

Cities call for a more sustainable and equitable European future

An open letter to the European Council and its Member States

President of the European Council,
Heads of States and Governments of the European Union Member States,

We, the undersigned mayors and heads of local governments have come together to urge the Heads of States and Governments of the Member States to commit the European Union (EU) and all European institutions to a long-term climate strategy with the objective of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 – when they meet at the Future of Europe conference in Sibiu, Romania on 9 May, 2019.

The urgency of the climate crisis requires immediate action, stepping up our climate ambition and pursuing every effort to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C by mid-century, as evidenced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C. Current energy and climate policies in place globally, set the planet on a global warming pathway of 3°C. We are reminded of the inadequacy of our response to climate change, by the thousands of young people demonstrating each week on the streets of European cities - and around the world. We cannot let the status quo jeopardise their future and those of millions of European citizens. We owe it to the next generation to make more ambitious commitments to address climate change at all levels of government and in every aspect of European policy-making. We acknowledge and support the positions of the European Parliament and of the Commission to pursue net-zero emissions as the only viable option for the future of Europe and the world. Now, we believe that the European Council has a unique opportunity to deliver this vision.

We ask you to step up the EU's climate commitments, to show global leadership and drive ambition to make appropriate and rapid progress in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. We urge you to:

- Develop a just and inclusive European long-term climate strategy that enhances resilience and ensures emissions in the EU peak by 2020, more than halve by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050;
- Enhance the 2030 EU climate and energy targets and Nationally Determined Contribution to ensure a resilient, rapid and just energy transition in line with the above goals;
- Align the next EU long-term budget with this strategy, remove fossil fuel subsidies and mainstream climate action as a priority across all funding programmes; and
- Commit all member states to binding net-zero emissions reduction targets and the above goals.

We the mayors and heads of local governments stand ready to support and contribute to the climate leadership of Europe, as the impacts of climate change threaten the fair, equal and enduring access to opportunities that our great European cities offer. More than 9,000 cities have joined the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, of which nearly 8,000 in Europe. Many of us are already committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 and have put in place city climate plans compatible with the Paris Agreement - many more are working towards it. Collectively, cities are paving the way towards 2050 with impactful actions by 2030 and by developing integrated strategies and adopting ambitious sectoral commitments. These include bold objectives to advance towards zero waste by 2030, to meet net-zero carbon standards in all buildings by 2050, to move towards 100% renewable electricity by 2035 and 100% renewable energy in cities by 2050, and finally to deliver inclusive climate action that benefits all citizens equitably.

We, as mayors and heads of local governments, can play a central role in delivering on the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement, by developing and implementing ambitious local plans and working with citizens, business and civil society to achieve sustainable change. However, we need an enabling European framework and action by national government to guarantee long-term stability, determination and resources to support our climate efforts.

We hope that our leadership will inspire you to raise your ambition and give you confidence that net-zero emissions by mid-century is not only necessary and desirable – it is achievable if we work together. We encourage you to embrace this responsibility, and we, the mayors, will share the task of implementing it, for the benefit of European citizens and the wider world.

Signed by:

Anne Hidalgo
Mayor of Paris, France
Chair of C40 Cities

Anna König Jerlmyr
Mayor of Stockholm, Sweden
President of EURO CITIES

Dr. Eckart Würzner
Mayor of Heidelberg, Germany
President of Energy Cities

Ashok Sridharan
Mayor of Bonn, Germany
President of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

Juan Espadas
Mayor of Seville, Spain
Climate change spokesperson of CEMR

Giorgos Patoulis
Mayor of Amarousion, Greece

Thomas Kastrup-Larsen
Mayor of Aalborg, Denmark

Femke Halsema
Mayor of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Michalis Constantinides
Mayor of Agros, Cyprus

Evangelos Evangelides
Mayor of Aradippou, Cyprus

Mircea Hava
Mayor of Alba Iulia, Romania

Alessandro Ghinelli
Mayor of Arezzo, Italy

Ralf Paul Bittner
Mayor of Arnsberg, Germany

Georgios Kaminis
Mayor of Athens, Greece

Cosmin Necula
Mayor of Bacău, Romania

Bernd Fuhrmann
Mayor of Bad Berleburg, Germany

Alexander Guhl
Mayor of Bad Säckingen, Germany

Cătălin Cherecheș
Mayor of Baia Mare, Romania

Igor Radojičić
Mayor of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ada Colau
Mayor of Barcelona, Spain

Brigitte Merk-Erbe
Lord Mayor of Bayreuth, Germany

Harald Schjelderup
Governing Mayor of Bergen, Norway

Ian Ward
Leader of Birmingham City Council, United Kingdom

Ovidiu Teodor Crețu
Mayor of Bistrița, Romania

Virginio Merola
Mayor of Bologna, Italy

Patrick Bobet
President of Bordeaux Métropole, France

Cătălin Mugurel
Flutur Mayor of Botoșani, Romania

George Scripcaru
Mayor of Brasov, Romania

Matus Vallo
Mayor of Bratislava, Slovakia

François Cuillandre
Mayor of Brest, France

Céline Fremault
Minister of Brussels capital region, Belgium

Daniel Tudorache
Mayor of București-Sectorul 1, Romania

Mihai Toader
Mayor of București-Sectorul 2, Romania

Daniel Băluță
Mayor of București-Sectorul 4, Romania

Gabriel Mutu
Mayor of București-Sectorul 6, Romania

Rafal Bruski
Mayor of Bydgoszcz, Poland

Milun Todorović
Mayor of Čačak, Serbia

Stjepan Kovač
Mayor of Čakovec, Croatia

Pietro Puccio
Mayor of Capaci, Italy

Barbara Ludwig
Mayor of Chemnitz, Germany

Gabriela Staszkievicz
Mayor of Cieszyn, Poland

Norbert Tessmer
Lord Mayor of Coburg, Germany

Manfred Schnur
District Administrator of Cochem-Zell, Germany

Henriette Reker
Lord Mayor of Cologne, Germany

Frank Jensen
Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, Denmark

Patrick Gerard Murphy
Mayor of Cork County Council, Ireland

Stefan Löwl
District Administrator of Dachau, Germany

Jochen Partsch
Lord Mayor of Darmstadt, Germany

JM Van Bijsterveldt-Vliegenthart
Mayor of Delft, Netherlands

Nicolae-Florin Oancea
Mayor of Deva, Romania

François Rebsamen
Mayor of Dijon, France

Leo Schrell
District Administrator of Dillingen an der Donau,
Germany

Ulrich Sierau
Mayor of Dortmund, Germany

Paul Larue
Mayor of Düren, Germany

Helga Stulgies
Deputy Mayor of Düsseldorf, Germany

John Jorritsma
Mayor of Eindhoven, Netherlands

Stefan Schlatterer
Lord Mayor of Emmendingen, Germany

Bastian Rosenau
District Administrator of Enzkreis, Germany

Robert Herrmann
President of Strabourgh Eurométropole, France

Sucaciu Gheorghe
Mayor of Fagaras, Romania

Robert Fejstamer
Mayor of Kanjiža, Serbia

Hugo Andersson
Mayor of Finspang, Sweden

Dario Nardella
Mayor of Florence, Italy

Rosemarie Heilig
Deputy Mayor of Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Birgit S. Hansen
Deputy Mayor of Frederikshavn, Denmark

Martin W. Horn
Lord Mayor of Freiburg, Germany

Ionut Florin Pucleanu
Mayor of Galati, Romania

Thorsten Krüger
Mayor of Geestland, Germany

Frank Baranowski
Lord Mayor of Gelsenkirchen, Germany

Wim Dries
Mayor of Genk, Belgium

Mathias De Clercq
Mayor of Ghent, Belgium

Axel Josefson
Mayor of Gothenburg, Sweden

Dr. Stefan Fassbinder
Mayor of Greifswald, Germany

Eric Piolle
Mayor of Grenoble, France

Peter Vennemeyer
Mayor of Greven, Germany

Pauline Krikke
Mayor of The Hague, Netherlands

Andreas Henke
Lord Mayor of Halberstadt, Germany

Claus Kaminsky
Lord Mayor of Hanau, Germany

Emile Roemer
Mayor of Heerlen, Netherlands

Jürgen Dr. Pfeiffer
Mayor of Heilsbronn, Germany

Dr. Ingo Meyer
Lord Mayor of Hildesheim, Germany

David Ostholthoff
Mayor of Hörstel, Germany

Mihai Chirica
Mayor of Iasi, Romania

Georg Willi
Mayor of Innsbruck, Austria

Ruslan Martsinkiv
Mayor of Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine

Timo Koivisto
Mayor of Jyväskylä, Finland

Damir Mandic
Mayor of Karlovac, Croatia

Dr. Cemil Tugay
Mayor of Karsiyaka, Turkey

Dr. Frank Mentrup
Lord Mayor of Karlsruhe, Germany

Per-Samuel Nisser
Mayor of Karlstad, Sweden

Dr. Ulf Kämpfer
Mayor of Kiel, Germany

David Langner
Lord Mayor of Koblenz, Germany

Dr. Joachim Wolf
Mayor of Korntal-Münchingen, Germany

Vincent Van Quickenborne
Mayor of Kortrijk, Belgium

Frank Meyer
Lord Mayor of Krefeld, Germany

Radomir Nikolic
Mayor of Kragujevac, Serbia

George Panayiotou
Mayor of Kyperounta, Cyprus

Jean-François Fontaine
Mayor of La Rochelle, France

Photoula Hadjipapa
Mayor of Lakatamia, Cyprus

Kimmo Jarva
Mayor of Lappeenranta, Finland

Andreas Vyras
Mayor of Larnaka, Cyprus

Peter Soulsby
Mayor of Leicester, United Kingdom

Mohamed Ridouani
Mayor of Leuven, Belgium

Willy Demeyer
Mayor of Liège, Belgium

Martine Aubry
Mayor of Lille, France

Fernando Medina
Mayor of Lisbon, Portugal

Zoran Janković
Mayor of Ljubjana, Slovenia

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London, United Kingdom

Pedro Gomes
Mayor of Lousada, Portugal

Werner Spec
Lord Mayor of Ludwigsburg, Germany

Dr. Rainer Haas
District Administrator of Ludwigsburg County,
Germany

Gérard Collomb
Mayor of Lyon, France

Manuela Carmena
Mayor of Madrid, Spain

Francisco de la Torre Prados
Mayor of Málaga, Spain

Katrin Stjernfeldt-Jammeh
Mayor of Malmö, Sweden

Sir Richard Leese
Leader of Manchester City Council, United
Kingdom

Dr. Peter Kurz
Lord Mayor of Mannheim, Germany

Mattia Palazzi
Mayor of Mantova, Italy

Wieland Stötzel
Mayor of Marburg, Germany

Barbara Heinonen
Mayor of Mariehamn, Finland

Jens Spiske
Mayor of Markranstادت, Germany

Giuseppe Sala
Mayor of Milan, Italy

Peter Marland
Mayor of Milton Keynes, United Kingdom

Gian Carlo Muzzarelli
Mayor of Modena, Italy

Zimmermann Daniel
Mayor of Monheim am Rhein, Germany

Patrice Bessac
Mayor of Montreuil, France

Michael Jann
Lord Mayor of Mosbach, Germany

Lujbo Beslic
Mayor of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ulrich Scholten
Lord Mayor of Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany

Dieter Reiter
Lord Mayor of München, Germany

José Ballesta Germán
Mayor of Murcia, Spain

Dražen Srpak
Mayor of Mursko Središće, Croatia

Mats Gerdau
Mayor of Nacka, Sweden

Johanna Rolland
Mayor of Nantes, France

Constantinos Yiorkadjis
Mayor of Nicosia, Cyprus

Darko Bulatovic
Mayor of Nis, Serbia

Gregor Macedoni
Mayor of Novo Mesto, Slovenia

Dr. Ulrich Maly
Lord Mayor of Nuremberg, Germany

Daniel Schranz
Lord Mayor of Oberhausen, Germany

Ilie Bolojan
Mayor of Oradea, Romania

Lena Baastad
Mayor of Orebro, Sweden

Danijel Vrbnjak
Mayor of Ormož, Slovenia

Raymond Johansen
Governing Mayor of Oslo, Norway

Nico Schulz
Mayor of Osterburg, Germany

Päivi Laajala
Mayor of Oulu, Finland

Joseba Asiron Saez
Mayor of Pamplona, Spain

Vladan Vasić
Mayor of Pirot, Serbia

Heinrich Hofmann
Mayor of Planegg, Germany

Panayiotis Papadopoulos
Mayor of Platres, Cyprus

Yiotis Papachristofi
Mayor of Polis Chrysochous, Cyprus

Rui Moreira
Mayor of Porto, Portugal

Kolarek Ljubomir
Mayor of Prelog, Croatia

Nuška Gajšek
Mayor of Ptuj, Slovenia

Waclaw Zarski
Mayor of Raciechowice, Poland

Burkhard Mast-Weisz
Lord Mayor of Remscheid, Germany

Emmanuel Couet
President of Rennes Métropole, France

Thomas Keck
Lord Mayor of Reutlingen, Germany

Dagur B. Eggertsson
Mayor of Reykjavik, Iceland

Andreas Sunder
Mayor of Rietberg, Germany

Olegs Burovs
Mayor of Riga, Latvia

Sami Sulkko
Mayor of Riihimäki, Finland

Vojko Obersnel
Mayor of Rijeka, Croatia

Ahmed Aboutaleb
Mayor of Rotterdam, Netherlands

Charlotte Britz
Lord Mayor of Saarbrücken, Germany

Philippe Laurent
Mayor of Sceaux, France

Dirk Harscher
Mayor of Schopfheim, Germany

Dorin Nistor
Mayor of Sebeș, Romania

Dr. Vlasta Krmelj
Mayor of Selnica ob Dravi, Slovenia

Maurizio Mangialardi
Mayor of Senigallia, Italy

Yakup Otgöz
Mayor of Seydikemer, Turkey

Mihai Chirica
Mayor of Sibiu, Romania

Ovidiu Dumitru Mălâncrăvean
Mayor of Sighișoara, Romania

Tim-Oliver Kurzbach
Lord Mayor of Solingen, Germany

Erik Lauritzen
Mayor of Sonderborg, Denmark

Manfred Scherer
Mayor of Sprendlingen-Gensingen, Germany

Milan Stamatovic
Mayor of Cajetina, Serbia

Hans Josef Linßen
Mayor of Straelen, Germany

Roland Ries
Mayor of Strasbourg, France

Stanislav Rebernik
Mayor of Štrigova, Croatia

Andreas Papacharalambous
Mayor of Strovolos, Cyprus

Peter Pätzold
Mayor of Stuttgart, Germany

Andelko Nagrajsalovic
Mayor of Sveti Juraj na Bregu, Croatia

Lauri Lyly
Mayor of Tampere, Finland

Dorin Florea
Mayor of Târgu Mureș, Romania

Thomas Schmidt
Mayor of Teltow, Germany

Nicolae Robu
Mayor of Timisoara, Romania

Erion Veliaj
Mayor of Tirana, Albania

Peter Brocka
Mayor of Trnava, Slovakia

Boris Palmer
Mayor of Tübingen, Germany

Chiara Appendino
Mayor of Turin, Italy

Minna Arve
Mayor of Turku, Finland

Paul Van Miert
Mayor of Turnhout, Belgium

Hans Lindberg
Mayor of Umeå, Sweden

Erik Pelling
Mayor of Uppsala, Sweden

Jan van Zanen
Mayor of Utrecht, Netherlands

Joan Ribo i Canut
Mayor of Valencia, Spain

Oscar Puente Santiago
Mayor of Valladolid, Spain

Ritva Viljanen
Mayor of Vantaa, Finland

Cheryl Jones-Fur
Deputy Mayor of Växjö, Sweden

Nathalie Appéré
Mayor of Rennes, France

Hans Bonte
Mayor of Vilvoorde, Belgium

Gorka Urtaran
Mayor of Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Boban Djurovic
President of Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia

Christian Thegelkamp
Mayor of Wadersloh, Germany

Andreas Hesky
Mayor of Waiblingen, Germany

Sonja Leidemann
Mayor of Witten, Germany

Jacek Sutryk
Mayor of Wroclaw, Poland

Milan Bandić
Mayor of Zagreb, Croatia

Tatar Balazs
Mayor of Zalau, Romania

Sandro Maculan
Mayor of Zugliano, Italy

and Julije Domac
CEO of North-West Croatia Regional Energy
Agency & President of FEDARENE

Supported by:

