High Level Group on European Democracy

Meeting with the YEPs 15 September 2021

Inês Roseta, Strategic planning, foresight and inter-institutional relations
Context and Objectives of the CoR on the Future of Europe

• Occasion to strengthen the European house of Democracy

• Local and regional authorities as the democratic foundations, Member States the walls, and the EU the protective roof

• Greater legitimacy and efficiency in policy-making

• Bring Europe closer to citizens
CoR Contribution to the Conference on the Future of Europe

Political work

- High-level debates in plenary sessions, commissions and political groups
- Recommendations by the High Level Group on European Democracy led by Herman Van Rompuy
- 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
- Conference on the Future of Europe
- European Week of Regions and Cities, EuroPCom

Alliance building

- Via the one million elected local and regional politicians in the EU
- Recommendations by the High Level Group on European Democracy led by Herman Van Rompuy
- Territorial Movements, European Youth Forum, etc.
- Networks: Cohesion Alliance, RegHub
High Level Group Composition

Herman Van Rompuy – Chair

Former European Commissioners Almunia and Vassiliou
Former Members of European Parliament Harms and Rodrigues
Youth Representative Silja Markkula
Academic Professor Grosse
High Level Group Mission

• Provide critical analysis and strategic insights from an independent, experienced and external perspective

• Stimulate discussions on innovative ways to reinforce the democratic legitimacy of the common "European House of Democracy"

• Explore ways to reinforce the impact and influence of local and regional authorities and the CoR in the European process

• Support the CoR in developing proposals for permanent and structured forms of citizens' participation in the EU's democratic process, starting from the local and regional levels
High Level Group – Work Phases

• Scoping phase: identification of challenges linked to European democracy in all its components – sense of community, challenges and opportunities of the digital age, output democracy that delivers, citizen participation beyond elections, ‘sui generis’ construct

• Mapping those issues into the European context to single out the specific questions and problems that the HLG could contribute to solving

• Developing possible solutions to remedy the challenges identified in the scoping phase

• Final Report to CoR to support CoR contribution to the Conference

• Summit of Regions and Cities in Marseille on 3-4 March 2022