

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

A resource-efficient Europe

The contribution of regions and cities



Regions and Cities supporting
Europe2020
Europe's growth strategy



National Art Gallery
Vilnius, Lithuania
2/3 September 2013

Programme

Hosted by



Lithuanian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union 2013



Conference of the
Committee of the Regions

Resource efficiency is a guiding principle for EU policies in the fields of energy, transport, climate change, industry, raw materials, agriculture, fisheries, biodiversity, water and waste management, land use and regional development. The flagship initiative “resource-efficient Europe” aims to establish a close link between economic development, social well-being and a responsible use of natural resources.

Regions and cities have an important role to play in fostering resource efficiency. They invest in green buildings, sustainable water and waste management, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by promoting cleaner modes of transport, and in protecting ecosystems. In the Covenant of Mayors, over 4,000 local and regional authorities in the EU have committed themselves to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in their respective territories.

On 2 and 3 September 2013, the Committee of the Regions will hold a conference on local approaches to resource efficiency in Vilnius, Lithuania, with the support of the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU. The event will be combined with a meeting of the CoR’s Commission on Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE) and a meeting of the CoR Bureau in Vilnius. It will focus on two aspects:

- Resource-efficient Europe: policy challenges for regional and local authorities;
- Local perspectives for a sustainable energy sector – Europe 2020 and beyond.

The event forms part of a series of seven conferences, the Committee of the Regions is organising on the seven flagship initiatives of the Europe 2020 strategy in 2012/13. In spring 2014, the series will culminate in the 6th European Summit of Regions and Cities including a mid-term assessment of the Europe 2020 strategy from the Committee’s perspective.

The conference targets representatives from regional and local authorities, EU institutions, private and financial institutions, social partners and civil society. Participation is free of charge.

More info:

www.cor.europa.eu/europe2020

2 September 2013

10:00-14:15 **Registration**

14:30-15:00 **Welcome**

- **Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso**, (President of the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia, Spain), President of the Committee of the Regions
- **Valentinas Mazuronis**, Minister for Environment, Republic of Lithuania

15:00-16:15 **Session 1**
Resource-efficient Europe: policy challenges for regional and local authorities

Chair: Michel Lebrun, (Member of the Parliament of the French-speaking Community, Belgium) and CoR rapporteur on “A resource-efficient Europe”;

Keynote speeches and debate

- **Valentinas Mazuronis**, Minister for Environment, Republic of Lithuania;
- **Michel Delebarre**, Mayor of Dunkirk, France, and political coordinator of the CoR Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform;
- **Chris Vanden Bilcke**, Head of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) Liaison Office in Brussels;
- **Rozalina Petrova**, European Commission, DG Environment, Strategy Analyst.

16:15-16:45 **Coffee break**

16:45-18:00

Session 2 **Local perspectives for a sustainable energy sector – Europe 2020 and beyond**

Chair: **Ugo Cappellacci**, President of Autonomous Region Sardinia, (Italy), Chair of the CoR's Commission on Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE);

- **Piet De Vey Mestdagh** Member of the Executive Council of the Province of Groningen, The Netherlands;
- **Isabel Bonig Trigueros**, Regional Minister for Infrastructure and Environment, Valencia, Spain;
- **Gérard Magnin**, Executive Director of 'Energy Cities';

- **Brian Meaney** (Clare County Council and Mid-West Regional Authority, Ireland), best practice in the area integrated energy solutions for rural areas;
- **Daiva Matonienė**, Vice-Minister for the Environment of Lithuania.

3 September 2013

08:30-11:00

Study visit to main heat supplier for Vilnius City - SC Vilnius Energija *(optional for participants of the conference)*

11:00-12:30

Closing session *(as part of the meeting of the CoR Bureau)*

A resource-efficient Europe by 2020: which way forward?

Chair: **Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso**, (President of the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia, Spain), President of the Committee of the Regions

Keynote speeches and debate

- **Žydrūnė Juodkienė**, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania.
- **Representative**, European Commission, Directorate-General for Energy.

Conclusions: **Mercedes Bresso**, (Councillor of the Piemonte Region, Italy), First Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions, Member of the European Resource Efficiency Platform.



photo sources: DG REGIO and Lithuanian EU Presidency

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Edited by the Directorate for Communication, Press and Events of the Committee of the Regions

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