

## Herning Declaration

We, the undersigned of this declaration, as participants of the 13<sup>th</sup> ENCORE Conference, which took place on 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2018 in Herning, Denmark, voice our concerns about the rapidly advancing climate change.

The containment of the climate change is mankind's biggest challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In addition to the essential and courageous cooperation of all nations to realise ambitious climate goals, we wish to emphasize the need for and, importance of, the European regions acting as pioneers in coordinating and stimulating local actions to ensure climate protection and instruments to minimize CO<sub>2</sub> discharge.

Therefore; The 13<sup>th</sup> ENCORE Conference builds on:

- the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development adopted on 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2015 by the General Assembly of the United Nations. This document, which is divided into 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), presents a plan of action which contains the topics: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership

and

- the ambitious climate target adopted on the 21<sup>st</sup> UN Climate Change Conference in Paris. The aim of the "Paris Agreement" is to limit global warming to significantly below 2°C, preferably to 1.5°C. To achieve this, decarbonisation in industrialised countries in the second half of the century is an overall goal.

The 13<sup>th</sup> ENCORE Conference is pointing to three important instruments to help fulfill the agreed upon goals:

- The principles of Circular Economy; minimize waste, pollution and the use of raw materials, keep products and materials in use at a local scale and transition to renewable energy
- Climate adaptation with added values which will provide additional benefits to society besides combatting the effects of climate change
- Strive to protect and evolve new robust ecosystems which will fortify society with a bank of natural solutions to modern challenges while providing mankind with a room for leisure and contemplation

**The special role of the European regions will be to:**

- 1. Coordinate and inspire to local solutions**
- 2. Bring in research, share and collect best practice from other regions e. g. via the "Virtual Alpine Observatory (VAO)" and other knowledge sharing instruments**
- 3. Proactively seek cooperation between European regions within EU, thus bringing European policy measures in to practice and daily life on a regional scale**
- 4. Exchange visions between European politicians in order to create a momentum which will result in sustainable welfare and socially inclusive growth under the guidance of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals**

**Signed in Herring, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2018, by:**

**List of names with room for signature:**

**DRAFT**