"Dear ENVE members, dear colleagues,

The vaccination campaign may have begun, but the last few months have been very challenging for our local communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has struck us again, and as local leaders, we have joined forces to tackle the growing number of infections in our regions and municipalities. We have also worked to roll out the vaccination campaign as effectively as possible and without losing sight of the green dimension that must be the cornerstone of our recovery. I can only praise our achievements since the beginning of the year, such as the enhanced cooperation that we have just launched with the European Commission to accelerate both the renewal and the overhaul and decarbonisation of EU building stock.

The next months will be key in determining the path of the European integration process. On 9 May, the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration and Europe Day, the Conference on the Future of Europe will begin. This event, the first of its kind, will allow Europeans to share and discuss their ideas and concerns, enabling them to contribute directly to the shaping of our common future. European Green Week will also take place at the end of May, focusing on the Zero Pollution Action Plan. During Green Week, civil society and other stakeholders will have the chance to cooperate on bringing about a pollution-free environment. These two events will be a great opportunity for local and regional communities to express their concerns and share their ideas.

Furthermore, last month a second chamber of the Covenant of Mayors was created, composed of 27 CoR members (one per Member State) acting as National Ambassadors of the Covenant. These members will work to ensure national representation in terms of its governance. They will work to foster more tailored feedback, as well as supporting the promotion of the initiative at national level.

I look forward to our next ENVE commission meeting on 7 June and I am confident that our work will soon yield results, in line with the European Green Deal and the green recovery.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the ENVOY Newsletter."

Juan Espadas Cejas
Mayor of Seville and
Chair of the ENVE commission
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Zero Pollution Action Plan and European Green Week 2021

On 12 May, the Commission presented the Zero Pollution Action Plan for water, air and soil to better prevent, remedy, monitor and report on pollution. This plan is part of the zero pollution ambition of securing healthy ecosystems and a healthy living environment for Europeans. The CoR is part of the action plan, being responsible for holding the Zero Pollution Stakeholders Platform during European Green Week 2021.

This year, Green Week focuses on the zero pollution ambition. It will also look at other relevant European Green Deal initiatives, such as the climate initiatives, the Chemicals Strategy and initiatives in the fields of energy, industry, mobility, agriculture, fisheries, health and biodiversity.

Highlights of Green Week for the CoR:

- working with DG Environment and Eurocities to organise a session on achieving zero-pollution cities through the Green City Accord on 4 June 2021 at 10 a.m.
- Mr Tzitzikostas will announce the Zero Pollution Stakeholders Platform as part of the enhanced cooperation between the CoR and DG ENV at the closing ceremony with Commissioner Sinkevičius on 4 June at 12 noon
- co-organising a partner event with the European region of Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino on Rural and urban challenges in developing regional zero-pollution plans on 11 June at 10 a.m.

Registration link and more information available at https://www.eugreenweek.eu/

Fit for 55 Package

The Fit for 55 Package is a set of plans and actions including initiatives and revisions of existing directives to be aligned with the Green Deal ambitions, the new 2030 targets and the long-term goal of climate neutrality by 2050. The package covers a wide range of topics, such as renewables, the circular economy, effort sharing, biodiversity protection and emissions trading.

Some of the initiatives announced for the forthcoming quarters are as follows:

- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and a proposal for CBAM as own resource;
- Amendment to the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and Amendment to the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) to deliver the new 2030 climate target;
Emma Nohrèn (The Greens)
Vice-Mayor of Lysekil Municipality, Sweden and rapporteur for the Opinion on Local and regional authorities protecting the marine environment

What is the main message that you wish to deliver with the opinion?
We need action now! We have already lost a lot of valuable time and not yet achieved Good Environmental Status, which means that we must use marine resources in a sustainable way to ensure continuity for future generations. Across the EU, subnational governments hold competences in key areas that affect the marine environment. In municipalities and regions, we decide on transport, tourism, wastewater and storm water management, and many other areas such as waste management, urban and rural planning, permits for construction, farming and industrial production, all of which have a direct impact on the marine environment. While local and regional authorities have considerable power to protect the marine environment, we certainly need more support. Our financial resources are already limited and it is very difficult to find additional resources and gain the necessary human resources to even get started. That is why we propose creating a European Marine Biodiversity Task Force, an on-demand pool of project managers who can energise us and help us set up the right projects.

What is the relationship between the work on protecting the marine environment and the Green Deal?
Now is the time to start again and do the right things! We, in the EU, have the ideas, the technology and the knowhow for a transition towards a climate-neutral Europe. EU climate policy is at the heart of the European Green Deal. As already mentioned, the climate cannot be regulated without the oceans. Therefore, the Climate Law needs to be complemented by an Ocean Law, which sets targets and deadlines for improving the marine environment.
Work on saving the oceans involves restoring biodiversity, cutting pollution and moving towards a circular economy; these are all the main areas of the Green Deal. Right now, EU funds to improve the marine environment are underused, but with the right support, local and regional authorities can set up measures and projects that contribute to saving the oceans, provide employment and boost the economy, enabling it to recover from the economic and social crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The full interview is available on the CoR website.
5th MEETING OF THE GREEN DEAL GOING LOCAL WORKING GROUP

On 29 April, the Green Deal Going Local Working Group met to discuss the importance of an ambitious and strong communication campaign on the work done by the working group and more generally by CoR members on implementing the Green Deal at local level.

The working group discussed the initiative of the Mayor of Łódź, Hana Zdanowska (PL/EPP) and two CoR members, who launched a series of regional workshops in Poland on the Green Deal. These workshops aim to encourage and help Polish local and regional authorities, as well as other stakeholders, to implement the Green Deal on the ground.

The members also discussed the international dimension of the Green Deal. Members highlighted the importance of enhanced, inter-institutional and multilevel cooperation for achieving the 2030 Agenda objectives, as well as the CoR contribution to the UNFCCC COP26 that will take place in Glasgow on 1-12 November 2021.

FORTHCOMING ENVE OPINIONS

- **Powering a climate-neutral economy: An EU Strategy for Energy System Integration**
  Rapporteur: Gunārs Ansīns (LV/RE), Deputy Mayor of Liepāja
  Adoption by the ENVE commission: 26 March 2021. **Adoption at plenary session: 5-7 May 2021**

- **Safe and sustainable chemicals for a toxic-free environment in Europe’s cities and regions**
  Rapporteur: Adam Struzik (PL/EPP), President of Mazovia Region
  Adoption by the ENVE commission: 26 March 2021. **Adoption at plenary session: 5-7 May 2021**

- **Local and regional authorities protecting the marine environment**
  Rapporteur: Emma Nohrén (SE/Greens), Vice Mayor of Lysekil Municipality
  Adoption by the ENVE commission: 26 March 2021. **Adoption at plenary session: 5-6 May 2021**

- **Stepping up Europe’s 2030 climate ambition towards COP26**
  Rapporteur: Vincent Chauvet (FR/RE), Mayor of Autun
  Exchange of views: 1 February 2021, adoption by the ENVE commission: 26 March 2021. **Adoption at plenary session: 30 June-1 July 2021**

- **Forging a climate-resilient Europe - the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change**
  Rapporteur: Markku Markkula (FI/EPP), President of the Helsinki Region
  Adoption by the ENVE commission: 7 June 2021. **Adoption at plenary session: 30 June 2021**

- **Guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure**
  Rapporteur: Robert Negoită (RO/PES), Mayor of District 3, Bucharest Municipality
  Adoption by the ENVE commission: 7 June 2021. **Adoption at plenary session: 30 June 2021**
MEMBERS IN ACTION – OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

MAY

31 May-4 June EU Green Week 2021 will focus on the "zero pollution ambition". It will also look at other relevant European Green Deal initiatives, such as the climate initiatives and the forthcoming Chemicals Strategy, as well as initiatives in the fields of energy, industry, mobility, agriculture, fisheries, health and biodiversity. More information available [here](https://

JUNE

1 June European Week for Waste Reduction Awards: as a pre-conference event in the run-up to Green Week, the CoR is co-organising the online ceremony for the EWWR annual awards. The awards will be given to the best projects of the 2020 EWWR, which focused on "invisible waste". [Mr Stelpstra (NL/ECR)](https://https//ewwr.eu/) has been proposed as a member of the selection panel. More information available at [https://ewwr.eu/](https://ewwr.eu/)

OCTOBER

11-24 October UN CBD COP15 in Kunming, China: it has been confirmed that the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity will take place in hybrid mode. No information is available yet on the arrangements for the 7th Global Summit of Local and Regional Leaders on Biodiversity (21-23 October).

11-14 October 19th European Week of Regions and Cities (online): under the slogan "Together for recovery", #EURegionsWeek 2021 will focus on four topics:

- Green Transition: for a sustainable and green recovery
- Cohesion: from emergency to resilience
- Digital Transition: for people
- Citizens' engagement: for an inclusive, participative and fair recovery

NOVEMBER

1-12 November UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow: the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow, Scotland, will host the COP26. However, we have not yet received any confirmation regarding how the negotiations or the side events in the blue and green zones will be organised.
WHAT IS THE EU DOING?

Conference on the Future of Europe

At the initiative of Ursula von der Leyen, the Conference on the Future of Europe is a unique event in which EU citizens will be able to debate the challenges facing Europe and the priorities it has chosen and take an active role in deciding on the future of the EU in the coming decades. All EU citizens from all walks of life, backgrounds and corners of the Union will be able to play a central role in shaping the future of the European project. Similarly, European, national, regional and local authorities, as well as civil society and other organisations are welcome to organise events and contribute with their ideas.

The Conference on the Future of Europe will last one year, with the conclusions to be delivered by spring 2022. It will be chaired by:

- the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen,
- the President of the European Parliament, David Sassoli, and
- the Prime Minister of Portugal on behalf of the Presidency of the Council, António Costa

The CoR has undertaken to contribute to the Conference, and therefore encourages its members to engage in this process and listen to citizens' opinions on the future of the EU. They can do so by co-hosting local dialogues with the CoR and invite members of the public and civil society actors to discuss their visions and aspirations for the future of the EU. For more information on hosting local dialogues, contact eulocal@cor.europa.eu.

For more information on the CoR's contribution to the Conference on the Future of Europe, go to https://europa.eu/1kf69UR.

Contact us: enve@cor.europa.eu
ENVE website: visit here