



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

**Commission for  
the Environment,  
Climate Change and Energy**

ENVE

# **Innovative local action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals**

**Espoo, Finland  
08 July 2019  
09.00-16.00**





**European Committee  
of the Regions**



**08 July 2019** | 09.00 – 16.00 | Hanasaari - Hanaholmen Cultural Centre for Sweden and Finland  
Hanasaarenranta 5, 02100 Espoo, Finland

## **Innovative local action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals**

*The aim of the seminar is to share the experiences of Espoo and other cities and regions across Europe in their transition towards a low-carbon, climate-neutral, resource-efficient and biodiverse city. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the main barriers and enablers that allowed cities to achieve the fight against climate change through the implementation of SDGs. The outcome of the debate will feed the CoR roadmap towards UNFCCC COP25.*

*The 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development sets 17 Sustainable Development Goals. These goals call for actions at national level, but their implementation, in line with the implementation of the Paris Agreement, must be done at local level. Responsible for implementing 70% of all EU legislation, one third of public spending and two thirds of public investment, cities and regions are the main drivers for a just transition to a low-carbon, climate-neutral and resource-efficient and biodiverse economy. Hence, local and regional leadership is necessary. Every city must act in order to fulfil this transition.*

*Espoo, in Finland, is one of the cities serving as a pioneer of sustainable development via the 25+5 SDG Cities Leadership Platform. This initiative by the United Nations will prove that full SDG implementation by 2025 is possible. Espoo is one of the frontrunner cities in the SDGs' implementation through innovative solutions that resulted in winning the Energy Globe World Award in 2019.*

*The first part of the seminar provides an overview of the current policy framework at EU level on SDGs and the transformative change our economy needs to achieve by 2030 and 2050. In particular, in order to meet its international commitments in the field of climate change, energy and biodiversity. The seminar then focuses on the action that Espoo and other cities/regions across Europe have taken to move towards a sustainable city and community (SDG11) while providing affordable and clean energy (SDG7), among other SDGs. These elements contribute to the debate with ENVE members aimed at reflecting on policy messages and local action feeding the CoR roadmap towards COP25.*

*The external event concludes with a study visit to the clean-energy company, Fortum, that with Espoo is co-developing a series of sustainable solutions in electricity, heating and cooling.*

**08.30 Registration of participants**

**09.00 Welcome speeches**

- **Sirpa Hertell**, Espoo city councillor and member of the European Committee of the Regions
- **Juha Eskelinen**, Director, Helsinki Regional Council

**09.15 SESSION 1: Sustainable Development CoR Goals and the Paris Agreement: a long-term strategy for the European Union transformation**

**Moderator: Markku Markkula**, Chair of the City Board of Espoo & First Vice-President of the European Committee of Regions

- **Tiina Elo**, Member of the Finnish Parliament & Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee, Finland
- **Charlina Vitcheva**, Deputy Director-General, DG Joint Research Centre, European Commission.

**10.30 Coffee break**

**11.00 SESSION 2: The key role of cities and regions in addressing climate change while implementing SDGs**

**Moderator: Silke Lunnebach**, Project Coordinator, Climate Alliance

- **Aitor Zulueta**, Director Natural Capital and Climate Change, Basque Country, Spain
- **Pauliina Jalonen**, Climate Change expert, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, Finland
- **Moritz Schmidt**, Head of Department, Local Sustainable Development, LAG21, Germany

**Debate with the members of the ENVE Commission.**

**12.50 Final remarks**

- **Kata Tüttö**, Representative of Budapest (District 12) Local Government & Member of Commission for Environment, Climate change and Energy, European Committee of the Regions.

**13.00 Lunch break**

**14.00 Study visit** to Fortum and visit to Sinebrychoff mansion

**16.00 End**

**Interpreting (seminar only):** Participants may speak in and listen to EN/FR/ES/FI/PL

**Study visit:** No interpreting planned. The study visit will be held in English.



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