

Thursday 15 October

President of the European Council Michel,
President of the Council of the EU Merkel,

Cc: European Commission President Von der Leyen
European Parliament President Sassoli

Re: EU 2030 Green House Gas emissions target/ EU Nationally Determined Contribution

The European Union is respected globally for its leadership on climate action. Continued leadership by the EU is essential in order to achieve our shared ambition to limit the increase in global average temperature to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, in line with the Paris Agreement, as we know that this will require rapid and far-reaching transformations.

As city leaders, we understand the challenge. We're developing and implementing ambitious climate action plans through local renewable energy schemes, tackling transport emissions, setting rules to address air quality and health impacts, making the energy transition work, providing guidance for building performance and regulations on industrial emissions and ensuring the construction of more just and inclusive societies in our cities.

Even before the outbreak of COVID-19, our cities were adopting these new practices. Cities continue to be on the frontlines of the crisis, and as Mayors, we are responsible for the health and wellbeing of our residents, both today and in the long term. We have a duty to make sure the recovery from COVID-19 builds on and accelerates Europe's Green Deal ambitions. Investment in transforming European cities will be key to the success of the green and just transition.

We recognise the need to scale up ambition to anchor Europe in a climate-neutral trajectory that will create a future in which all people benefit from a healthy, resilient and safe environment. It's time for a revision of the EU 2030 energy and climate targets to at least 55% by 2030 compared with 1990 levels, legally binding at member-state level.

Such a target, as proposed by President von der Leyen in her State of the EU address on 16 September is 'ambitious, achievable, and beneficial for Europe'. It is a natural milestone on the road to a climate neutral continent by 2050, as agreed by the Council last year, and it is central to Europe's Green Deal.

Our cities can be a critical part of this transition, but we cannot act alone, and that's why we ask you to use EU funding and recovery policies to support leading cities aiming to do their part of this goal with an even higher reduction target of 65%. We will not be able to unlock the full potential of Europe's cities without an ambitious EU policy framework in place.

As cities, we call for:

- significant investments in public transport, green infrastructure and building renovations to enable the transition in cities. The EU's recovery plan must be designed to deliver the highest political ambitions for emissions reductions;
- EU funding and financing to be channelled to where it is the most needed – Europe's cities – to boost the transformational power of urban areas for a green and just recovery;
- recovery funding for fossil-fuel intensive sectors to be conditional to clear decarbonisation commitments.

In the coming months, the EU will, once again, have the chance to show its climate leadership, demonstrate that it keeps its promises, and shoulders its responsibility in the fight against climate change – when it increases its EU 2030 emission reduction targets and puts forward its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in good time for COP26.

By setting an ambitious revision of the EU 2030 emission reduction targets, to at least 55% by 2030, legally-binding at member-state level, and supporting the most ambitious cities to achieve 65% reductions, you will be sending a clear signal that Europe means business on green recovery and supports strong climate action ahead of COP26.

We will support you in these endeavours and ask for your support in ours.

Yours Sincerely,

Femke Halsema, Mayor, and Marieke van Doorninck, Deputy Mayor, City of Amsterdam

Kóstas Bakoyánnis, Mayor, City of Athens

Igor Radojičić, Mayor, City of Banja Luka

Ada Colau, Mayor, City of Barcelona

Thor Haakon Bakke, Deputy Mayor, City of Bergen

Pierre Hurmic, Mayor, City of Bordeaux

Dimitar Nikolov, Mayor, Burgas Municipality

Ricardo Bruno Antunes Machado Rio, Mayor, City of Braga

Phélim Mac Cafferty, Leader of the Council, City of Brighton & Hove

Marvin Rees, Mayor, City of Bristol

Gergely Karácsony, Mayor, City of Budapest

Miko Runkel, Deputy Mayor, City of Chemnitz

Henriette Reker, Mayor, City of Cologne

Frank Jensen, Mayor, City of Copenhagen

George Duggins, Leader of the Council, City of Coventry

Ullrich Sierau, Mayor, City of Dortmund

Hazel Chu, Mayor, City of Dublin
John Jorritsma, Mayor, City of Eindhoven
Dario Nardella, Mayor, City of Florence
Rosemarie Heilig, Deputy Mayor, City of Frankfurt am Main
Aleksandra Dulkiewicz, Mayor, City of Gdańsk
Mathias De Clerq, Mayor, City of Ghent
Susan Aitken, Leader of the Council, City of Glasgow
Christophe Ferrari, President, Grenoble-Alpes Metropole
Belit Onay, Mayor and CEO, City of Hannover
Eckart Würzner, Mayor, City of Heidelberg
Jan Vapaavuori, Mayor, City of Helsinki
Ulf Kämpfer, Mayor, City of Kiel
Pekka Timonen, Mayor, City of Lahti
Lars Vikinge, Mayor, City of Linköping
Fernando Medina, Mayor, City of Lisbon
Zoran Janković, Mayor, City of Ljubljana
Sadiq Khan, Mayor, City of London
Grégory Doucet, Mayor, City of Lyon
Bruno Bernard, President, Grand Lyon Metropole
José Luis Martínez-Almeida, Mayor, City of Madrid
Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh, Mayor, City of Malmö
Dr. Peter Kurz, Mayor, City of Mannheim
Giuseppe Sala, Mayor, City of Milan
Dieter Reiter, Mayor, City of Munich
Markus Lewe, Mayor, City of Munster
Johanna Rolland, Mayor, City of Nantes
Raymond Johansen, Mayor, City of Oslo
Päivi Laajala, Mayor, City of Oulu
Anne Hidalgo, Mayor, City of Paris
Rui Moreira, Mayor, City of Porto
Mārtiņš Staķis, Mayor, City of Riga
Virginia Ragg, Mayor, City of Rome
Juan Espadas Cejas, Mayor, City of Seville
Anna König Jerlmyr, Mayor, City of Stockholm
Jeanne Barseghian, Mayor, City of Strasbourg
Peter Pätzold, Mayor, City of Stuttgart
Mihhail Kõlvart, Mayor, City of Tallinn
Lauri Lyly, Mayor, City of Tampere
Chiara Appendino, Mayor, City of Turin
Minna Arve, Mayor, City of Turku
Remigijus Šimašius, Mayor, City of Vilnius
Jacek Sutryk, Mayor, City of Wroclaw