



**European Committee  
of the Regions**



# **Young Elected Politicians United 4 Climate**

**Local Climate Action Footprint**  
**Accelerating climate action locally**

**Brussels, 3-5 December 2019**



The climate emergency we are living in is an imperative to achieve Europe's climate neutrality. The sustainable energy transition and the shift towards a circular economy is not only the solution to reversing global warming, it is an unprecedented opportunity for the European Union, in view of COP25 in Madrid, to deliver sustainable growth and green jobs and improve social justice, environmental standards and quality of life. The European Green Deal must be the framework and the pathway towards achieving Europe's climate neutrality by 2050. It is crucial that the green transition goes hand in hand with social justice and regional development.

Its objectives will not be delivered without the direct involvement of local and regional authorities. Cities and regions are at the frontline of the impact of climate change, but also providing solutions. We are already delivering Europe's sustainable energy transition on the ground. However, more financial, legal and political support from the European Union is required to enable us to step up our ambition. We are committed to keep accelerating climate action locally. We listen to the young people that are demonstrating around the world for climate justice. We agree with them that we have to go from talking to acting. It is a matter of political will and we, regional and local Young Elected Politicians, are ready to act.

## Recommendations

We, Young Elected Politicians stand ready to lead by example. In order to take further action we need strong support from the European Union. For this reason, we call on EU Institutions to **mandate and promote economic structural changes that support the objectives of the European Green Deal via an adequate incentive, financial and legal framework and then targeted taxation policies**, in particular to:

1. Boost a green and circular economy that promotes sustainable behaviours and enhances the quality of life for all European citizens in terms of ecology, society and equality.
2. Focus on social transition via "green education" in order to increase awareness of sustainable solutions and enhance the exchange of best practices and large scale replication. Provide more information about the life cycle and climate footprint of products to citizens.
3. Boost the "share&reuse economy" by promoting the reduction of consumption and making products more durable.
4. Ensure a green and just taxation policy following the "polluter pays" principle and taking into account the local, regional and national competencies. Support public-private cooperation to finance the energy transition. This policy should be inclusive and avoid producing "mobility poverty" and segregation of territories, such as, for example, rural and remote areas.
5. Support local and regional authorities in providing citizens with cheaper, more accessible and clean public transportation throughout the whole EU so it becomes easier to travel in a climate-friendly way in Europe. Support a transition to 100% fossil fuel-free public transportation and publicly owned car fleet and expand public transport infrastructure in rural areas.
6. Support municipalities and regions to provide more bicycle lanes and safe parking spaces for bicycles and to create systems where you can combine different means of transportation in one trip, for example by combining public transport and (e)bike rental.
7. Finance an EU-wide massive building renovation plan towards Near Zero Energy Buildings.
8. Reduce bureaucracy and simplify regulations in order to unlock the full potential of renewable energy: we believe in a Europe with 100% renewable energy by 2050 at the latest.

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Deputy Mayor, Redován, Spain



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City councillor, Santa Cugat, Spain



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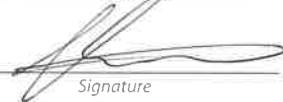
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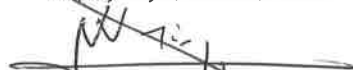
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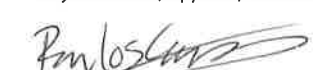
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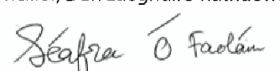
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**Séafra Ó Faoláin**  
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City councillor, Innsbruck, Austria



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The Young Elected Politicians (YEP) initiative was launched in 2019 by the European Committee of the Regions, which is offering to these young local politicians a platform, via invitation to various events, to get information on EU legislation, EU funding opportunities, to exchange best practices, meet and discuss with other politicians. *The Young Elected Politicians: United 4 Climate* event, held in 3 December 2019, was designed to hear and understand their concerns and recommendations on how the European Union can better support them in the implementation of sustainable initiatives in their city or region.

More info: [www.cor.europa.eu/yeps.go](http://www.cor.europa.eu/yeps.go)



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

Created in 1994 following the signing of the Maastricht Treaty, the European Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of 350 regional and local representatives from all 28 Member States, representing over 507 million Europeans. Its mission is to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the EU's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies. The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council are obliged to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union if its rights are infringed or it believes that EU law infringes the subsidiarity principle or fails to respect regional or local powers.

Edited by the Directorate for Human Resources and Finance of the European Committee of the Regions

December 2019

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