**Declaration of Climate Chance and city networks**

**Nantes 8 March 2022**

The invasion of Ukraine by Vladimir Putin's troops has revealed two potentially fatal weaknesses of the European Union: the dependence of our way of life on fossil fuels, which subjects us to the demands of Russian power; the dependence of our security, which makes us dependent on the goodwill and interests of our American protector.

We call on the European authorities and the Member States to go beyond the current emergency measures and draw the necessary structural consequences.

Our way of life and the difficulty of really making the transition to sustainable societies has led us to flout our values in order to conciliate with oil producers and to abandon our principles in order not to cut off the Russian gas tap. The medium-term goals we have set ourselves over the past thirty years have proved ineffective. The inability to think globally about our ecological footprint has led us to outsource energy-intensive production and to increase our dependence on countries that do not share our values. Member States have failed to take on board the systemic nature of the transition, adding up sectoral policies that are incapable of transforming our economic and social model and our idea of prosperity in depth.

The fear of the Member States of losing a further piece of their sovereignty by pooling defence resources, the possible divergences on the nature of the perils to be prepared for, the ease of relying on the United States to ensure our defence have lulled us into a state of sleep for decades, ever since France rejected the European Defence Community in 1954. We are in for a rude awakening, with the war on our doorstep revealing our own impotence to defend ourselves or to help Ukraine face the aggressor.

The convergence of these two weaknesses invites us to urgently revisit the governance of the European Union by basing it on the principles of multi-level governance, already officially recognised by the Union as the means of reconciling unity and diversity. They are an appropriate response to these two weaknesses by strengthening European unity while preserving the diversity of situations, histories and cultures of the peoples that make it up and are its wealth. The application of these principles must lead to:

* to set a common annual target for the fight against global warming, reducing the total ecological footprint of each Member State, wherever emissions occur, from its current value, which varies from one Member State to another, to 2t of CO2 equivalent by 2050. This amounts to capping emissions and lowering this cap by a constant percentage over 28 years, the percentage depending for each Member State on the starting point. Each Member State and, within that State, each region and territory is invited to develop a strategy to achieve this result;
* to create an integrated command for defence, common standards for the weight of military expenditure in national budgets and for the interoperability of armaments, combined with a sharing of tasks between the Member States for the development of new armaments, with national fighting units retaining their language and military culture within this integrated command

All this means strengthening the sense of a common destiny of a European people united by common values and destiny:

- by implementing a process that starts from the regions and brings citizens into a dialogue on the future of Europe;

- by setting up a European civic service, dedicated to military defence activities or to civilian transition activities. It is the territories which, within the framework of a protocol established at European level, will be best able to host the civilian services.

In the name of Europe's survival in the face of the two emergencies of climate change and war on our borders, we call on the European Union to transform itself into a Federation 2.0, capable of both unity of vision and broad decentralisation of initiatives: a Federation 2.0 based not on a distribution of competences between the different levels of governance but on precise modalities of cooperation between the different levels, enriched year after year by experience.