

RESOLUTION ON EUROPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND DIGITAL TRANSITIONS

The Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies,

Stressing that the fight against climate change is one of the main avenues of action of the European institutions and that it must be carried out within a multi-level governance framework, ensuring a continuous dialogue between local, regional, national and European levels of power;

Finding that climate change is the main cause of the increase in natural disasters in Europe, as the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies has already expressed, in both its Varese Declaration in 2016 and its Azores Declaration in 2018;

Building on the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;

Referring to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which entered into force on 21 March 1994;

Bearing in mind the Paris Agreement of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which entered into force on 4 November 2016;

Considering the Glasgow Climate Pact, adopted at the end of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) on 13 November 2021;

Referring to the sixth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which stresses, inter alia, that human activities are at the root of climate change, which has already caused widespread negative effects, that the most vulnerable people and systems are disproportionately affected by climate change, that human society has an impact on ecosystems, that it can restore and conserve them and that their vulnerabilities are interdependent, that, in Europe, climate change brings about risks to people, economies, infrastructure, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, water availability and agricultural production, that current policies and announced measures are insufficient to meet the 1.5° C warming target compared to the pre-industrial period and that if global warming exceeds 1.5° C, many human and natural systems will face additional serious risks, compared to keeping the increase below 1.5° C

Having regard to the Green Pact for Europe presented by the European Commission on 11 December 2019;

Taking note of the European Climate Law adopted on 30 June 2021;

Stressing the growing importance of the digital space in the lives of European citizens and particularly in the professional context;

Recalling the intangible nature of the digital space, its cross-border anchoring and the speed of its development;

Concerned about the risks associated with the use of the digital space for citizens and businesses in the European Union;

Having regard to Article 170 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union, establishing that the Union shall contribute to the establishment and development of trans-European networks in the transport and energy infrastructure sectors:

Applauds the European Commission's stated objective of considering sustainability as an underlying objective for all European policies;

Affirms that the fight against climate change will only be effective if it is conducted in a multilateral way, bringing on board all levels of power, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity;

Calls on EU decision-makers at all levels to work toward climate-resilient development to advance sustainable development for all, giving priority to risk reduction, equity and justice and the integration of actions and funding at all levels of governance;

Welcomes the legally binding objective of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels, and encourages all policy makers to continue their action with vigour and ambition in order to achieve climate neutrality by 2050;

Encourages intensified efforts to move the European economy towards an increasingly sustainable, circular and socially just model;

Affirms that the protection of citizens' fundamental rights and the support of democracy must guide European, national and regional public authorities in regulating the digital space;

Calls for the interweaving of ecological and digital transitions, so that they strengthen and jointly build the society of tomorrow;

Encourages regions and cities to set up ambitious projects and adopt innovative plans in their territories to make their communities more resilient and respectful of the climate and the environment and to improve the lives of their citizens, by mobilising all the necessary digital tools available to do this, both in urban and rural areas;

Encourages public actors, at all levels of power, to promote the development of renewable energies and to accelerate the phasing out of fossil fuels;

Calls on the European Commission to reduce the EU's dependence on energy imports by making more efficient use of its domestic energy sources, while diversifying supply sources;

Calls for effective training of public actors, particularly those active in the ecological field, in digital technologies, in order to provide them with the tools necessary to optimise their action;

Calls for a continuous dialogue between public authorities and local economic actors, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, to be carried out periodically also through consultations and hearings, in order to identify the challenges they face in adapting to the digital age and in the field of innovation, with the aim of establishing appropriate and effective regulatory frameworks for the economic activity of the regions, including the social partners;

Calls on national, regional and local authorities to increase funding for the repair and re-use sector, in general but, in particular, for products whose design is most harmful to the environment and the climate, such as digital equipment;

Calls for the mandatory eco-design of websites and online services for public actors and businesses within the European Union;

Welcomes initiatives to establish a circular production circuit for batteries to cut down their environmental and social impacts throughout their life cycle and to create a real marketplace for sustainable batteries manufactured in Europe, able to contribute to the strategic autonomy of the European Union;

Encourages local and regional representatives to participate fully in the development of the transition path for the textile ecosystem, aimed at achieving the objectives set for 2030 by the European Commission's strategy on textiles and taking into account the social impacts of new European requirements, in particular on employment;

Encourages public actors at all levels of government to support digital innovation, with the aim of fostering climate and environmental transition, particularly in the context of air and water pollution;

Welcomes the importance given to digital technology in support of innovation related to trans-European energy and transport networks.

Done in Namur, 17 November 2022