Local leaders urge European Commission to set a binding 90% domestic emissions-cut target for 2040

PUBLISHED JUN 30, 2025
BY EUROCITIES

Mayors of Ghent, Barcelona, Utrecht, Athens, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Aalborg, Freiburg, Tallinn, Braga, Nantes, Matosinhos, Milan, Oslo, Malmo and Copenhagen, on behalf of their networks of C40, CEMR, Eurocities, and ICLEI Europe are among the signatories of a joint letter to President of the European Commission Von der Leyen, Executive Vice-President Ribera, and Commissioner Hoekstra.

Today, European local leaders have sent a joint letter to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Executive Vice-President Teresa Ribera, and Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra urging the European Commission and member states to set a binding EU target to reduce domestic greenhouse gas emissions by at least 90% by 2040 relative to 1990 numbers. The demand aligns with recommendations from the European Commission Impact Assessment on the 2040 target and the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change(ESABCC) which highlight how this target is feasible for Europe.

Coordinated by Europe's largest networks of local and regional governments – C40, CEMR, Eurocities and ICLEI Europe – the letter reiterates that

> climate neutrality is a strategic imperative," and calls on the European Union to "reaffirm its global climate leadership" ahead of the crucial COP30 climate summit. The signatories stress the need for a "robust, science-based 2040 climate target.

To achieve the 2050 climate neutrality goal, cities and regions call for a

> clear and ambitious framework at the EU level," that will have to provide "long-term certainty to businesses, unlock investment, and accelerate innovation.

Highlighting their efforts, cities and regions state they are already

> delivering results faster than anticipated and aligned with the Paris Agreement," but emphasise that they "cannot do this alone." The letter urges that "national and EU frameworks must reflect the urgency and scale of the challenge and enable faster and deeper action from the local level.

The signatories also call for the 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework to embed decarbonisation efforts, ensuring

> that all regions and communities can access the resources, skills and infrastructure they need to succeed in the green transition.

Finally, the letter underscores the importance of solid

> multilevel governance structures and partnerships" to deliver an "ambitious and effective climate agenda." This, it argues, is essential to "strengthen the EU's credibility and influence on the global stage" at a "critical moment for international climate diplomacy.

Signatories of the letter promoted by C40, CEMR, Eurocities and ICLEI Europe:

Jaume Collboni, Mayor of Barcelona and Eurocities Vice President

Mathias De Clercq, Mayor of Ghent and Eurocities President

Sharon Dijksma, Mayor of Utrecht

Haris Doukas, Mayor of Athens

Maider Etxebarria, Mayor of Vitoria-Gasteiz and Vice-President of ICLEI Europe

Lasse Frimand Jensen, Mayor of Aalborg and Vice-President of ICLEI Europe

Gunn Marit Helgesen, Councillor of Telemark County, President of KS, Association for all Local and Regional Authorities in Norway, CEMR President

Martin Horn, Mayor of Freiburg, in his capacity as the President of ICLEI Europe

Jevgeni Ossinovski, Mayor of Tallinn

Ricardo Rio, Mayor of Braga

Johanna Rolland, Mayor of Nantes, and President of Nantes Métropole

Luísa Salgueiro, Mayor of Matosinhos, President of National Association of Portuguese Municipalities (CEMR member) and member of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy – Europe Political Board

Giuseppe Sala, Mayor of Milan and Vice Chair of C40 Cities

Eirik Lae Solberg, Governing Mayor of Oslo and Vice Chair of C40 Cities

Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh, Mayor of Malmö and President of ICLEI

Lars Henrik Weiss, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen

Press release distributed by Wire Association on behalf of Eurocities, on Jun 30, 2025. For more information subscribe and follow us.

Media Assets

Embedded Media

Visit the online press release to interact with the embedded media.

https://wireassociation.eu/newsroom/eurocities/releases/en/local-leaders-urge-european-commission-to-set-a-binding-90-domestic-emissions-cut-target-for-2040-2548

Eurocities

Newsroom: https://wireassociation.eu/newsroom/eurocities
Website: https://eurocities.eu/
Primary Email: info@eurocities.eu

Social Media

Twitter - https://twitter.com/eurocities
Linkedin - https://www.linkedin.com/company/eurocities
Youtube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-IuYE9G9_kknXOWB2VTwEQ
Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/EUROCITIES/
Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/eurocities.eu