



**8<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON  
SUSTAINABLE CITIES & TOWNS**

**BASQUE COUNTRY | BILBAO | 27 - 29 APRIL 2016**

**basquecountry2016.eu**

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## **The Basque Declaration, open for comments**

- **The Basque Declaration outlines new pathways for European cities and towns to create productive, sustainable and resilient cities for a liveable and inclusive Europe.**
- **The document will be endorsed by Mayors and local government representatives at the 8<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns.**

**The Basque Declaration, outlining new pathways for European cities and towns to create productive, sustainable and resilient cities, is now open for comments. The Declaration will be one of the main outcomes of the 8<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns. Mayors and political representatives attending the conference will endorse the Declaration on April 27 and, by doing so, commit to accelerate the socio-cultural, socio-economic and technological transformation of their cities and towns.**

***Freiburg, 8 April 2016.-*** Following the achievements of the Aalborg Charter (1994) and the Aalborg Commitments (2004), the [Basque Declaration](#) will be launched at the 8<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns (Bilbao, Basque Country, 27-29 April). The document outlines new sustainable pathways for cities and towns to build a more liveable and inclusive Europe.

In order to make the Declaration a more participative document, citizens are invited to send their comments and feedback to make their voices heard. The comments and feedback collected will help shape the final version of the document. The organisers highlighted that “only together can we define our future and the actions that we must take to get there”. The Basque Declaration, containing a total of 15 pathways, aims to be the next milestone for urban sustainability in Europe.

Local representatives endorsing the Declaration commit to call upon the national and regional governments, and the European Union to provide common regulatory frameworks, to encourage and support decentralised approaches and solutions, and to align the political goals



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and targets with the financial programmes and support schemes available for urban development and infrastructure.

A [Thunderclap campaign](#) has been launched to support the Basque Declaration, as well as to spread the word via social media that European cities and towns are embracing new pathways to push local transformation.

### **The Basque commitment to urban sustainability**

Over 1,000 representatives from regional governments, European and international institutions, multilateral organisations, members of the research community, private sector and civil society are expected to take part in the 8<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns. Together with around 100 speakers and international experts, those attending the conference will have the chance to exchange experiences and discuss issues such as local governance, urban potential, the productive city and the new Urban Agenda for Europe.

Following the UN Summit Meeting for adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the COP21 Paris Climate Summit, this conference will be the flagship event in Europe in 2016 for discussion and experience exchange on local sustainability.

Further information and full details about the event are available on the official conference website: [www.basquecountry2016.eu](http://www.basquecountry2016.eu)

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