

Opening speech by ENVE 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair Mr Witold Stepień

**Conference**

**"Waste legislation review - regions and cities for a circular economy"**

Organised by the CoR, ENVE Commission, in association with ACR+, CEMR, Eurocities and Municipal Waste Europe

Tuesday 31 January 2017, 14.30 – 17.30, European Committee of the Regions  
Room JDE 51, 99-101 rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels

As the First Vice-Chair of the Committee of the Regions' Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy and its current rapporteur on the LIFE programme, I very much appreciate the opportunity to open this conference.

This conference is organised in cooperation with the main European organisations of local and regional authorities active in the field, namely CEMR, ACR+, Eurocities, and Municipal Waste Europe.

Together, we believed that this was a very good time to again draw attention to the positions and actions of the EU's local and regional authorities on two important aspects:

First, we want with this conference to highlight the expectations of local and regional authorities from the inter-institutional negotiation process on the waste legislative proposals, following the European Parliament's ENVI Committee vote last week.

Second, we wanted to discuss the progress on the European Commission Circular Economy Action Plan and how this supports local and regional authorities. The European Commission last week adopted its implementation report and a Communication on waste to energy.

We will showcase experiences from front running local and regional authorities in making the circular economy happen on the ground.

The conference thereby builds on the Committee of the Regions' recent opinions on the circular economy and the waste review. I am glad that our rapporteurs Mr Gambacorta and Ms Winter will be with us today.

I wish us interesting presentations and debates today!