



Council of European Municipalities and Regions
European Section of United Cities and Local Governments

Chios, 12-13th June 2017

Declaration by the Policy Committee members of CEMR

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS' REINFORCED SUPPORT WORLDWIDE ON ACTIONS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

We, the members of the Policy Committee of CEMR, express **our full commitment** to maintaining the agreement reached during COP21 in Paris by the contacting nations to fight climate change worldwide.

US President Donald **Trump's decision** to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement on 1 June regardless all the actions already taken by many of our colleagues in the country, mayors and leaders but also by citizens and business is undisputedly bad news for the planet and the global community.

Reactions have come from every continent to regret this position and to unite to make the Paris Climate Agreement a success anyway. As the main organisation representing municipalities and regions from 41 European countries, **CEMR is ready** to do what is needed to facilitate the engagement of all local and regional governments for climate. Our colleagues from other continents are also mobilised to achieve the goals taken by the international community in Paris.

CEMR President has offered out the **strong political willingness of CEMR to the G7 Ministerial environment meeting this week** to strengthen our actions in the fight against climate change among nations and subnational governments.

We invite all local and regional leaders to work in **close partnership** to keep fighting climate change and achieve our common goal of **decarbonising our societies by 2050**. That is the commitment that we have taken in the framework of the Covenant of Mayors, in which we are engaged with over 8000 other mayors. Together with our world organisation, United Cities and Local Governments, we cooperate with a number of networks to support cities who want to take action and provide a space to exchange our experience and show that together we can do it.

Local and regional governments are on the front line when responding efficiently to any type of crisis. 80% of our European citizens live in cities and suffer more and more frequently increasing negative impacts of climate change. Withdrawing from any international agreement which has been reached by Member States might hinder finding solutions.

We all must continue showing **joint and unanimous commitment to work together** towards **solidarity, common understanding** and **developing policies** to prepare our territories with no borders to fight climate. Towns and regions have showed their leadership and responsibility towards the planet and future generations where a state has failed.

We acknowledge the first global commitment reached by 1000 mayors and local regional leaders in **COP 21 in Paris**. City climate diplomacy is even more important now than ever. It is now time to be more ambitious in our goals and show leadership.

The blow to the climate that the USA's withdrawal represents must not be underestimated. Nevertheless, the **Paris Climate Agreement remains irreversible**, and towns and regions worldwide were already playing a decisive role in climate action before it. It is an opportunity for all of us together as local governments to lead the way in this field, not only within our borders, but also as the vanguard of climate action worldwide.

CEMR politicians remain **responsible to engage even more** with all actors as the closest sphere of government closest to the citizen. We are convinced that just shared responsibility, solidarity and strong local responses are the key instrument to facing this challenge.