



SAVE THE DATE

The Basque Government, with the involvement of Udalsarea 21 - Basque Network of Municipalities for Sustainability, and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability are pleased to announce the:

8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns
27-29 April 2016
Bilbao, Basque Country

The flagship European conference on local sustainable development, the 2016 edition will bring together local and regional government representatives, European and international institutions, multilateral organisations, members of the research community, business leaders, and civil society. It will build on the legacy of the previous conferences in Aalborg (Denmark, 1994 and 2004), Lisbon (Portugal, 1996), Hannover (Germany, 2000), Seville (Spain, 2007), Dunkerque (France, 2010), and Geneva (Switzerland, 2013). The conference will demonstrate the urgent need for actions by local governments in shaping Europe's future.

Through the Aalborg Charter and Commitments, thousands of local governments in Europe have committed to enhancing the sustainability of their urban areas. The 2016 conference will allow participants to capitalise on the growing momentum for actions that transform cities into truly sustainable areas. The Sustainable Development Goals and the results of COP 21 in Paris will be reflected in the discussions, as well as the emerging Urban Agenda for Europe and the upcoming UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development HABITAT III.

The Basque Country reflects the capacity of European cities to transform, having changed from being focussed on industry to embracing a modern service-based economy. Its newly adopted Environmental Programme for 2020 shows a firm commitment to improving the environment and aligns with current European and international strategies on job creation, enhancing standards of living, and building a low-carbon economy.

The main conference will take place in Bilbao, and participants will have the opportunity to explore the Basque Country through various activities in the region. There will be ample opportunities for networking as well as a chance to learn about local sustainability actions and the richness of the Basque culture and architecture.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at Basque2016@iclei.org.

Get updates as they happen:  [#Basque2016](https://twitter.com/Basque2016)

Detailed information about the conference will be available on the official conference website, to be launched in summer 2015.

Mark your calendars today: we look forward to welcoming you in the Basque Country in spring 2016!

Ms Ana Oregi
Minister for Environment and
Territorial Policy of the Basque Government
Basque Country

Mr Wolfgang Teubner
Regional Director for Europe
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability