



**European Committee
of the Regions**



**CPMR
CRPM**



Political declaration of the President of the European Committee of the Regions and the Presidents of European Associations of local and regional governments

We, the President of the European Committee of the Regions and Presidents of the European Associations of local and regional governments, stress that people and communities are suffering the heavy social, health and economic consequences of the pandemic. Our citizens need quality public services, sustainable local economies and jobs, and a healthy and liveable environment.

We are strongly committed to protecting our communities and supporting jobs and businesses, making sure that no places and people are left behind. We have been at the forefront since the start of the pandemic and are relentlessly at work to build strong, resilient, sustainable regions, cities and municipalities across Europe.

During our meeting on 4 December 2020, we agreed on the following principles:

On the need to foster recovery and ensure adequate resources and involvement for our regions and local communities we:

- Point out that any **efforts to stimulate sustainable economic recovery** at European and national level will only be **achievable if local and regional governments have a central role in their design and delivery**. The EU's Covid response must be based on the subsidiarity principle.
- Welcome the final compromise agreed between the European Parliament and the Council of the EU for the next **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)** and the **European Recovery Instrument ("Next Generation EU")**.
- **Call on Member States to waste no more time in adopting it and avoid jeopardizing the recovery.**
- Stress that an active **involvement of regions and cities and their representative associations** on implementing the next Multiannual Financial Framework, including by co-leading the preparation and implementation of the measures under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, **is crucial to best target the investments and reinforce the political ownership and democratic accountability of EU funding.**

- Remind EU leaders that the budget of the EU reflects the needs and ambitions of our continent to enable comparable living conditions in all territories of the EU. **Cohesion is our fundamental value and it must become the compass of all EU policies** to guarantee that no people and no places are left behind. The recovery efforts are also an opportunity to make all territories more attractive places to live and work. We continue our #CohesionAlliance 2.0 campaign for Cohesion as a fundamental value of the EU. Specific activities include applying Cohesion principles in other MFF programmes, Cohesion and COVID-19 recovery and Cross-border alliances.
- Recall the necessity to **align recovery measures to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals** to which all Member States have committed to achieve by 2030.
- Supports a green recovery with the objective of creating a carbon-neutral EU by 2050, ending EU investment in fossil fuels and giving regions, cities and municipalities direct access to funds to deliver local green projects and involving them in the design of national energy and climate plans.

On the European house of democracy and the Conference on the Future of the EU, we:

- Stress the need to **reinforce European democracy at all levels of government and bring Europe closer to its people**. The Conference on the Future of Europe is an important opportunity to offer citizens a true dialogue based on their needs. We call for the Conference to kick-off as soon as possible and the CoR delegation to the Conference is ready to play its part, together with the European Associations.
- Suggest the **policy input from local and regional level should focus in particular on policy areas with a strong territorial impact** and on revising the governance of the EU to move towards a three-dimensional Europe where all levels of governance – European, national, regional and local – work together on an equal footing.

Local and Regional Governments are eager to bring Europe closer to the people and we will continue to support them in doing so. This also includes working together to influence EU decision-making through the Fit4Future platform and RegHubs 2.0 network.

Brussels, 4 December 2020

Mr Apostolos TZITZIKOSTAS, President of the European Committee of the Regions

Karl-Heinz LAMBERTZ, President of the Association of European Border Regions

Magnus BERNTSSON, President of the Assembly of European Regions

Dario NARDELLA, President of EUROCITIES

Gustavo MATOS, President of the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies

Cees LOGGEN, President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions

Christoph SCHNAUDIGEL, Co-President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions