collaboration is key for citizens to become active.** Initiatives such as one-stop-shop, awareness campaigns (like the Climate Alliance Energie Caravan), partnerships with local associations and meetings with citizens, can help to involve citizens to leverage and scale up renovation policies.
- **Social justice, energy security and climate justice must be at the very center of the building policies.** Vulnerable populations are the ones who suffer the most. Renovation policies are key to reducing energy poverty, energy consumption and GHG emissions. Acting on energy poverty helps society at large.
- Construction (manufacture of materials) is a high emitting activity. **There is real challenge when constructing a building, but also when renovating an existing one by using low carbon materials.** Bio-materials (such as wood) must be prioritised.

THEMATIC DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

N°	Topic	European policy	Proposal
P1	Municipal jurisdictions	EPBD	Alleviate energy poverty for a just transition In order to alleviate energy poverty, provide an enabling national and European legislative framework to strengthen the mandate of cities, as the authorities closest to vulnerable citizens, so that they can unleash tailored interventions on buildings.
P2	Access to information	Transversal	Lower barriers to renovations to increase energy efficiency To increase high-quality retrofits and lower the barriers to conducting them, access to information and services need to be made more easily available, such as through locally available, free energy consultations through campaigning and one stop shop approaches.
P3	Finance for cities	Cohesion funds	Secure the right to energy-efficient adequate housing Support the right to energy-efficient adequate housing and work towards a building stock that is resilient, sustainable and energy autonomous. Provide legislative, financial and soft measures directly to cities with support for National governments to ensure building owners can renovate, while preventing the costs from being passed on to tenants.
P4	LCA	Renovation Wave	Reduce energy demand and use renewables for energy autonomy Substantially reduce the energy demand of buildings over their life cycles by requiring high energy performance as well as low energy consuming eco-sustainable materials and covering remaining energy demand with renewables to transition the building sector away from fossil-fuels.