"We need to relaunch the European project by enhancing its democratic functioning. I see our 'House of European Democracy' as having solid foundations - the regional and local authorities - strong walls - the member states - and a protective roof - the EU. The Conference offers a unique opportunity to strengthen it, but can only work if it goes beyond Brussels and the capitals. Local and Regional authorities are the best allies the Union could have to make the Conference a success. Now more than ever, we must seize this opportunity to restart and bring together Europe closer to its people."

Apostolos Tzitzikostas, President of the European Committee of the Regions, Local Dialogue, 9 May 2021, Strasbourg
18 regional and local delegates proposed by the European Committee of the Regions

Apostolos Tzitzikostas, President of the European Committee of the Regions, Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia, Greece, President of the Association of Greek Regions, European People’s Party (EPP)

Vasco Ilidio Alves Cordeiro, 1st Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions, Member of the Regional Parliament of Azores, Portugal, Party of European Socialists (PES)

**European People’s Party (EPP)**

**Olgierd Geblewicz**
President of the EPP Group, President of West Pomerania Region, Poland, President of the Polish Association of Regions

**Jelena Drenjanin**
1st Vice-President of the EPP Group, Vice-Mayor of Huddinge, Sweden, Chair of the Governance Committee, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

**Mark Speich**
Chair of the Committee of the Regions’ Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs, Secretary of State, North Rhine-Westphalia Region, Germany

**Isabel Díaz Ayuso**
President of Madrid Region, Spain

**Ilse Aigner**
President of the Bavarian State Parliament and CoR-delegate on behalf of the Regional Parliaments of Germany

**Party of European Socialists (PES)**

**Christophe Rouillon**
President of the PES Group, Mayor of Coulaines, France

**Yoomi Renström**
1st Vice-President of the PES Group, Member of Ovanåker Municipal Council, Sweden

**Concepción Andreu Rodríguez**
Vice-President of the PES Group, President of the Regional Government of La Rioja, Spain

**Kata Tüttő**
Vice-President of the PES Group, Deputy Mayor of Budapest, Hungary

**Renew Europe (RE)**

**François Decoster**
President of Renew Europe Group, Mayor of Saint Omer, Member of Hauts-de-France Regional Council, France

**Mirja Vehkaperä**
Chairman of Oulu City Board, Finland

**Paula Fernández Víaña**
Minister for Interior, Justice and External Action, Cantabria Region, Spain

**European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR)**

**Władysław Ortyl**
President of the ECR Group, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region, Poland

**Roberto Ciambetti**
President of the Veneto Regional Parliament, Italy

**Muhterem Aras**
President of the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg, Germany

**European Alliance (EA)**

**Kieran McCarthy**
President of the EA Group, Member of Cork City Council, Ireland

**The Greens**
12 local and regional delegates proposed by the territorial associations and other regional and local stakeholders

**European People’s Party (EPP)**

- **Magnus Berntsson**
  - Regional Minister of Västra Götaland, President of the Assembly of European Regions (AER) and Member of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), Sweden

- **Emil Boc**
  - Mayor of the City of Cluj-Napoca, President of the Romanian Association of Municipalities, Member of Council of the European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and Eurocities, Romania

- **Aleksandra Dulkiwicz**
  - Mayor of Gdansk, Executive President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and Member of Eurocities, Poland

- **Yordanka Fandakova**
  - Mayor of the City of Sofia, Executive President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and Member of Eurocities, Bulgaria

- **Renaud Muselier**
  - President of Region Sud, Vice President of Regions de France and Member of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), France

**Party of European Socialists (PES)**

- **Manuela Bora**
  - Member of the Marche Regional Council, Member of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and Member of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), Italy

- **Verena Dunst**
  - President of the Burgenland Regional Parliament, Member of the Conference of Regional Legislative Assemblies of the EU (CALRE), Austria

- **Karl-Heinz Lambertz**
  - President of the Parliament of the German-speaking Community, President of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), Belgium

- **Arnaud Ngatcha**
  - Deputy mayor of the City of Paris in charge of Europe, International Relations and Francophonie, Member of Eurocities, France

**Renew Europe (RE)**

- **Clotilde Armand**
  - Mayor of Sector 1 Bucharest, Romania

- **Cees Loggen**
  - Regional Minister of North – Holland, President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), Netherlands

**European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR)**

- **Klaudia Szemereyné Pataki**
  - Mayor of Kecskemét, Hungary
The European Committee of the Regions’ envisaged contributions to the Conference

**Political work**
- High-level debates in plenary sessions, commissions and political groups
- High Level Group on European Democracy led by Herman Van Rompuy
- Marseille Summit of Regions and Cities during the French Presidency

**Outreach**
- Local dialogues with citizens and with regional and local authorities
- Partnerships with regional, local and pan-European media
- High-level Conferences on 1) regional 2) urban and 3) rural expectations from the COFE
- European Week of Regions and Cities, EuroPCom

**Regional and local leadership**
- Via the one million elected local and regional politicians in the EU and European Network of Regional and Local EU Councillors
- Territorial European and national associations
- Stakeholders: European Movement International and European Youth Forum, etc.
- Networks: Cohesion Alliance, RegHub

### How important is the input of citizens in local communities and what can they expect from the CoR input to the Conference?

- The Conference will succeed if it genuinely and concretely involves local communities.
- It must be a real conversation, built up with the citizens thorough a multitude of exchanges.
- The CoR will make all possible efforts to make sure their ideas and recommendations will to be examined thoroughly: citizens will want to get feedbacks.
- It is a big responsibility towards them: pledging to hear them also means getting back to them with solutions, with answers and with explanations.
- We believe that it is possible, within the framework of the existing Treaty, to improve EU governance and legislation and shape a new model of European democracy that better addresses the concrete needs of people in our regions, cities and villages across Europe.
The political priorities of the European Committee of the Regions 2020-2025

1) Bringing Europe closer to people in order to reinforce European democracy in the debate on the future of Europe at all levels of government and to improve the way the EU works ensuring its policies and programmes meet the real needs of citizens.

2) Managing fundamental societal transformations to build resilient regional and local communities with the aim to better respond to the major challenges regions, cities and towns are facing.

3) Cohesion as a fundamental value highlighting place-based EU policies putting the EU at the service of its people and their places of living.

The regions, cities and villages of the European Union

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Provinces, counties and districts</th>
<th>Cities</th>
<th>Municipalities</th>
<th>Member States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>240</td>
<td>1350</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>90000</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regional and local administrations account for:

- \( \frac{1}{2} \) of public investment
- \( \frac{1}{3} \) of public expenditure
- \( \frac{1}{4} \) of tax revenues

The CoR and local and regional authorities make a difference

- 81 Mayors
- 17 Presidents of municipal councils
- 11 Presidents of regional parliaments/assemblies
- 72 Members of municipal councils
- 61 Presidents of regional governments
- 6 Presidents of regional parliaments/assemblies
- 28 Members of a regional government
- 26 Members of regional parliaments/assemblies
- 27 Others

The regions, cities and villages of the European Union:

- 240 regions
- 1350 provinces, counties and districts
- 600 cities
- 90000 municipalities
- 450 million EU citizens

- 44% of the EU population live in predominantly urban regions
- 36% in intermediate regions
- 20% in rural regions
- 35.5% citizens live in cross-border regions

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