Today Citizens all across Europe ask for more transparency, inclusiveness, participation.

Locally and regionally elected politicians, bridge citizens and national governments. By listening to them on a daily basis, by implementing European and national laws on the ground and by channelling to the capitals needs arising from Local Business and civil society.

So Their role is enshrined in the Constitutions, Their capacity to act is supported by budgets, Their legitimacy is secured by fair elections.

What we ask citizens today is to consider to propose, here, the same tools they already use at national level to influence national policy: we propose citizens to use Mayors and regional councils for echoing their voice here in Brussels and Strasburg, thus bringing Europe closer to them. We propose to use the principle of subsidiarity as political answer to their legitimate requests.

In fact, through a more structured implication of local and regional authorities in EU affairs, including through a stronger Committee of the Regions, an answer can be given to the main request put forward by citizens: namely: better involvement and closing the gap between them and the institutions.

We, the regionally and locally elected politicians, are 'European politicians': because we make Europe happen on the ground, we implement policies and we adopt regional legislations that are indeed essential to transpose the European laws.

We therefore believe, the answer for a performing European Democracy can be also found by a stronger role given to local and regional authorities within the legislative process of this Union.

Thank you very much

Watch the video here