A European Green Deal for the Urban Age

18 November 2020, 16.00h – 17.00h
Online discussion
Organised by: CIDOB’s Global Cities Programme, with the support of Barcelona City Council

The European Green Deal has been described as both the greatest challenge and opportunity for the European Union since the creation of a single market. Its ambition to halve emissions by 2030 and make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 will require the re-evaluation of almost every aspect of European policymaking in terms of the imperative of sustainable green growth that leaves no one behind. At the same time, the Covid-19 crisis has highlighted the opportunities that the green transition offers for Europe’s socioeconomic recovery and future.

With over 70% of the European population living in urban areas, cities will be at the heart of the transformation that the Green Deal is to drive. The majority of the initiative’s planned objectives – from the shift to low-emission mobility, a toxic-free environment, clean energy, a circular economy, energy efficient building and renovation, and biodiversity preservation – will require strong partnerships with cities and collaboration across multiple scales of government.

Join us for an online debate that brings together city representatives and experts to unpack the urban dimension of the European Green Deal, and reflect on the opportunities it offers for the future transformation of our cities.

16.00 – 16.05 Opening remarks
Pol Morillas, Director, CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)

16.05 – 16.10 Presentation of introductory video
The session will begin with the streaming of an introductory video in which experts raise key aspects of the urban dimension of the European Green Deal, including the mobility and energy transition, citizen participation and the financing of cities’ green transition.

16.10 – 16.45 Panel Discussion
Laia Bonet, Third Deputy Mayor for the 2030 Agenda and Digital Transformation, Sports and Territorial and Metropolitan Coordination, Barcelona City Council
Wolfgang Teubner, Regional Director for Europe, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
Anni Sinnemäki, Deputy Mayor for Urban Environment, City of Helsinki
Paolo Bertoldi, Senior Expert, Directorate for Energy, Transport and Climate, European Commission Joint Research Centre
Moderator: Hannah Abdullahah, Research Fellow, Global Cities Programme, CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)

16.45 – 17.00 Q&A