

# Cities call for a more sustainable and equitable European future

*An open letter to the European Council and its Member States*

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019,

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  
Prof. Dr. Eckart Würzner, Mayor of Heidelberg, Germany & President of Energy Cities  
Anna König Jerlmyr, Mayor of Stockholm, Sweden & President of Eurocities  
Juan Espadas, Mayor of Seville, Spain & climate spokesperson of CEMR  
Ashok Sridharan, Mayor of Bonn, Germany & President of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability  
Thomas Kastrup-Larsen, Mayor of Aalborg, Denmark  
Michalis Constantinides, Mayor of Agros, Cyprus  
Mircea Hava, Mayor of Alba Iulia, Romania  
Femke Halsema, Mayor of Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Gianni Di Cesare, Mayor of Anversa degli Abruzzi, Italy  
Evangelos Evangelides, Mayor of Aradippou, Cyprus  
Alessandro Ghinelli, Mayor of Arezzo, Italy  
Ralf Paul Bittner, Mayor of Arnsberg, Germany  
Giulio Sciorilli Borrelli, Mayor of Atessa, Italy  
Georgios Kaminis, Mayor of Athens, Greece  
Gabriele De Angelis, Mayor of Avezzano, Italy  
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  
Antonella Buffone, Mayor of Balsorano, Italy

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Michael Müller, Governing Mayor of Berlin, Germany  
Ian Ward, Leader of Birmingham City Council, United Kingdom  
Ovidiu Teodor Crețu, Mayor of Bistrița, Romania  
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Patrick Bobet, President of Bordeaux Métropole, France  
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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  
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Iside Di Martino, Mayor of Cagnano Amiterno, Italy  
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Gianfranco D'Isabella, Mayor of Carunchio, Italy  
Giuseppe D'Angelo, Mayor of Casacanditella, Italy  
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Massimo Tiberini, Mayor of Casoli, Italy  
Rosanna De Antoniis, Mayor of Castel Castagna, Italy  
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Anđelko Nagrajsalovic, Mayor of Sveti Juraj na Bregu, Croatia  
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Nicolae Robu, Mayor of Timisoara, Romania  
Erion Veliaj, Mayor of Tirana, Albania  
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Angelo Radica, Mayor of Tollo, Italy  
Remo Fioriti, Mayor of Tornareccio, Italy  
Giacomo Carnicelli, Mayor of Tornimparte, Italy  
Carmine Ficca, Mayor of Torricella Peligna, Italy  
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Jacek Sutryk, Mayor of Wroclaw, Poland  
Milan Bandić, Mayor of Zagreb, Croatia  
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And

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