In their comments and questions, the panellists and participants highlighted the following points:

- Local and regional authorities have a unique position because they are closest to decisions that affect people directly.

- Cities aim not only to be ‘a good place to live’, but also to be ‘green’ and to contribute to economic growth. Their green policies have a positive economic impact on job creation, investment and innovation. Many cities are even recognised as innovators and some of them are first movers in their field.

- The transition process towards a green economy is seen as an opportunity for cities to benefit, especially by enhancing and revitalising their infrastructure, improving services by using smart technologies, increasing energy and water efficiency and protecting local resources and the environment.

- At both European and national level, cities and regions need coherent and consistent strategies and policies which will support their sustainable development and the green economy. Such guidance has to be based on simple rules and transparent mechanisms with financial programmes and schemes which will induce local and regional authorities to use them to facilitate the transition process.
- On the other hand, local authorities have to create relevant strategies and policies at their level that are consistent with the European and national framework. The participation and involvement of key partners, including citizens, are crucial.

- Local authorities should be creative and use available instruments and new instruments such as monitoring and reporting in order to understand whether progress is being made; they should also make changes if goals are not being met, introduce effective financial schemes, carry out risk assessment, use effective and innovative technologies, and undertake green public procurement.

- For the purposes of development policy it is important to have up-to-date master plans, clear zoning, integrated planning systems and meaningful regulations, to create platforms to discuss problems and exchange best practices (cities can learn from each other), and to define leadership in the transition process to the green economy and the role of all relevant stakeholders.