



European Committee  
of the Regions



# The Green Deal goes local: The Green Deal in my city

Bratislava–Petržalka municipality, 25 May 2021



#EUlocal



## Event type

Online Local  
Dialogue

## Date

25 May 2021

## Initialising member

Vincent Chauvet  
(FR/RE)

## Audience

Around 25 viewers on Zoom, from Bratislava–  
Petržalka Youth Parliament

## Organiser

Bratislava–Petržalka municipality

## Partners

Bratislava–  
Petržalka Youth  
Parliament

## Themes

Implementation of the European Green Deal at local  
and regional level and the role of semi-formal entities  
such as youth parliaments.



## Speakers

- **Vincent Chauvet**  
(FR/Renew Europe)  
Mayor of Autun, Member of the  
European Committee of the  
Regions;
- **Miroslav Behúl**  
City councillor at the Bratislava–  
Petržalka municipality, Slovakia  
and participant of the Young  
Elected Politicians (YEPs)  
Programme of the European  
Committee of the Regions;
- **Ľubica Mieresoá**  
Member of the Bratislava–  
Petržalka Youth Parliament,  
Slovakia.



## Key messages

This was the first online debate organised by the European Committee of the Regions with a youth parliament about the European Green Deal. It focused on the implementation of the Green Deal at local and regional levels, the opportunities that are in place for local and regional authorities and the role of semi-formal entities as youth parliaments in developing strategies for the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions. The session has also presented [the work of the European Committee of the Regions on the European Green Deal](#).

One of the main messages coming from the discussion was that semi-formal entities, such as youth parliaments, need to be consulted to encompass their views and ensure they play a role in developing a sustainable future. The EU recovery plan lays the groundwork to develop green policies and meet the 2050 targets for a climate-neutral Europe. Local and regional actors are crucial to ensure the transition, but participants stressed their concerns about the challenges that municipalities face in delivering projects locally. This reinforces the importance of the [European Committee of the Regions' call](#) for direct funds for cities and regions to implement the Green Deal at local levels.

*"How do we spend the money and how we reach the new 2050 targets for a more sustainable and greener Europe?"* was the question highlighted by CoR Member Vincent Chauvet (FR/RE) to present the main work of the EU Institutions for the implementation of the European Green Deal, *"the roadmap for the European recovery!"*.



## Press/Social media coverage

Media coverage

[CoR Press Release](#)

Website

[CoR Event page](#)

Social Media

[#YoungLocal  
Leaders](#)



## Context

The Opinion "[Stepping up Europe's 2030 climate ambition towards COP26](#)" will be discussed at the July Plenary session of the European Committee of the Regions. The. In February 2021, the CoR Rapporteur Vincent Chauvet consulted the participants of the Young Elected Politicians (YEPs) Programme on how to step up Europe's climate ambitions. One of the main messages from the consultative exercise was the role of semi-formal institutions, such as local consultative bodies, city youth councils and youth parliaments in the implementation of Europe's energy transition. The feedback was included in the draft CoR Opinion, and this debate follows the consultation meeting organised by the CoR ENVE Commission and the YEPs Programme.

## Debate 1 - The European Green Deal: what are the opportunities for my city?

Following the presentation of the activities of the Bratislava–Petržalka Youth Parliament by ones of its members, Ms Lubica Mieresořová, participants stressed the key role that the younger generation has to play in ensuring a sustainable and green recovery. A key point that was also stressed by Mr Chauvet: *"I am very well aware of the generational drift that exists on the question of climate and environment, and strongly believe in the power and the responsibility of the youth to push for and implement all measures aiming at decarbonising our way of life. It will not be an easy task, as we need to combine the transitions with the post-COVID-19 recovery. This is why I encourage every municipality of at least 10,000 inhabitants to consider creating youth parliaments, such as the one I joined today, to make climate policy a reality and to offer a sustainable, just and climate neutral future for our citizens"*.

The [Fit For Future Platform](#) was indicated as a useful tool for local and regional authorities, citizens and businesses as it deals with different topics that are in the CoR 2021 work programme, such as cross-border healthcare, public procurement, state aid and air quality. The EU funds that are available to support energy-related projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the use of renewable energy or improve energy efficiency was another topic of the debate, because each country has to present its national plan for the use of these funds to ensure a real impact in all villages, towns and cities of the EU.

The European Committee of the Regions and its "[Green Deal going local](#)" working group aims at placing cities and regions at the core of the path towards climate-neutrality. Meeting the new targets require a fundamental and systemic change at local level especially in the transport, food, agricultural and heating production sectors. It requires the decarbonisation of vehicles, the reorganisation of food production for the reduction of Co2 emissions, sustainable agriculture, the adoption of environmental friendly heating mechanisms that put aside oil and gas ([The Renovation Wave](#)) and the promotion of sustainable forest management models.

## Debate 2 - Implementation of the Green Deal in my city

Mr Chauvet presented the EU as the most advanced continent regarding the pledge about the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions (COP 26 in Glasgow is an example). In order to implement the objectives of the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) in each country, local and regional contributions are also key.

*"The organisation of local CoPs could support the drafting of regionally and locally determined contributions"*, Mr Chauvet said, *"and youth parliaments should be part of these local CoPs,"* working hand in hand with politicians, private companies, environmental associations, farmers associations, citizens, other young people and global organisations. One major issue that was highlighted during the discussion is the lack of a common reporting system that makes it difficult to compare the different contributions. Local plans should be mandatory and the Covenant of Mayors is pledging to go in this direction.

### Debate 3 - Sharing of knowledge and best practices

The younger generation is underrepresented in political decision making and this represents a democratic deficit. The [CoR Green Deal Going Local Interactive Map](#) promotes local climate actions to reach the carbon neutrality targets by 2050 implemented by local and regional authorities, including Young Elected Politicians (YEPs). Local and regional authorities are gaining influence on green issues proving that regions and cities have an impact. To further improve the voice of regions and cities, youth councils and parliaments should be political, not only representative bodies. In terms of sharing of best practices, the youth branches of political parties have also been mentioned as important actors for sharing knowledge at European, national, regional and local levels. A call to participate in the CoP 26, as political party or individual, to organise sessions for sharing of practices was made by Mr Chauvet to the members of the Bratislava-Petržalka Youth Parliament and YEPs. Youth parliaments can contribute to changing the behaviour of citizens, especially in the post pandemic world.

### Conclusions

Miroslav Behúl, city councillor at the Bratislava–Petržalka municipality and participant of the CoR's YEP programme: *"Environmental themes are, in general, very close to the young generation. The commitment and the motivation of young people must therefore be used in the effort to build an environmentally friendly Europe. There are many youth parliaments across EU regions which can also take part and support the implementation of the European Green Deal. Youth parliaments generally have a close connection with the self-governments and with the young people. Therefore, I think that youth parliaments should get more information about best practices and examples of using the opportunities to improve our environment!"*