



European Committee of the Regions

# Political messages of the European Committee of the Regions for the UNFCCC

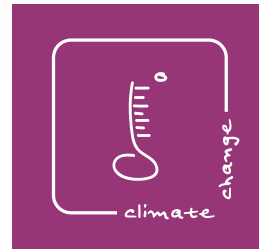
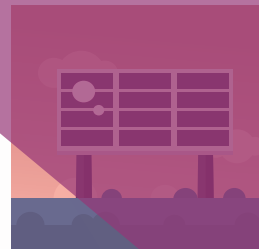
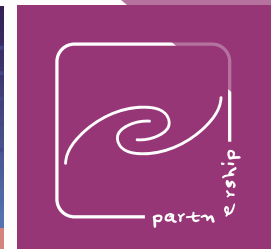
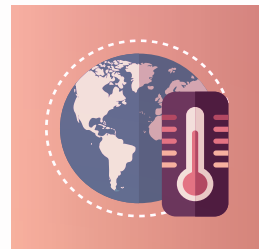
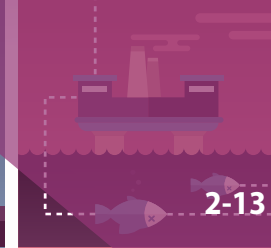
## COP25

MADRID, Spain

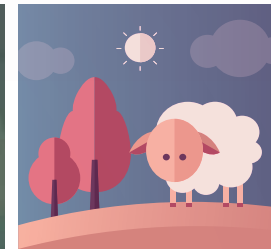
2-13 DECEMBER 2019



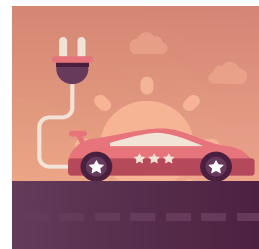
inclusiveness



climate change



sustainable development



European Committee of the Regions

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is the European Union's assembly of regional and local authorities. Created in 1994 following the signing of the Maastricht Treaty, the CoR is composed of 350 members and 350 alternates from all 28 Member States. Members must either hold an electoral mandate or be politically accountable to an elected assembly in their home region or city.

The main mission of the CoR is to involve regional and local governments in the decision-making process of the European Union and be the voice of cities and regions in key areas of local and regional interest.



December 2019

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www.cor.europa.eu | @EU\_CoR | /european.committee.of.the.regions | /european-committee-of-the-regions



**Karl-Heinz LAMBERTZ**

President of the European Committee of the Regions

"We have no alternative but to raise our climate ambition and scale up funds to accelerate climate action on the ground if we want to keep avert global warming. The EU will not reach climate neutrality by 2050 without its cities and regions. Nor will the world stop global warming without local and regional governments. A proper multi-level system of governance needs to be put in place, setting clear objectives, milestones and monitoring mechanisms, to ensure we deliver economic green growth while raising social and environmental standards worldwide.

At the COP25, we call on the United Nations and national governments to formally involve subnational governments in the implementation of climate and energy plans. In Madrid, together with global networks of local governments, and with a support from the Chilean presidency, we will start to build a roadmap towards COP26 in Glasgow to ensure the next national determined contributions by 2020 will be developed by the national governments together with local authorities. As carbon emissions are higher today than ever before, we must not close our eyes to the climate emergency we are facing. Economic growth, decarbonisation and a fair transition must go hand in hand. It is a duty we owe to the planet and to future generations."



**Markku Markkula (FI/EPP)**

CoR 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President,  
Chair of the City Board of Espoo

**Cor Lamers (NL/EPP)**

Chair of the CoR's ENVE Commission  
Mayor of Schiedam



**Jean-Noël Verfaillie (RE/FR)**

CoR's ENVE 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair  
Member of the Nord Departmental Council

**Benedetta Brighenti (PES/IT)**

CoR Rapporteur on the Covenant of Mayors post 2020  
Member of Castelnuovo Rangone Municipal Council



**Andries Gryffroy (EA/BE)**

CoR rapporteur on Smart Cities  
and Member of the Flemish Parliament

**Tjisse Stelstra (ECR/NL)**

Member of the Executive Council  
of the Province of Drenthe



**European Committee of the Regions delegation to the UNFCCC COP25**

**As the Assembly of cities and regions of the European Union, the European Committee of the Regions:**

- Acknowledges a climate emergency and calls on national and subnational governments, businesses and civil society worldwide to drastically increase climate ambition, funding and investments to accelerate climate action and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Recalls that local and regional governments are responsible for more than 70% of climate change mitigation measures and up to 90% of climate adaptation actions. Local and regional governments can therefore no longer be excluded of global climate talks and must be formally integrated in the global climate governance system, including a clear role in the UNFCCC regulatory framework and in the decision-making process for the implementation of the Paris climate agreement.
- Calls on the UN and the Parties of the Paris agreement to support a COP25 political declaration that endorses close cooperation between national and subnational governments in the preparation and implementation of national energy and climate plans.
- As cities account for 70% of world GHG emissions, local communities are at the frontline of climate impacts but also solutions. Calls on the UN and the Parties of the Paris agreement to support the inclusion of Locally and Regionally Determined Contributions (LRDCs) as a complement to Nationally Determined Contributions in order to acknowledge, monitor and incentivise decarbonisation achievements and commitments by subnational governments.
- Proposes that national inventory reports of the Paris agreement transparency framework include a section on climate actions undertaken by subnational governments to keep track of the progress towards achieving both NDCs and LRDCs.
- Stresses that sustainable financing is the cornerstone for the world's decarbonisation and calls for taxation of fossil-based energy production and consumption including air and maritime transport. Emissions allowances, green bonds and collective guarantees must be multiplied along with capacity development programmes to facilitate local climate mitigation and adaptation. Local and regional governments must be priority partners and recipients of climate investments.
- Celebrates the ambitious commitments and positive climate achievements cities and regions are delivering daily through initiatives such as the Global Parliament of Mayors, C40, Under2Coalition and the Covenant of Mayors for which we strongly support its further development and global expansion in cooperation with networks of subnational governments worldwide.

See more at: [https://cor.europa.eu/en/events/pages/cop25\\_events.aspx](https://cor.europa.eu/en/events/pages/cop25_events.aspx)

