

To:

Ms Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Ms Teresa Ribera, Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition

Mr Raffaele Fitto, Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms

Mr Wopke Hoekstra, Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth

Mr Dan Jørgensen, Commissioner for Energy and Housing

Mr Piotr Serafin, Commissioner for Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration

19.10.2026

Subject: A European Climate Resilience Framework that empowers cities and regions to protect their communities

Dear President,

Dear Executive Vice-Presidents,

Dear Commissioners,

Following the presentations and discussions at the European Week of Regions and Cities, we write as Mayors serving on the European Covenant of Mayors Board to welcome the Commission's forthcoming European Integrated Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Framework. At a time when heatwaves, floods, droughts and wildfires are affecting communities across Europe, this initiative can provide essential direction for protecting lives, sustaining public services and safeguarding our economies.

As mayors, we see the consequences of these risks every day. This summer has again demonstrated the urgency of strengthening Europe's preparedness. Research published by a [private bank](#), estimated that extreme heat and wildfires would cost EU economies around €180 billion in 2026, equivalent to approximately 1% of EU GDP, through impacts on productivity, agriculture, energy and transport. These projected losses underline that resilience is essential to Europe's prosperity, competitiveness and the protection of its communities.

Our municipalities are already adapting public spaces to extreme heat, strengthening flood protection, restoring ecosystems and protecting vulnerable residents. We now need a European framework that strengthens our ability to deliver these commitments and connects our efforts with regional, national and European action. **The framework must recognise towns, cities and regional governments as partners in shaping and implementing Europe's resilience response.** Keeping planning and financing decisions exclusively at national level would leave them disconnected from many of the responsibilities, assets and services through which adaptation is delivered. It would also

be a missed opportunity to overlook the essential local knowledge, and adaptation plans that municipalities have already developed.

We therefore ask you to secure three mutually reinforcing elements in the forthcoming framework:

First, **common, science-based climate reference scenarios should guide planning and investment across all levels of government.** Towns, cities, regions and national governments need a shared understanding of the risks for which they must prepare, supported by accessible data that can be applied to their territories. This would help ensure that decisions on housing, water, transport, agriculture and public infrastructure are consistent, while allowing responses to reflect different local circumstances. It would also help prevent investments that become inadequate as climate impacts intensify.

Second, **the framework should establish a strong multilevel governance mechanism, respecting each Member State's constitutional and administrative arrangements.** Local and regional governments should have a structured role in preparing, implementing and reviewing adaptation strategies, with clear responsibilities and arrangements for cooperation across sectors and territories.

Third, **the framework should offer an opportunity to improve the coordination and effectiveness of adaptation investment under the next EU budget.** A common climate baseline, combined with a strong multilevel governance mechanism, should enable national, regional and local authorities to identify shared risks, agree on priorities and align their investments. Future National and Regional Partnership Plans should translate these jointly agreed priorities into funded measures, building on existing local and regional adaptation plans. Connecting the Resilience Framework to the NRPPs in this way would help direct resources towards the most pressing territorial needs, avoid fragmented investments and ensure that the authorities responsible for implementation have the means to deliver. Robust climate resilience plans that include risk and responsibilities of all levels of governance would give a clear signal to private investors and insurers to help close the adaptation funding gap at the local level.

We share the objective of avoiding unnecessary administrative burdens on local government. **The way to achieve this is to align responsibilities, resources and support.** Excluding local and regional governments from planning and financing decisions would leave us facing the same climate risks with fewer means to manage them.

We urge you to carry these principles into an ambitious European Climate Resilience Framework. We stand ready to work with the Commission to ensure that it equips every territory to prepare, invest and protect its communities.

Yours sincerely,

Signatories of this letter:

Attila Péterffy

Mayor of Pécs
(HU)

Emil Boc

Mayor of Cluj-
Napoca (RO)

Julije Domac

Director of
REGEA - North
West Croatia
Energy Agency
(HR)

Luísa Salgueiro

Mayor of
Matosinhos (PT)

Marc Serra Solé

Deputy President
for Climate and
Energy
Transition,
Province of
Barcelona (ES)

Martin Horn

Lord-Mayor of
Freiburg (DE)

Mario Conte

Mayor of
Treviso (IT)

**Mathias De
Clercq**

Mayor of Ghent
(BE)

**Mohamed
Ridouani**

Mayor of Leuven
(BE)

Tanya Hristova

Mayor of
Gabrovo (BG)