

Committee on the Environment, Territorial Planning, Decentralisation, Local Government and Housing

Competences

In the performance of its duties, the Committee on the Environment, Territorial Planning, Decentralisation, Local Government and Housing is responsible for exercising its competences and performing political supervision in the areas overseen by the Minister of the Environment, Territorial Planning and Energy, the Minister of the Presidency and Regional Development (with respect to sustainable regional development and strategic and operational plans), and the Minister of Administrative Modernisation (with regard to local government).

The Committee is particularly responsible for monitoring matters related to:

- Climate change and national strategy for controlling and reducing greenhouse gases;
- The conservation of nature and biodiversity;
- The National Ecological Reserve (REN);
- The National Agricultural Reserve (RAN);
- Water resources and waterway policy and management;
- Water supply and wastewater disposal services;
- Waste management and treatment;
- The recovery and re-use of land and other contaminated sites;
- The prevention, control and reduction of all forms of pollution and environmental degradation;
- The environmental implications of agricultural policy;
- Territorial planning model and management, specifically in the areas of protecting and enhancing the coastline;
- National geographical information policy;
- Policy on cities, specifically matters of social housing policy, renting, the management, conservation and refurbishment of housing, and the promotion of accessibility for all;
- Local government measures and programmes;
- Administrative decentralisation;
- Energy policy in terms of its integration with environmental and energy planning measures at local government level and coordination between sources of renewable energy and the National Plan for Climate Change (PNAC), in connection with the Committee on Economics, Innovation and Public Works;
- The environmental, territorial planning and local government components of the Portugal 2020 Partnership Agreement;

The Committee is also responsible for:

– Promoting, within the scope of the legislative procedure, consultation of the National Association of Municipal Authorities (ANMP) and the National Association of Parishes (ANAFRE), with respect to members' and government bills on local authorities that involve the following matters:

– The statute of local authorities, including the rules governing local finances, the inter-municipal bodies statute and the legal system on local authority associations;

– The participation of residents' associations in the exercise of local government;

– The system and form of creating municipal police forces;

– Fostering the consultation of relevant local authority bodies when local authorities and the system that governs them are created, wound up or changed, without prejudice to the powers of the autonomous regions.