

Dear Baroness Jones,
Cher M. le Sénateur,
Dear Matthew Pencharz,
Dear Julie Angulo
Dear Friends,

As you all know, Paris will soon host the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21). In three months' time, we will know if the world has agreed on a legally binding agreement to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

We expect this negotiation to go to the wire. Delegates from all countries have resumed talks in Bonn. Some major players (the EU, but also the US and China) have made important pledges. Will it be good enough? It is too early to say.

But as the French negotiator, Ambassador Laurence Tubiana, often says: we should not refer to Paris as the last chance Summit – rather as the best opportunity we've had for a very long time to reach a deal.

And we believe local Governments, and in particular major cities in Europe, can make a difference.

Last March in Paris, Mayor Anne Hidalgo and her counterparts from EU capital cities committed to building up local solutions to the global challenge of climate change – Tom Pencharz was there.

In July, The London Assembly Economy Committee completed its investigation into the resilience of the London economy in the face of climate change. Baroness Jones will tell us more about their findings in a moment.

Clearly, our two capital regions face the same challenges. That's why we felt this latest conference in the "Road to Paris" series organized by the French Embassy should concentrate on the local responses to climate change, in the wake of a very interesting previous event we organized in June with UCL.

Now is a good time to compare notes and look for joint solutions. I am very grateful to Senator André Gattolin, who has specially come over from France, and to Julie Angulo, Innovation & Recycling Manager with Veolia, for agreeing to take part in this event and share their ideas with us.

Without further a due, I will leave the floor to Baroness Jones for a quick presentation of the London assembly report to kick start this debate.