

14 October 2026

Climate Budget Summit

How Local Leaders Turn Climate Ambition into Action

VENUE *Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Rue du Parnasse 19, Brussels
Room: Copenhagen/Essen/Warsaw*

12.00-13.30 LUNCH AND REGISTRATION

13.30-13.45 Welcome to the Climate Budget Summit
DONALD ALIMI, Research Associate, HafenCity University Hamburg
MARIIA ANDREEVA, Communications Coordinator, Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Cities Commission

13.45-14.00 Climate budgeting and how it can help achieving ambitious local climate goals
Prof Dr JÖRG KNIELING, Chair of Institute of Urban Planning and Regional Development at HafenCity University Hamburg, and a Vice Chair of the Hamburg Climate Advisory Board

14.00-14.15 Climate governance and latest trends from the Eurocities Pulse Mayors Survey
SYLWIA SLOMIK, Co-Head of Climate & Environment, Eurocities

14.15-15.45 Panel discussion: Setting ambitions and targets, prioritising investments for climate action and providing decision-support
Moderator: Prof Dr JÖRG KNIELING, HafenCity University Hamburg

- **GUNĀRS ANSINŠ**, Mayor, City of Liepāja
- **Dr ELINA RANTANEN**, Deputy Mayor, City of Turku
- **Dr BENNO HAIN**, Head of Advisory Unit Climate Neutrality, Ministry of Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture, City of Hamburg
- **VALDIS RATNIKS**, Energy Manager, City of Riga | Riga Energy Agency
- **SYLWIA SLOMIK**, Co-Head of Climate & Environment, Eurocities

15.45-16.15 COFFEE AND NETWORKING

16.15-16.30 Turning climate targets into actionable decisions with the Climate Action Decision Support Tool
HANNA MERILÄINEN, Project Manager, City of Tampere

16.30-17.15 Cities leading the change: Towards net-zero with climate budgeting

- **Dr EMMI NIEMINEN**, Development Specialist, City of Tampere
- **MADS BÆK PEDERSEN**, Consultant, Municipality of Aarhus
- **RASMUS GRELSSON**, Environmental Strategist, Municipality of Östersund

17.15-17.30 Celebrating over 100 local government alumni of the climate budgeting training course
OLENA ZINCHUK, Senior Advisor, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission

17.30-19.00 COCKTAILS AND NETWORKING

Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



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ENERGY TRANSITION

Climate-4-CAST



The event is organised with support from



**Turku-Southwest Finland
European Office**

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