



European Committee
of the Regions

MARSEILLE
PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR
FRANCE

3
—
4

MARCH
2022

EUROPEAN SUMMIT OF REGIONS AND CITIES

Address by

Apostolos Tzitzikostas

President of the European
Committee of the Regions

#eulocal



Monsieur le Président,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Chers amis, présents dans la salle et en visioconférences,

Aujourd'hui à Marseille,

la ville, parmi toutes les villes,

qui sait le mieux rapprocher

des personnes d'origines et de milieux différents,

trois mille Européens

issus des 240 régions et des 90 000 communes d'Europe,

se sont réunis

au Sommet des régions et des villes,

pour faire écho aux voix de 1,2 million de dirigeants régionaux et locaux,

et surtout,

pour faire entendre la voix des citoyens européens.

We are here in Marseille,

to reaffirm our dedication to our fundamental values of

democracy, freedom, rule of law,

territorial integrity and human rights.

We are here to proclaim that our Union,

will never turn a blind eye

to violations of international law,



to assaults on a nations' sovereignty and territorial integrity.

What is happening near our eastern borders in Ukraine

is a human tragedy caused by an invasion,

ordered by a ruthless regime that has lost sense of reality.

A regime that is scared.

Scared of democracy. Scared of freedom.

Dear friends,

Russian rockets and bombs

are falling indiscriminately on Ukrainian cities and villages

destroying people's lives and homes.

Already one million Ukrainians have fled from their country,

mothers with their children, elderly people,

seeking for help and shelter, in Polish, Romanian and other EU regions.

Millions more will be forced to leave soon.

Hospitals are being overwhelmed.

Help is needed now.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this critical moment

the European Committee of the Regions and its members,

the governors and the mayors,



the regional and local councilors,
stand in solidarity with our partners and the people of Ukraine.
The colours of the Ukrainian flag illuminate our cities and regions,
Food, hygiene products, medical supplies,
are being gathered across European regions and cities.
Help is being channeled to our border regions and to Ukraine.
Here in France, with President Muselier, his Région sud
and all French regions,
are determined to help on the ground in Ukraine
and in the border regions in Poland, Romania and Moldova.
My region, Central Macedonia in Greece,
is sending medical supplies to Ukraine.
The same is happening in every corner of our Union.
The European Committee of the Regions will try to facilitate
this concrete help on the ground;
Over the years we have supported cooperation with Ukrainian
cities and regions:
For instance, with Mariupol for good governance,
And with Kharkiv for territorial development.
I also welcome Marseille and Odessa exchange on good Practices
not to mention Warsaw's intense help
to all the main Ukrainian cities.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues,

This is the moment to stand as one
with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

Ukraine's place is in Europe.

I announce that as of today

the Mayor of Kyiv,

with whom I spoke recently,

receives honorary membership of
the European Committee of the Regions.

As free people, as a values based Union,
we stand firm and united.

We stand for freedom,

We stand for democracy

The fight for Ukraine is the fight for Europe's future,
for our children's future.

It is our moral duty to end this war, Together.

We are stronger because we are united.

We are stronger because we are democracies.

Freedom, Democracy, Justice will prevail.

Slava Ukraina!

Vive l'Europe!



European Committee of the Regions

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is the EU's political assembly of 329 regional and local representatives from all 27 Member States. Our members are elected presidents of regions, regional councillors, mayors and local councillors - democratically accountable to more than 446 million European citizens. The CoR's main objectives are to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the EU's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies. The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council have to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union as a means of upholding EU law where there are breaches to the subsidiarity principle or failures to respect regional or local authorities.

Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 101 | 1040 Bruxelles/Brussel | BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Tel. +32 22822211 | e-mail: Visuals@cor.europa.eu | www.cor.europa.eu

[@EU_CoR](https://twitter.com/EU_CoR) | [/european.committee.of.the.regions](https://www.facebook.com/european.committee.of.the.regions) | [/european-committee-of-the-regions](https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-committee-of-the-regions) | [@EU_regions_cities](https://www.instagram.com/EU_regions_cities)

