



## The COP in **10** key points

Do you know what a COP is, and what this event is all about? Here are the key points to understanding this climate event and the importance of the one now being held in Madrid.



### **WHAT IS A COP?**

The initials stand for Conference of Parties, the "Parties" being the states, some 200 of them, that have subscribed to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At the COPs the heads of state and government, or their representatives, take decisions to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis caused by human activity.



### **WHAT IS THEIR ORIGIN?**

The background dates from the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, when the world acknowledged the existence of climate change, based on data provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In Rio, 195 countries signed the Framework Convention which came into force in 1994. The following year, in 1995, the first COP was held in Berlin.



### **WHO TAKES PART IN THE COPs?**

As well as the country delegations (led by the heads of government or their representatives, usually environment ministers), UN staff, scientists, NGOs, businesses and members of the public also take part. In total, 20,000 people are expected to attend COP25.



## WHY DOES COP25 NEED TO BE HELD?

The 2019 Conference of the Parties is the forum at which the states have to negotiate, amongst other things, the emissions reductions that correspond to each of them, according to the terms of the Paris Agreement. It is essential that this meeting happens because the measures need to be in place by January 2020. The consensus agreed in the French capital in 2015 between 195 countries sets the international road map for slowing climate change and for the temperature rise to remain just below 2 degrees, at the same time as keeping up efforts not to go above the current 1.5 degree rise.



## WHY THE NUMBER 25?

The figure accompanying the initials is the number of the meeting. The first one was in Berlin in 1995. Since then 24 have been held in various cities in Europe, America, Africa and Asia. So this is COP25 i.e. the twenty-fifth.



## WHY IS IT IN MADRID?

Initially, Chile was chosen to host COP25. But because of the situation of social and political instability there, the Chilean government decided to suspend the event scarcely 30 days before the opening.

A few days later, Spain offered to host the event in Madrid to take place on the same scheduled dates, between 2 and 13 December. Chile still holds the presidency of COP25, as planned. The motto also remains the same: Time to act.



## WHAT'S THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LOGO?

The COP25 logo gets its inspiration from the seas, clean and renewable energies and electrical mobility. It is mainly blue in colour to allude to the clean development that the conference intends to instigate, through specific climate actions.

It is also designed to convey the sense of urgency with which we need to act on climate change and to indicate that time is running out and measures need to be taken, right now. That's why it is in the shape of a clock face, with the hands as the map of Chile.



## WHAT HAPPENS AT A COP?

The first week covers technical matters, while the closing days are reserved for the heads of government and their representatives to meet and make decisions. This second stage is known as the "ministerial section".

The venue is split into two zones. On the one side is the blue zone. This is the area under the auspices of the United Nations. It is only accessible to the official delegations. This is where the plenary sessions and meetings are held.

The other area is the green zone for the public. This is where businesses, private institutions, foundations and NGOs can exhibit their work and show their commitment to climate change. Here is where the seminars, exhibitions, talks, discussions and round-tables will be held.



## WHAT PART WILL IBERDROLA PLAY?

Iberdrola has a leading role at COP25, as in previous summits, playing a part in events, conferences, campaigns and in supporting negotiations.



## AND THE NEXT ONE...?

COP26 will be held next year in Glasgow. After an initial competition between themselves, the UK and Italy decided to form a team to organise the climate summit in the Scottish city. This event, which will take place at the Scottish Events Campus (SEC), could be the last chance to succeed in slowing global warming.