



PRESS RELEASE - 10 June - Nantes

No global climate deal without cities

European cities have a wealth of experience and expertise to share that could make the crucial difference in achieving global climate goals. In the run up to a global climate deal at COP 21 in Paris this December, city mayors met today in Nantes to discuss the challenges and opportunities of climate action.

Speaking at the political debate, Johanna Rolland, EURO CITIES president and mayor of Nantes, said:

“European cities are world leaders on climate action. Many of us have targets more ambitious than our respective governments, and we work hard to ensure our climate action has wider benefits: for the quality of life in our cities, for jobs and social inclusion. We’d like to share our experiences with other cities around the world, and learn from theirs too.”

Climate action is not a choice, but a necessity. The challenge ahead is huge, but our major cities are also exploring the opportunities that climate action can offer. Taking action can boost jobs and social cohesion for the benefit of all. It has the potential to create new green jobs, including for less qualified workers. We can support innovation and cutting edge SMEs, help households save money by becoming more energy efficient, protect our economies from volatile fossil fuel prices by investing in renewable energy and drive change through green procurement. If all levels of government work together effectively, our climate efforts can make our citizens healthier and happier and our cities more attractive.

A global climate deal cannot be achieved without realising the full potential of our cities. It is important that the COP 21 negotiators recognise this. We invite the negotiators to be inspired by our experiences, to give us the capacity and resources to take our climate efforts further and to better involve cities in the global governance of climate change.

Practically speaking, we propose:

- enhanced dialogue with local authorities during the COP negotiations
- developing and intensifying cooperation with city networks such as ours
- encouraging and supporting the exchange of good practice
- facilitating cities’ access to international support mechanisms
- stable financing and funding streams for building renovation
- supporting innovation for more low carbon, green solutions
- giving cities the space to act, for example, through local incentives for energy efficiency and renewables
- creating stable regulatory and taxation frameworks that remove harmful subsidies and focus on the wider effects and benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- ensuring the format of national government statistics facilitates local greenhouse gas emission inventories

ENDS

Notes to editors

- EURO CITIES statement on cities and climate action - towards COP 21: <http://bit.ly/1QLuK5>
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