

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000580/25
to the Commission
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)
(7 February 2025)**

Subject: Support for the 100 climate-neutral cities under the Green Deal

One of the EU Missions set out under the Green Deal and Horizon Europe relates to the creation of 100 climate-neutral and smart cities. The mission aims to achieve climate neutrality in 100 European cities by 2030, with those cities acting as experimentation and innovation hubs.

Six Greek cities are taking part: Athens, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, Kalamata, Kozani and Trikala. These cities were invited to implement long-term planning and organise action plans and investment strategies to facilitate the project with public and private funding.

However, the project's implementation has been accompanied by significant challenges in terms of infrastructure, staffing, funding, training, as well as administrative capacity. What is more, Greek cities face additional obstacles, namely the lack of space for energy communities in the electricity grid and the lack of an institutional framework for direct financing through European funds.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. What stage of maturity has this important initiative/mission reached in Greece and in the EU as a whole?
2. In light of the challenges, which instruments and financial tools is the Commission planning to use to help the participating Greek cities achieve their complex objectives?

Submitted: 7.2.2025

**Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(5 May 2025)**

In Greece there is a momentum for the EU Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission ⁽¹⁾; of the six Greek cities selected for the Cities Mission, five have already received the Mission Label.

These cities established the 'Climanet' network, and the Greek Government announced EUR 20 million to be allocated to these cities for the preparation of studies and the financing of projects ⁽²⁾.

At European level, 53 Cities have so far been awarded with a Mission Label. A further 33 Climate City Contracts are now under review. 80 more cities have joined the Twinning Learning Programme ⁽³⁾ to replicate good practices: nine are Greek cities ⁽⁴⁾.

The Climate City Capital Hub ⁽⁵⁾, launched in June 2024, helps labelled cities ⁽⁶⁾ to get projects ready for investment. It offers advice on financing solutions, in cooperation with existing advisory services, such as those offered by the European Investment Bank (EIB), and puts cities in touch with investors.

Through the 'Enabling City Transformation Programme' under Horizon Europe, EUR 21 million were secured in 2024 to deploy advisory services of the EIB ⁽⁷⁾. In addition, the EIB ringfenced a lending envelope of EUR 2 billion for the labelled cities to support the implementation of their decarbonisation strategies.

Greek Mission cities will also receive support from EU Cohesion Policy and, in line with the European Regional Development Fund/Cohesion Fund Regulation ⁽⁸⁾, they are implementing their sustainable urban development strategies, to support energy efficiency, climate adaptation, smart cities and green transport projects.

⁽¹⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/climate-neutral-and-smart-cities_en

⁽²⁾ https://2030.ioannina.gr/?page_id=1121

⁽³⁾ <https://netzerocities.eu/twinning-learning-programme/>

⁽⁴⁾ These are Penteli, Palaio Faliro, Mytilene and Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni (selected for Cohort 1); Chalkida and Chios (in Cohort 2); Fyli, Heraklion and Larisa (in Cohort 3).

⁽⁵⁾ <https://netzerocities.eu/capital-hub/>

⁽⁶⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/942e747e-3ccf-4121-a973-9cc8032fc421_en

⁽⁷⁾ Including European Local ENergy Assistance (<https://www.eib.org/en/products/advisory-services/elena/index>) and the InvestEU Advisory Hub (https://investeu.europa.eu/investeu-programme/investeu-advisory-hub_en).

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L231, 30/06/2021, Article 11.

Finally, EU actions, such as the Covenant of Mayors⁽⁹⁾, the Green City Accord⁽¹⁰⁾, the European Urban Initiative⁽¹¹⁾, the URBACT IV programme⁽¹²⁾ and others, support cities in capacity-building and knowledge exchange.

⁽⁹⁾ <https://eu-mayors.ec.europa.eu/en/home>

⁽¹⁰⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/urban-environment/green-city-accord_en

⁽¹¹⁾ <https://www.urban-initiative.eu/>

⁽¹²⁾ <https://urbact.eu/>