



Energie-Cités – Brasov (RO), 26 April 2007

The Annual General Meeting of Energie-Cités' held in Brasov (RO) on 26th April adopted the following resolution:

Call to local authorities to reach the EU energy and climate objectives

It is often said that Europe is lacking in ambition and purpose.

Energie-Cités, well known for its pioneering member cities in sustainable local energy management and for the role it plays demanding binding objectives at the European level that is likely to motivate our whole society involving and empowering our citizens for common actions.

This is why Energie-Cités - despite some weak points of the final document - is pleased to welcome the decision of the European Council of 8th and 9th March, setting ambitious, quantitative objectives ahead for the Member States. Following to the proposal of the European Commission, the Council committed to cut Greenhouse Gas emissions by 20%, reduce our energy consumption by 20% and increase the part of renewable energy by 20% in our energy balance by 2020. For the first time in the history, a community of nations has willingly set themselves the objective of reducing their energy use!

Beyond this decision, two options may be considered:

1. The decision remains with the Heads of State and Government, the citizens being spectators to an event most of them will never have heard of. This is the option we want to avoid at all costs, but it cannot be ruled out. National and European leaders have developed the habit of neglecting to involve citizens in their decisions and citizens have grown used to such a situation! This option can only lead us to a dead end and we could write the official declaration acknowledging its failure in 2020 now!
2. The decision is put in the hands of the citizens and all stakeholders regardless of their field of activity. They will be invited to join together to imagine their energy future, and therefore their future society; one very different from today's society, focused on minimising energy use. Thus, the European Union will find its way to re-establishing a link with citizens through a vital issue that concerns them all: energy. Empowering society and local authorities who are closely connected to such issues – is the way forward that Energie-Cités and its partners are going to promote in the coming months. Let Europe be the winner!

In this framework, Energie-Cités is launching a double call:

- To local authorities to commit themselves without any delay to reach the EU objectives within territories, acting together with all local stakeholders, creating a voluntary movement of local authorities committed to imagine their energy future in the new context.
- To the European Union Presidency, member States, European Commission, the Parliament and the Committee of the Regions in order to, beyond, legal and technological evolutions – that are necessary but far to be sufficient – a special attention for the key success factor in implementation was addressed: a strong involvement of local and regional authorities and all actors of society.

The official press release Energie-Cités would like to read in 2020 (!)

“At the 2020 Spring European Council, the Heads of State and Government, together with all the European institutions, expressed their satisfaction at the results obtained with regard to energy efficiency, renewable energy and the fight against climate change.

Not only have all the objectives been reached, and even exceeded, but it also looks like the European Union is in a good position to contemplate its future with serenity.

The unprecedented mobilisation of the European society as a whole – including citizens, local, regional and national authorities, and all business sectors – in imagining a society that is compatible with its ecological footprint has born fruit.

The Council congratulates all the citizens on this success. They also point out that, unlike in the past, European and national leaders were not content to only adopt legal and technological measures but decided to involve the whole of society! Thus giving Europe a new lease of life!”

For more information: [Gérard Magnin – www.energie-cites.eu](http://www.energie-cites.eu)