



European Committee  
of the Regions

01-12 NOV 2021  
GLASGOW

**COP26**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



# We deliver climate action

EU cities and regions  
at COP26

GLASGOW,  
United Kingdom  
1-12 NOVEMBER 2021



**#EUGreenDeal**



### **Apostolos Tzitzikostas (EL/EPP)**

President of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR)  
Governor of Central Macedonia Region, Greece.  
**Greek Ambassador of the Covenant of Mayors.**



### **Juan Espadas (ES/PES)**

Mayor of Seville, Spain. Chair of the CoR's Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE) and of the **Green Deal Going Local Working Group**.  
**Spanish Ambassador of the Covenant of Mayors.**



### **Hanna Zdanowska (PL/EPP)**

Mayor of Łódź, Poland. **Member of the CoR's Green Deal Going Local Working Group**. **Climate Pact Ambassador** and **Polish Ambassador of the Covenant of Mayors**.



### **Vincent Chauvet (FR/Renew Europe)**

Mayor of Autun, France. CoR rapporteur on '**Stepping up Europe's 2030 climate ambition towards COP26**', **Member of the CoR's Green Deal Going Local Working Group** and **Climate Pact Ambassador**.



### **Jakub Piotr Chełstowski (PL/ECR)**

President of the Śląskie voivodeship, Poland.



### **Andries Gryffroy (BE/EA)**

Member of the Flemish Parliament, Belgium. CoR Rapporteur on '**The impact of climate change on regions: an assessment of the European Green**' and on the '**Revision of the Renewable Energy Directive**'. **Climate Pact Ambassador** and **Belgian Ambassador of the Covenant of Mayors**.



### **Marieke Schouten (NL/The Greens)**

Alderman of Nieuwegein, The Netherlands. CoR Rapporteur on the '**EU Action Plan Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil**'. **Climate Pact Ambassador**.



### **Kata Tüttö (HU/PES)**

Deputy-Mayor of Budapest, Hungary. CoR rapporteur on '**Energy Poverty**' and '**Gender equality and climate change**'. **Climate Pact Ambassador** and **Hungarian Ambassador of the Covenant of Mayors**.



“ *The world is simply off track to avert the climate emergency. Subnational government’s climate commitments must be taken on board in the Nationally Determined Contributions, and they must be given a formal seat in the UNFCCC negotiations. I call on the UN, the EU and all national governments to ensure the regional and local dimension is included in the COP26 conclusions. We can no longer afford to ignore the fundamental role of every region, city and village in delivering climate action, or we will continue to fail our young people and our planet.* ”

Apostolos Tzitzikostas

## As the EU’s political assembly of local and regional governments representing more than one million local and regional elected politicians in the 27 Member States, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR):

- Is deeply concerned about the latest IPCC findings, presented in the report **The Physical Science Basis**, which confirms the urgency of putting in place comprehensive multi-level strategies and effective action plans to reach the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement to limit global warming to well below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels.
- Strongly believes that the COP26 is an opportunity to prepare the ground for an ambitious global 2030 and 2050 agenda, complementing the approach of the Sustainable Development Goals with the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement.
- Recalls that the Paris Climate Agreement recognises the important role played by multilevel governance in climate policies and the need to engage with cities and regions therefore urges that this principle be put fully into practice.
- Considers that the stepping-up of democratically elected non-state actors such as Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs), which are the ones closest to the public, is a key condition to meet global climate targets and that it is therefore essential that the UNFCCC regulatory framework formally recognises the LRAs role in its decision-making process.
- Recalls that cities and regions are at the front line of climate change and underlines that local and regional authorities (LRAs) implement 70% of climate mitigation measures, 90% of climate adaptation policies, and 65% of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), representing one third of public spending and two thirds of public investment in the EU.
- Calls on the UNFCCC to cooperate with the European Committee of the Regions and the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency to formally acknowledge, monitor and encourage the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by sub-national governments worldwide – taking as example the Edinburgh Declaration on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- Proposes the formal inclusion of Regionally and Locally Determined Contributions (RLDCs) as a complement to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and calls for national inventory reports of the Paris Climate Agreement transparency framework to include a section on climate commitments, actions and achievements undertaken by subnational governments in order to keep track of the progress towards achieving climate targets. The CoR supports the Common Reporting Framework by the Global Covenant of Mayors as a step towards the comparability of local and regional with national climate commitments.
- Calls on the UNFCCC Parties to insert in the rules on the global stock take, an obligation for the Parties to consult and involve local and regional authorities during the drafting phase of their submissions and in the revision of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- Considers that a WTO-compatible Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) could enhance the transition towards climate neutrality worldwide and sees a clear role for local and regional authorities to contribute to this process through subnational climate diplomacy.
- Reaffirms its commitment to contribute to the acceleration of the transition towards climate-neutrality by 2050 at the latest, via its communications and political engagement campaign **Green Deal Going Local** and to support local and regional authorities in Europe and beyond to deliver climate action, including through the **Just Transition Fund** and the CoR’s city diplomacy networks in the **Western Balkans**, the Eastern partnership (**CORLEAP**) and the Mediterranean (**ARLEM**), ensuring that no region or citizen is left behind.

[Click here to download the CoR “Resolution on the COP26 and global and local alliances for climate action”.](#)

[Read the CoR opinion “Stepping up Europe’s 2030 climate ambition towards COP26” by rapporteur Vincent Chauvet \(FR/Renew Europe\), Mayor of Autun.](#)







**European Committee  
of the Regions**

“Created in 1994, after the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty, the European Committee of the Regions is the EU’s assembly of 329 regional and local representatives from all 27 Member States, representing over 447 million Europeans. Its main objectives are 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 have to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union as a means of upholding EU law where there are breaches to the subsidiarity principle or failures to respect regional or local authorities.”

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Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 101 | 1040 Bruxelles/Brussel | BELGIQUE/BELGIË  
Tel. +32 22822211 | e-mail: [PublicationsCdR@cor.europa.eu](mailto:PublicationsCdR@cor.europa.eu) | [www.cor.europa.eu](http://www.cor.europa.eu)

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