

OPEN LETTER TO THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE EU COUNCIL,  
PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
PRESIDENT OF THE EU PARLIAMENT

ADOPTED AT ENERGY CITIES GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
17 SEPTEMBER 2020

NEXT GENERATION EU / CALL FROM MAYORS

Dear Chancellor Merkel, President of the EU Council

Dear Ms von der Leyen, President of the EU Commission

Dear M. Sassoli, President of the European Parliament

We, the mayors of Europe, support and salute the EU's recently agreed Recovery Package, Next Generation EU. It is what our citizens have been calling for in our streets and it is the change that we have been elected to deliver.

Today, as climate and ecological emergency bills are passed by EU Member States, echoing municipal declarations we have taken, the European Union must pave the way to a coordinated and collaborative answer between countries to the social, health, economic, democratic and climate crisis we are facing.

**We, the Mayors of Europe, would like to express our full support to the Next Generation EU proposals and want to support you in translating them into a "tangible" future.**

The delivery is key, and that is why we are writing today.

The high-level changes outlined in the Green Deal and Next Generation EU come to earth on our roads, in our schools, on our busses and throughout our budgets. In order to deliver the Green Deal that we are all striving for we, the cities, have the responsibility to lift up every one, every home, every street. The EU proposes a coordinated response to build a more resilient, green and prosperous Europe one city at a time. And for that we need to have a strategic approach at local level.

We see two conditions for success and that we urgently want to discuss with you: supporting real strategic steering of the recovery plans at all levels and mainstreaming climate and ecological emergency into budgets.

No national recovery plans can be designed without the full participation, from its conception, to its implementation of all players and all level of authorities. This must be reflected in the governance of the plans. **We are calling for adequate resources and mechanisms to be devoted to strategically and collaboratively steer the Funds.** One "Transition team" in each city, each region, each Member State to ensure delivery needs to be supported by EU. **We demand therefore "green urban direct funding" to design**

**Local Recovery and Resiliency Pacts** to support cities and their communities in jointly redefining their local economies to create sustainable jobs and wealth while remaining in planet boundaries and preparing to absorb external shocks. *We are supporting the call of the pact of free cities and other cities which have made this request.*

In order to assess consistency, we demand **Climate Proofing Budgets** of all national recovery and resiliency plans and all public budgets, including municipal budgets. The available technical assistance instrument to support public administration in Member States (Reform Facility) should concentrate on changing our compass to evaluate public spending and expenditure to integrate the planet's boundaries and the rights of future generations. This new compass will make it clear that the current subsidies and investments in fossil fuels are incompatible with a climate emergency and direct them to thriving local economies and job creation.

The resiliency of EU will draw on the ability to **harness local resources first**; be it in food, energy, manufacturing or other sectors. **Energy and resource sufficiency** targets in local strategies to support local economies and foster new economic models and build strategic autonomy should be part of the mission for regional funds.

*"Repair, reform, remodel"* was how the agreement of the Heads of State reached last July was publically presented. It cannot be only words. The reforms and the "remodel" can only be done within planetary boundaries and ensuring the basic daily needs of people. It can only be achieved through a revitalised democracy at all levels.

As mayors from all corners of Europe but also from all political leanings, our call is devoid of any ideological bias. It is a plea to reinforce Europe's distinctive strength, which lies in the notions of cohesion and solidarity, and create a genuine European "ethos" as we navigate the urgency of the COVID 19 crisis and the imperative of facing climate change.

We look forward to working with all our citizens in achieving what we know Europe can become and our conviction is firm that there will never be a better time for bold change than these unprecedented times.

Energy Cities wants a radical transformation of the energy systems and policies, giving our citizens the power to shape a decentralised and renewable energy future. We believe that the energy transition is not just about clean energy or great technologies: It is about a wise use of resources while strengthening local participation and well-being in a democratic Europe. Energy Cities is a community of 1,000 local pioneers located in 30 countries. We trigger a trustful dialogue between city leaders and EU & national institutions to accelerate the energy transition in Europe.