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To Whom It May Concern

There are many ways to participate in climate action – action that can no longer be put off. As a university, we have the responsibility to stimulate new areas of research and practise new forms of teaching to ensure our graduates are both informed and technically prepared – and to devise tools geared to meeting the demands of sustainable development.

The University IUAV of Venice had already begun to address these issues some years ago – whether in the day-to-day functioning of the campus, in the content of its courses or in the part it plays in the most advanced research networks in the world.

And then there is the individual action each of us can take as members of the university community – lecturers, students and staff – just as important as action carried out at an institutional level.

IUAV's involvement in the project Ride With Us – with the direct participation of Professor Stefano Munarin (delegate for Sport, Inclusiveness and the Right to Study) – exemplifies our commitment that, increasingly, has to open to all forms of action, and the continuation of a strategy long adopted by the university.

As well as its political and symbolic meaning, the bike ride to Brussels is a chance to develop and link to a European scale the same approach to location and sustainable mobility that we propose to our own community as a way of knowing and making use of where we live.

We would wish this small action to be a further expression of European citizens' appetite for new environmental policies, hoping that the European Commission will commit itself in an even more ambitious way to combat climate change – and make an active and practical contribution to the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Santiago, Chile in December.

The rector
Alberto Ferlenga