



RESOLUTION OF CLIMATE ALLIANCE CONCERNING A MORE PRECISE DEFINITION OF THE COMMITMENT TO REDUCE CO₂ EMISSIONS IN THE CLIMATE ALLIANCE

Text of the resolution

In signing the Manifesto of European Cities, the members of the Climate Alliance/Alianza del Clima have taken as their goal a halving of their CO₂ emissions resulting from the energy and transport sectors. In order to formulate this goal more precisely, the Member Cities enter into the following agreement:

The goal of the Climate Alliance is to halve CO₂ emissions per inhabitant by the year 2010 compared to the reference year 1987 and to achieve further reductions later.

The inventorization of CO₂ emissions covers those CO₂ quantities that result from the use of energy and the transport operations within the city. It includes the total fuel cycle, i. e. extraction, transportation and conversion of the energy carriers concerned. In certain exceptions the specific local structure resp. a change in this structure will be taken into account in so far as the industry sector will be considered separately.

At regular intervals, the Member Cities of the Climate Alliance will prepare and publish a report describing the climate protection measures realized so far and the resulting CO₂ reductions.

Explanation

- 1) Taking per capita emission data as a basis instead of absolute figures takes demographic growth or shrinkage processes into account. Structural changes of an economic nature, e.g. shifts between the manufacturing and service sectors or settling resp. closing down large energy-intensive industrial companies can influence CO₂ emissions severely. In those cases the industry sector resp. one dominating company should be considered separately.
- 2) For all Member Cities a reference year must be defined equally, as choosing the year of accession to the Climate Alliance would disadvantage cities which join later.

- 3) The year 1987 is appropriate as a common reference year because numerous international and national studies refer to that date (e. g. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or the "Climate Protection" Study Commission of the German Bundestag). The climate protection goal of halving CO₂ emissions is in fact oriented to the results of those studies. Furthermore, all necessary data are available for this year.
- 4) The reduction of CO₂ emissions does not refer to those emissions which would occur according to prognosis or scenario analysis in the year 2010 if no action was taken ("business as usual"). Halving CO₂ emissions only referring to such a figure would not necessarily lead to a reduction of municipal CO₂ emissions in absolute terms, and thus would not fulfill the requirements of climate protection.
- 5) The greater part of anthropogenic CO₂ emissions stems from the energy and transport sectors - it is thus to these sectors that the commitment of the Climate Alliance members relates. As opposed to this, the assignment of "upstream" emissions arising from production processes taking place elsewhere to the consumption of goods in a Member City would be highly complex. Moreover, if the CO₂ emissions of local industrial and commercial enterprises are included in the inventorization, it would not be expedient to include the upstream goods-related emissions, as they would then be accounted for twice over (at the place of production and at the place of consumption).
- 6) The energy and transport sectors should be accounted for fully, i.e. including the upstream process chains consisting of extraction, transportation and conversion. Only then can the globally effective CO₂ emission quantity or CO₂ reduction arising through a local measure be determined or compared with the impacts of other measures. In particular, the upstream process chain for electricity generation should be inventorized. The data necessary for this are available.
- 7) An efficiency review procedure in the form of an evaluative report on the measures implemented and their effectivity will, beyond the local authority publishing the report, also give other local authorities important impulses for the planning of further steps for the future, and for the enhancement of the efficacy of climate protection strategies.

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly of 11 October in 1993 in Enschede