



CPMR action in the climate field: state of play and next steps

BACKGROUND

Climate change is a major issue for the CPMR. Over the past two years, the CPMR has developed actions in this area with the support of a specific Task Force led by the Noord-Holland, Zuid Holland and Brittany Regions.

Since 2017, the CPMR has been focusing on the following issues:

- The EU long-term strategy for the reduction of emissions, on which the CPMR adopted a [Policy Position](#) in October 2018;
- The EU Adaptation Strategy, on which the CPMR has adopted a [Policy Position](#) in October 2017;
- The Energy and Climate package, on which the CPMR has adopted a [Policy Position](#) in October 2017;
- The international dimension of climate policies, and COP conferences. The CPMR has developed relations with a number of international networks and organisations, with the aim of supporting international ambitions in the fight against global warming.

Recent developments in climate action took place at international level with COP24 in December 2018, as well as at European level, with the publication in November 2018 of the Communication from the European Commission "[A Clean Planet for all - A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy](#)". This 2050 vision aims to stimulate the implementation of the European Union's climate goals through its wide range of regulations and funds.

Against this background, the aim of this Technical Paper is to provide an overview and an update on the work of the European institutions, as well as to present the issues on which it is suggested that the action of the CPMR focuses on in 2019.

Issues addressed

This Technical Paper focuses on the following topics:

- International and European Climate ambitions;
- The contribution of regions to the development of Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs);
- Synergies with the regions in financing climate action.

1. International and European Climate Ambitions

1.1. COP24 outcomes

COP24 took place in December 2018 in Katowice (Poland).

Discussions were difficult. The conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel Climate Change [special report](#) on the impacts of 1.5°C global warming were not fully welcomed by participating countries. No agreement was found on accounting rules for international emission trading after 2020 to prevent “double counting” of emissions reduction, nor on the mechanisms to provide financial flows to compensate for damages caused by climate change.

However, an agreement was found on the Paris Agreement “[rulebook](#)”, which will enter into force in 2020. The rulebook determines how countries will report their progress towards emission reduction targets, which will be recorded in a public registry.

The agreement on the rulebook marks an important and concrete step in the implementation of the Paris agreement.

In a context where some States, such as the United States of America and Brazil, have withdrawn from the Paris agreement, or lowered their ambitions in terms of climate action, the European Union will have to assume a leadership role at international level.

1.2. Implementation of international objectives at EU level

The implementation of the Paris Agreements by the European Union is based on a set of objectives and instruments of its own.

On November 2018, the European Commission published COM(2018) 773 “[A Clean Planet for all - A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy](#)”. The long-term strategy present eight possible pathways for 2050 of which the most ambitious aims at a carbon neutral Europe by 2050. Its role is to outline a thorough debate for 2050.

At the same time, this vision to 2050 and the implementation of the European policies that will support it will feed into the submission, from 2020, by the European Union of an ambitious European strategy for greenhouse gas reductions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) within the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The approach of the European Union covers a wide range of issues. Action plans are foreseen in the following seven strategic areas:

- Energy efficiency;
- Deployment of renewables;

- Clean, safe and connected mobility;
- Competitive industry and circular economy;
- Infrastructure and interconnections;
- Bio-economy and natural carbon sinks;
- Carbon capture and storage to address remaining emissions.

The long-term strategy builds on 2030 climate and energy goals at European level. The targets set for 2030 have a strong focus on greenhouse gas emission reduction (at least 40% compared to 1990 by 2030) and on energy (i.e. at least 32% share of renewable and 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency).

In order to reach the 2030 targets, robust climate and energy legislation has been enacted by the European Union. As for climate legislation, the [revised EU ETS Directive](#) and the [Effort Sharing Regulation](#) (setting targets to cut emissions in sectors that are not covered by the ETS) will play a major role in achieving the 40% reduction target. With regard to the energy objectives, the [Clean energy for all Europeans package](#) and its eight legislative texts¹ aim at decarbonising the European energy system and also at establishing a robust governance system for the Energy Union.

At this stage, the European Union's progress in reducing emissions is slow but real. According to a [report](#) of the European Environment Agency published in October 2018, *“EU GHG emissions increased by 0.6 % in 2017, according to preliminary estimates from Member States. This increase was mainly driven by higher oil consumption from road transport. Despite this increase, the EU remains on track to achieve its 20% GHG reduction commitment by 2020 compared with 1990. In fact, EU GHG emissions in 2017 remained below the 2020 target at 21.9% below the 1990 level”*.

Next steps:

In the coming months, the CPMR will carefully look at the results of the action of the European Union to implement international objectives. It will also support ambitious messages on the future objectives that must be those of the international community and the European Union.

In this perspective, and with the support of the Climate Task Force, the CPMR will:

- Monitor and follow-up international debates on the implementation of the Paris agreement, as well as the results of the action of the European Union and its Member States. For this, the CPMR will keep collaborating with international networks and associations that are active in the climate field;
- Prepare its active contribution to the COP25. The CPMR has asked for observer status at COP25, and aims to use it to take an active role with its Member Regions;
- Actively promote its ambitions on climate issues to future Members of the European Parliament and the future European Commission.

¹ These eight texts are the following: [Energy Performance Directive](#), [Renewable Energy Directive](#), [Energy Efficiency Directive](#), [Governance Regulation](#), [Electricity Regulation](#), [Electricity Directive](#), [Risk Preparedness](#), [ACER](#).

2. The contribution of regions to the development of Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)

2.1. The Governance of the Energy Union

In December 2018, the Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action ([Regulation\(EU\) 2018/1999](#)) entered into force. The Regulation, which was finalised in the Clean Energy for all Europeans Package, sets out the legislative foundation and mechanism for a robust governance to meet the Energy Union objectives, reduce administrative burdens, allow for investor certainty and predictability, and synchronise planning and reporting cycles with the Paris Agreement.

2.2. The Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans

The Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) are the core of the Regulation's governance mechanism. Member States are required to establish a ten-year NECP starting from 2021 to 2030, which sets objectives, targets and contributions and relative policies and measures to reach for the five dimensions of the Energy Union.

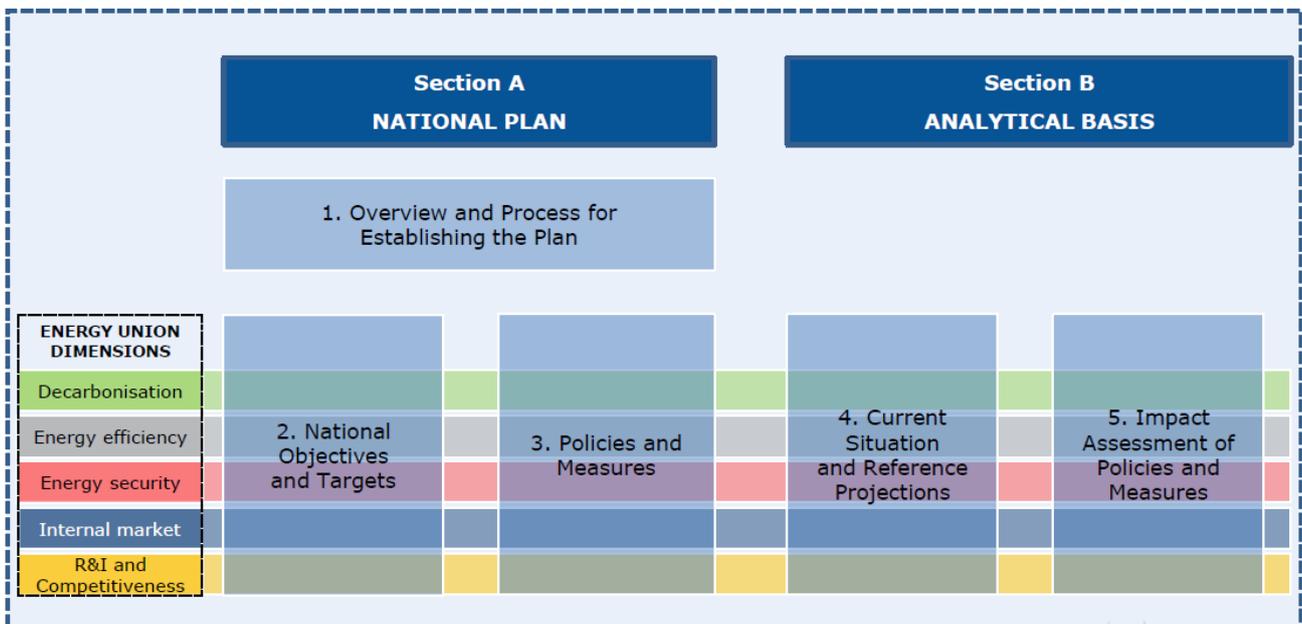


Figure 1: NECPs structure

Source: European Commission

In the 2021-2030 NECPs, Member States have to pay particular attention to the energy and climate targets for 2030. From 2023, and then every two years, Member States will have to report the status of the implementation of their NECP to the Commission. According to the Regulation, Member States had to submit a draft of their NECP by 31 December 2018 to the European Commission. Few Member States still need to present their draft plan. The drafts are currently being analysed by the Commission that may, by the end of June 2019, make recommendations to the draft NECPs. The final NECPs are then expected to be submitted at the end of 2019.

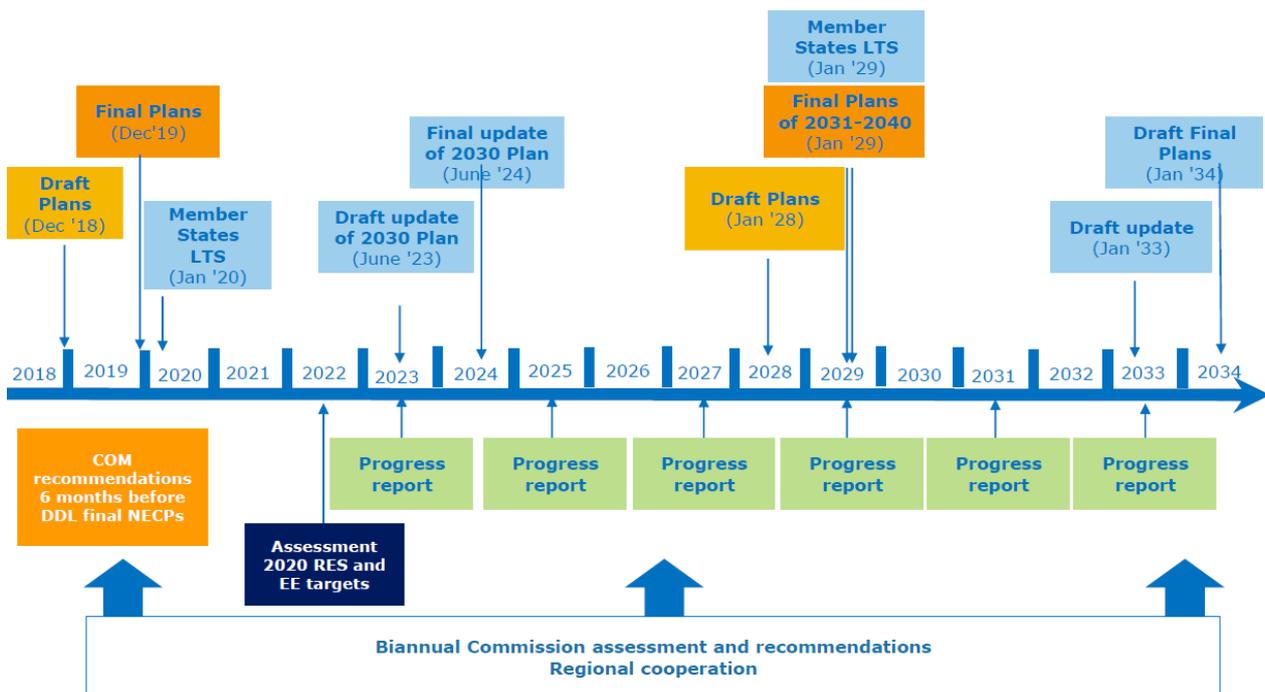


Figure 2: Timeline and next steps of the NECPs
Source: European Commission

2.3. Region's involvement in the NECPs

The full involvement of the regions in the development of national plans is a very important element in their association with the implementation of the objectives of the European Union.

Their involvement is foreseen by Article 11 of the Regulation, which states that Member States have to establish a multi-level dialogue in the development of the plans, where: *“local authorities, civil society organisations, business community, investors and other relevant stakeholders and the general public are able actively to engage and discuss the different scenarios envisaged for energy and climate policies, including for the long-term, and review progress”*. However, Member States were not required to open such multi-level dialogue in their draft plans.

Discussions between the European Commission and Member States on the draft NECPs will continue during 2019, with the objective for Member States to adopt their final plans by the end of 2019. In some states, such as the Netherlands, regions are already involved in the elaboration process. In others, this is not yet the case.

Next steps:

The CPMR wishes to facilitate the involvement of the regions in the preparation of national plans.

In this perspective, and with the support of the Climate Task Force, the CPMR will:

- Gather information on the development of national plans and the involvement of regions in their development at national level. The CPMR will focus in particular on:
 - Governance issues, and the formal involvement of the regions;
 - How priorities of the regions are taken into account. The CPMR will focus to some extent on the thematic areas on which the CPMR is the most active, such as transport, marine energies, and priorities in terms of adaptation;
 - How specificities of territories with permanent geographical handicaps such as islands, mountains and sparsely populated areas, are taken into account.
- Organise, by the end of 2019, a workshop on this issue, in collaboration with regional political representatives and technical experts, the European Commission, and, where appropriate, the national authorities concerned. This workshop will also provide an opportunity to share best practices between regions.

3. Financing climate action in synergy with the regions

Massive funding is needed to support climate action, both in terms of mitigation and adaptation.

At the occasion of its General Assembly in October 2018, the CPMR welcomed the European Commission's proposal to increase this contribution, and to have at least 25% of EU expenditure during the next programming period supporting climate objectives.

EU funds are actually already providing significant contribution under the programming period. According to the European Commission, the climate-related spending under the 2014-2020 budget is projected to amount to 200 billion Euros or 18.8% of the EU operational spending commitments (source : [Draft budget 2018, Statement of Estimates](#)).

However, the CPMR also expressed its concern that this, and even the 25% target for the next programming period, will not be enough to stimulate the public and private investments needed to reach the carbon neutrality targets and to limit global warming to 1.5°C by 2050 and below 2°C by 2100 compared to the pre-industrial era.

The CPMR therefore called for greater investment at all levels. It also expressed its support to the Call for a [Finance-Climate Pact](#). This Pact calls on European Heads of State and Government to negotiate, as soon as possible, a Finance-Climate Agreement, which would provide the necessary financing for 30 years, given the stakes, to finance the energy transition on the European territory and strengthen our partnership with the countries of the South.

The CPMR will therefore aim at accompanying its Member Regions' aspirations and actions towards aligning funds to their climate priorities. In doing so, the CPMR will focus on synergies between

priorities of the regions in terms of climate action, the ERDF, and centrally managed funds such as Invest EU, Horizon Europe, the new Modernisation and Innovation Fund and the EU Solidarity Fund.

Next steps:

The CPMR wishes to facilitate the mobilisation of European funds in support to regions' strategies for climate action. It will follow the development of those EU funds and programmes for the 2021-2027 programming period that are directly managed by the European Commission, such as Horizon Europe and LIFE, to make sure that CPMR energy and climate overall and sectoral priorities are well reflected in their future work programmes.

In this respect, and with the support of the Climate Task Force, the CPMR will:

- Produce an analysis of opportunities offered by European funds in the next programming period to support climate action. As for the work on National Energy and Climate plans, specific attention will be given to areas where the CPMR is the most active, such as transport, marine energies, adaptation, as well as on how territories with permanent geographical handicaps such as islands, mountains and sparsely populated areas can have best access to funding opportunities;
- Facilitate discussions between regions on the preparation of their future Smart Specialisation Strategies. To this end, a workshop will be organised by the end of 2019 in collaboration with regional political representatives and technical experts, the European Commission and, where appropriate, the national authorities concerned. This workshop will also offer an opportunity to share best practice and showcase examples of key investments supported by the regions, in line with the objectives of the [Finance-Climate Pact](#).



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The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) brings together some 160 Regions from 25 States from the European Union and beyond.

Representing about 200 million people, the CPMR campaigns in favour of a more balanced development of the European territory.

It operates both as a think tank and as a lobby group for Regions. It focuses mainly on social, economic and territorial cohesion, maritime policies and accessibility.

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Ref : CRPMNTP190005