EU Regions and cities start building an Alliance for the future of cohesion policy May 2017

Signature of the #CohesionAlliance declaration 2.0 for a cohesive, sustainable and resilient Europe July 2020

March 2020
Presidents of the CoR and of the European Parliament joint call for an ambitious and cohesive EU budget 2021-27, equivalent to 1.3% of EU GNI.

March 2022
EU local and regional leaders adopt the Marseille Manifesto, asking that cohesion is considered as a fundamental value of the Union.

March 2018
Submission of the #CohesionAlliance’s priorities and requests to the European Commission

February 2019
The CoR advocates the creation of an EU instrument to support the environmental and social transition of coal regions

April 2019
Launch of the #CohesionAlliance for a strong cohesion policy after 2020

October 2017
Launch of the European Alliance for Cross-Border Citizens, to make border regions much more visible among local, national and European decision-makers.

November 2020
Submission of the #CohesionAlliance’s priorities and requests to the European Commission

October 2019
MEPs and local leaders urge Member States to have a clear ambition for more cohesion and a real budget for the EU.

March 2020
Presidents of the CoR and of the European Parliament joint call for an ambitious and cohesive EU budget 2021-27, equivalent to 1.3% of EU GNI.

October 2019
Launch of the #CohesionAlliance declaration 2.0 for a cohesive, sustainable and resilient Europe

July 2020
Signature of the #CohesionAlliance declaration 2.0 for a cohesive, sustainable and resilient Europe

January 2020
Achievement: The European Commission proposes the creation of a Just Transition Fund for regions most affected by the green transition

1 July 2021
New cohesion policy legislative package enters into force

Achievement: Regional and local communities, as well as the participation principle, are kept at the heart of EU new governance

17 December 2020
The Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-27 is adopted

Achievement: without cuts to the overall financial allocations for cohesion policy

The CoR advocate the creation of a EU instrument to support the environmental and social transition of coal regions.

Through its own activities and through those carried out with the #CohesionAlliance, the European Committee of the Regions is committed to:

• promote the view that economic, social and territorial cohesion is fostered and respected in all EU policies;
• promote the involvement of regions and cities in shaping and delivering national recovery plans;
• promote the integration on the ground of cohesion policy funds and all other EU recovery and funding instruments;
• foster urban-rural cooperation and the recovery of rural areas.
Since its launch in 2017, the Alliance’s declaration has been signed by:

12,000 individual signatories

140 regions

137 cities and counties

50 associations of regional and local governments

40 Members of the European Parliament

The #CohesionAlliance is a coalition of those who believe that EU cohesion policy must continue to be a pillar of the EU’s future. It was created through cooperation between the leading European associations of cities and regions and the European Committee of the Regions.

In July 2020, the #CohesionAlliance adopted a renewed declaration 2.0 for a cohesive, sustainable and resilient Europe. Through the new declaration, the #CohesionAlliance renewed its political engagement in the post-COVID-19 Europe to affirm cohesion as a fundamental value of the European Union and a key objective for all its policies and investment.

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.

Cohesion is not (just) money, but a fundamental value of the European Union.

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