

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to be able to address you here today.

Yes we have to tackle the climate problems.

The importance of partnerships and working together to achieve our climate goals, is something that cannot be overstated. This is an aspect that I continuously try to highlight.

A key element of success is multi-level governance with well-functioning cooperation that involves all levels of government. This includes subnational governments – who face the biggest part of climate change's impacts. At the same time - subnational governments – are a large part of the solution. We cannot only work from the top down, a bottom-up approach is needed. An one sizes fits all principle is not the preferred one.

Our role is to try and ensure subnational governments such as regions, towns, rural areas and their citizens have a place in the climate debate. That we facilitate things for actors that want to take the initiative. We want legislation to be as simple as possible for them.

There are 5 key principles, that I believe should guide and inspire how we have to act, how policies/legislations/frameworks/guidelines:

1. **Subsidiarity:** Proposed measures are acceptable when they cannot be implemented at a lower (regional or local) level.
I think it is important, that as we assess what we need to do, that we take into account the territorial impact of the proposed measures and take into account the diversity of our territories, their different potentials and their challenges.
2. **Bottom-up:** Within the existing legislative framework, there must be room for local action. Policies, guidelines, legislation should enable innovation.

3. **Efficiency:** We must assess proposals against the criteria of both cost efficiency and resource efficiency. Resources are scarce, and raw materials are not endlessly available. It is therefore important that we promote circular models as much as possible, in particular to reduce waste.
4. **Inclusive:** It is important that any new measure is inclusive. This means that it must not favour any particular (target) group, new measures have to be accessible to everyone. This applies also to technologies. Legislation should let all available technologies compete equally without excluding others - if of course, and this is very important, they prove to achieve high greenhouse gas reductions.
5. **Smart:** We shall make maximum use of the available technology. By using smart applications

To summarize, in my view what is important is that :

- a) Subsidiarity – bottom up approach and multilevel governance
- b) We are technologically agnostic;
- c) We have a stable legal framework that provides certainty and fosters investors' confidence.

These elements combined will create a stable setting for partnerships to emerge, grow and evolve to help us towards our final goal, a sustainable healthy environment and climate

Thank you.