



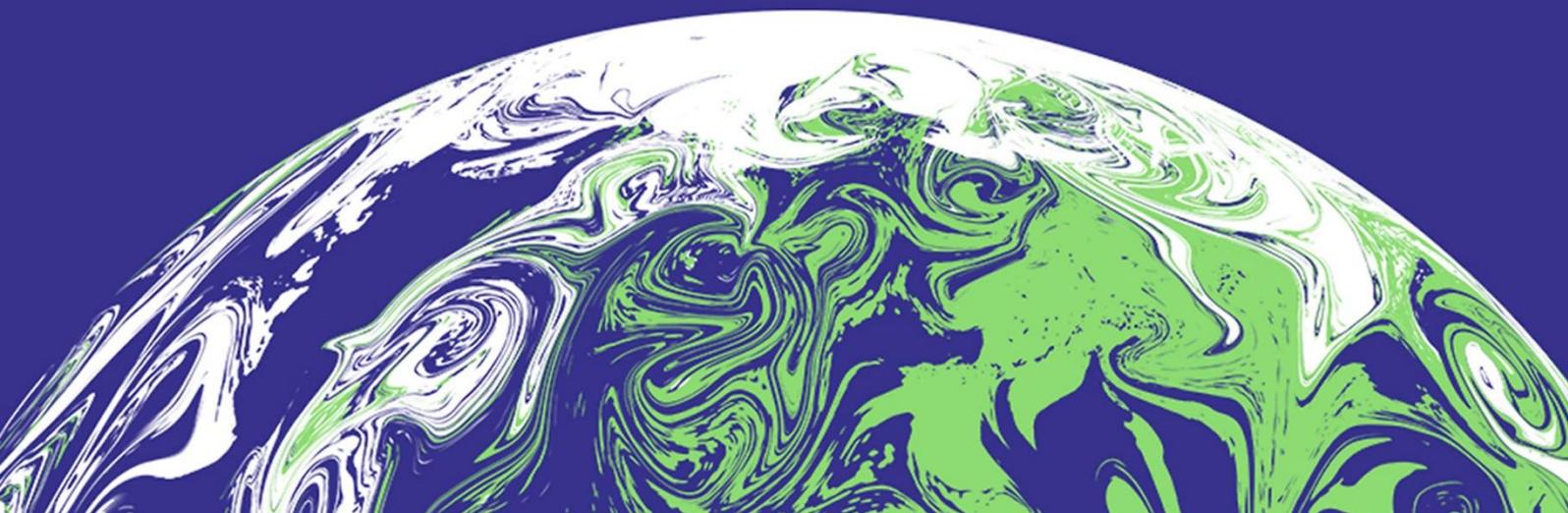
Local & Regional
Europe

KEY MESSAGES

Preparing for **COP26**

The path towards implementing
the Paris Agreement

November 2020 |



Preparing for COP26: The path towards implementing the Paris Agreement

1. Implementing the Paris Agreement cannot be delayed.
2. Tackling the global climate challenge requires ambitious local leadership and action and therefore there is a need to strengthen work at international level within UNFCCC in collaboration with global partners.
3. Providing appropriate regulatory frameworks, financial and technical resources are necessary for the implementation of local action.
4. Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals can only take place effectively if these are localised and decentralised.

1. Implementing the Paris Agreement cannot be delayed

The EU and its member countries have taken part in international efforts to fight climate change under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) from 1992.

The Paris Agreement of 2015, adopted by all UNFCCC Parties, is the first universal, legally binding global climate agreement and it will be celebrating its 5th anniversary this year.

The Parties need to renew their commitments this year and local and regional governments are willing and ready to assist them in this task.

No delays can be accepted regardless of the current COVID-19 situation which has delayed the goals renewal process this year.

2. Tackling the global climate challenge requires ambitious local leadership and action and therefore there is a need to strengthen work at international level within UNFCCC in collaboration with global partners

The level of change required to mitigate emissions and to adapt can only be achieved by strong political commitment and leadership, with all levels of government and in partnership with citizens and the private sector.

The local level plays a key role in achieving the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. In many member states, the local level is at the forefront working with ambitious climate targets and local solutions and initiatives to global challenges.

Since the COP in Paris, local and regional governments have increasingly been welcomed as important partners for the international agreements and CEMR continues to work at this level through the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities constituency (LGMA).

Decentralised cooperation helps to reach decarbonised societies. The international community should promote this cooperation, particularly within the framework of the Global Covenant of Mayors or the PLATFORMA strategic partnership for development and decentralised cooperation.

3. Providing appropriate regulatory frameworks, financial and technical resources are necessary for the implementation of local and regional governments' climate action

We need supporting regulation and financing for local and regional governments to take on the necessary actions.

International agreements, European rules and national regulations must respect the diversity of regional and local conditions allowing for different local and regional solutions to achieve commonly agreed targets.

Policy should be, wherever possible, technology neutral. There is no single solution, since climate, resources, capacities and socio-economic factors vary across nations.

In Europe, the EU and member states should recognise an active role for local and regional authorities in the design of climate mitigation and adaptation policies and regulations, including the National Energy and Climate Plans.

There is also a need for EU and national financial instruments for awareness-raising, capacity-building and investment to implement policy. The new multi-annual financial framework needs to recognise that more EU funding and investments need to reach local actors in order to implement actions and allow them to develop projects.

The new Green Deal and the objective of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 should be the way forward to realise this. In the same way, a just transition needs to fully recognise and accommodate the social effects through designated support and funding. All member states are different and flexibility is needed to respect this.

4. Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals can only take place effectively if these are localised and decentralised

We recognise the large-scale challenges that exist and that they require a decentralised, bottom-up approach, with clear actions in which all levels of government are required to contribute and need to have the capacity to do so.

We advocate a multi-level governance approach and decentralised actions. The outcomes of COP22 were intimately linked to the implementation of the SDGs and the Urban Agenda of Habitat III. CEMR continues supporting global climate agendas through the localisation of the SDGs.

Estimates show that 65% of the 169 targets underpinning the 17 SDGs cannot be reached without engagement of and coordination with local and regional governments.

CEMR continues to work on the localisation of SDGs and the territorialisation of sustainable development actions in the areas of climate, energy and environment that can be integrated into a larger EU Strategy to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda.

The local and regional level play an essential role in turning these international ambitions into practical realities. The localisation process of the 2030 Agenda should therefore come with a real commitment to strengthening multi-level and multi-sectorial alliances, respecting the principle of diversity and different local and regional solutions.

Contact:

Eva Baños de Guisasola

Policy Adviser – Environment, Energy & Climate

eva.banosdeguisasola@ccre-cemr.org

+32 2 213 86 99

www.cemr.eu

