

Call of cities for circular economy

Paris, 15 September 2015,

Though the fight against climate change, its effect on biodiversity and the increasing scarcity of resources are mainly under the responsibilities of nation states they are also a matter of growing concern for cities. According to the United Nations, 70% of the population of the planet will live in cities by 2050.

Cities are incubators for innovation and the implementation of sustainable solutions, which will keep global warming at an acceptable level (+2° by the end of the century) and preserve our natural resources. Metropolises have the power to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy, developing local economic models that create wealth with high quality jobs and respecting our environment.

A circular economy offers a major response to the environmental and resource crisis that is approaching. It will decouple economic growth from increasing resource consumption, creates new markets, captures value which is currently lost and will add billions to our urban economies.

Aware of the importance of the next United Nations Climate Conference , which is being held at Paris-Le Bourget from 30 November to 11 December, 2015 (“COP 21”) and of the need to transition to a low carbon and resource efficient economy, we, the cities committed in favour of circular economy , call for the following actions:

- continuation of our efforts to reduce the impact of our development models on the environment, climate and health;
- enforcement of ambitious and concrete policies in favor of circular economy through strong commitments to reach such objectives as: zero waste trajectories; recycling of waste and, especially, bio-waste; fight all types of wastage and, particularly, food waste; responsible public procurements that integrate the analysis of the lifecycle of products, the economy of reuse and repair;
- raise awareness among our citizens and regularly report to them, as well as to the international community, about the measures implemented to improve our urban systems;
- strengthen our current cooperation and share our experience with cities across the world within the framework of long-term strategies and on the basis of academic cooperation;
- highlight climate outcomes a transition to a circular economy would bring to the COP 21 in Paris.