



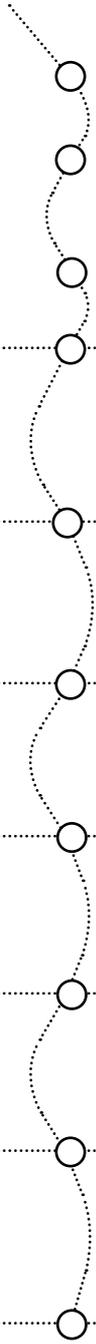
**European Committee
of the Regions**

Work Programmes of the
**European Committee of the
Regions' Commissions**

2018



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Foreword



As the EU continues to go through a period of reflection, we need to place back at its fore the goals of social progression and social cohesion. The EU must reassert its founding values of democracy and equity and be led by the principle of subsidiarity to ensure that every citizen benefits from every action. This is why the territorial dimension of European policy must remain at the heart of Europe's future. Europe needs to go back to its roots, listen to the real needs of our cities, towns, regions and villages and propose solutions that are coherent, pragmatic and flexible so they can be sufficiently delivered on the ground.

By setting thematic priorities and through the legislative work undertaken by our Chairpersons, rapporteurs and members of each of our Commissions, this brochure demonstrates that this can be achieved. It shows that locally the impact of EU policy matters but it needs the wealth of knowledge by local and regional governments to direct it so it positively impacts every citizen.

The work of our members to align their efforts shows that despite political and geographical differences, in Europe we share many challenges which, through constructive debate and dialogue, we can find common solutions. Whether it be social integration, youth unemployment, regional policy, or climate change Europe must formulate its policy locally and offer the right investment tools but it needs direction by local and regional governments. Crucially, it shows that restoring confidence in the European project requires strong leadership at all levels if Europe is to overcome the challenges of today and ready itself for the challenges of tomorrow.

Karl-Heinz Lambertz
President of the European
Committee of the Regions



Towards 2020 - Reinforcing the European Committee of the Regions and its Impact

The future of the EU will be discussed throughout the European Committee of the Regions' current mandate ending in 2019. In October 2018, the Committee will move from "Reflecting on Europe" to the adoption of an opinion setting out ideas for the future of the Union. The 8th Summit of EU Regions and Cities will take place in Bucharest on 14-15 March 2019 ahead of the meeting of the EU27 leaders in Sibiu on Europe Day, 9 May. After that, voters will decide Europe's future in the EU elections.

Working closely with the First Vice-President and Presidents of the Committee's political groups, and in consultation with the Committee's Chairs of the policy Commissions and Presidents of national delegations, a series of working areas ("*chantiers*") have been established to give renewed political guidance to the European Committee of the Regions.

As a result of this process, four "*chantiers*" were identified by the President to guide the Committee in improving its work for the remainder of its mandate.

Chantier 1: Energising the functioning of the European Committee of the Regions

We need to bring more political debate within the work of our institution, starting with the Plenaries. Beyond the formal role of adopting opinions, the presence of local and regional elected politicians in Brussels offers opportunities for debate with EU leaders and key figures from the other institutions. More space also needs to be given to the CoRs' members to contribute to EU politics both inside the institution and through events organised by stakeholders around their statutory business in Brussels.

Chantier 2: Fostering cooperation with the EU institutions and demonstrating impact

Cooperation with the three main EU institutions allows the CoR to contribute to the democratic dimension of the European project, as well as its understanding and delivery on the ground. There is an opportunity to strengthen our inter-institutional and political cooperation with the European Council, Trio Presidency/Council, European Parliament, and European Commission, building both on existing cooperation agreements, and the commitment at the level of political leadership.

Chantier 3: Strengthening bonds with cities, regions and their associations

The CoR needs to strengthen its legitimacy in representing all EU local and regional authorities in the EU and towards the other EU institutions. With almost 93,000 local authorities and 264 regions in the future EU27, we need to reinforce our relations with the different sub-national levels of governance, characterised by the existence of a network of representative associations at European and national level and their offices based in Brussels.

Chantier 4: Leveraging communication, dialogue with citizens and standing in public opinion

The review of the CoR's 5-year Communication Strategy showed improvement on how our institution is perceived. But communication should also be used as a catalyst for change on the inside. Through campaigns such as "Reflecting on Europe", "#CohesionAlliance" and "Regions and cities as change agents", communication supports and encourages the other three *chantiers*.

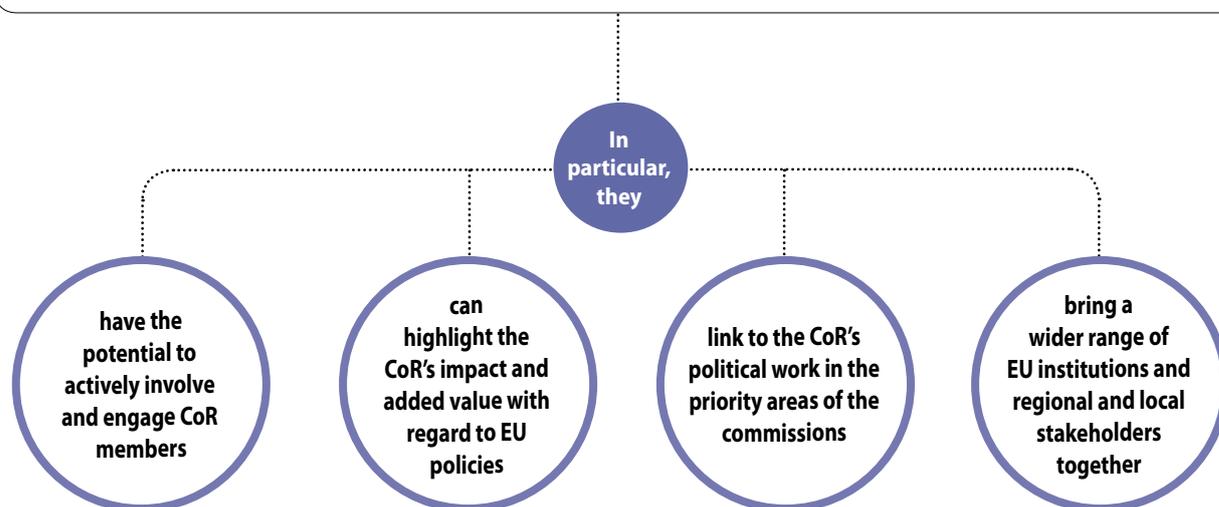
Communication Priorities 2018

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) pursues a communication approach that is based on the principle of “reconnecting Europe with its citizens through focused, two-way communication centered on its members”.

In so doing, the CoR develops its communication activities in partnership and cooperation with a “network-of-networks” involving its members, associations and local and regional governments and their networks on the one hand and the EU institutions, in particular the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council and their networks on the other.

The 2018 communication campaigns

The CoR implements its communication activities through three campaigns, which present an integrated set of tools and channels to enhance the visibility and impact of the assembly’s legislative work. For this purpose, campaign managers develop detailed action plans and lead inter-service teams, which carry them out and monitor their results. The topics of the campaigns and their roll-out have been developed using clear criteria.



Campaign 1

Regions, cities and local authorities working for the future of Europe

Campaign 2

Investing in sustainable growth and jobs in all regions, cities and local authorities

Campaign 3

EU regions, cities and local authorities as change agents

Read more:

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/about/Pages/cor-communications-re-connecting-citizens-with-europe.aspx>

Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs

The remit of the CIVEX Commission covers the following fields: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, Immigration Policy, asylum and visas, EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, Active Citizenship, Devolution, Constitutional Affairs, Governance, better Law-Making, Subsidiarity and Proportionality, External Relations, including administrative external cooperation and capacity building, International Treaties and negotiations, terrorism and border controls, Neighbourhood Policy (including Eastern Partnership and Euro-Med cooperation), decentralised cooperation for development and EU enlargement issues. Within these remits, the CIVEX Commission will structure its work following political priorities with high relevance and direct impact on local and regional authorities:

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François DECOSTER (FR/ALDE), Vice-president, Regional Council of Nord-Pas-de-Calais-Picardie

Dariusz WROBEL (PL/EA), Mayor of Opole Lubelskie

John Paul FINDLOW (UK/ECR), Member of Cheshire East Council

1

The Future of Europe, good governance and subsidiarity

CIVEX Commission has worked throughout 2017 on a comprehensive contribution to the debate on the future of Europe. This process will lead in October 2018 to the adoption of an opinion "Reflecting on Europe: the voice of regional and local authorities to rebuild trust in the European Union". CIVEX will continue its activities linked to better regulation and will also maintain its involvement in the REFIT Platform. CIVEX will continue working on the issues of decentralisation, local and regional self-government and the division of powers between national and sub-national levels. In the area of subsidiarity, CIVEX will support the CoR delegation in the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing Less More Efficiently", established on 14 November 2017, building on the expertise of the Subsidiarity Monitoring Network, Subsidiarity Steering Group and the Subsidiarity Expert Group and bringing in the expertise from local and regional levels.

2

Migration, integration and asylum

CIVEX will continue to call for a comprehensive approach to migration, mobility and asylum, based on respect for fundamental rights and freedom, while maintaining a Union open to the outside world. It will follow closely all related initiatives, such as the ones concerning legal migration, the Common European Asylum System, the EU's external borders, the relocation and resettlement mechanisms and the review of the Dublin regulation. It will take into consideration the role of regional and local authorities as far as cooperation policies to support refugees in the countries of origin and transit are concerned, further develop its work on the integration of third country nationals legally residing in the Member States and follow the activities of the European Migration Forum and European Integration Network.

“

We are living in interesting times where internal and external factors are re-shaping major topics that fall under the CIVEX Commission's responsibility: issues of citizenship and migration, governance, how we operate institutionally and how to help stabilize our neighbourhood. More than ever, it is the time for regions and cities to be heard on all these issues, which touch upon the very essence of the European project.

Barbara DUDEN (DE/PES), CIVEX Chair

”



3

European Neighbourhood policy and external relations

The implementation of the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy and its instruments will be closely monitored, with a particular regard to the territorial dimension of external action. CIVEX will continue to develop the local and regional dimensions of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and of the Eastern Partnership, supporting the activities of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM), the Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP), through which it will profile the role and message of local and regional authorities, and the CoR-Ukraine Task Force.

4

Enlargement

To support the enlargement countries on their path towards European integration, CIVEX will follow the accession negotiations and promote decentralisation processes and administrative capacity building. Work on its annual enlargement opinion will be complemented by the activities of the Joint Consultative Committees and Working Groups between the European Committee of the Regions and the candidate and potential candidate countries.

5

Development policy and decentralised cooperation

CIVEX will pursue its commitments for greater participation and coordination of local and regional authorities in EU development cooperation, and to promote the multilevel and partnership approach in the definition, implementation and evaluation of development cooperation strategies in order to ensure effective delivery of assistance. One example of this is the Nicosia Initiative: a mechanism through which the CoR organises help offered by European cities and regions towards Libyan municipalities.

COTER

Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget

The remit of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER) covers: Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion, Structural Funds, Spatial Planning, Urban Policy, Housing, Transport and Trans-European Transport Networks, Macro-regions, Territorial cooperation, Regional statistics and indicators, Annual EU budget, Multiannual Financial Framework, and Local and Regional Finances.

Our work will focus on the following political priorities of direct relevance for local and regional authorities:

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Ulrika CARLEFALL LANDERGREN (SE/ALDE), Member of Kungsbacka Municipal Council

Marie-Antoinette MAUPERTUIS (FR/EA), Executive member of the Corsican regional authority

Pavel BRANDA (CZ/ECR), Councillor of Rádlo municipality

1

The Future of Cohesion Policy beyond 2020

COTER will fight for a strong, effective and visible EU cohesion policy for all regions, as outlined in its recent opinion on "The future of Cohesion Policy beyond 2020".

To this end, COTER will continue to closely cooperate with its partners in the #Cohesion Alliance, underlining the crucial role of cohesion policy for the future of the EU and highlighting the costs and risks of non-cohesion.

COTER will also put forward its recommendations on the legislative proposals for the next generation of European Structural and Investment Funds. As a cross-cutting issue, COTER will continue to promote the systematic application of Territorial Impact Assessments (TIA) within the EU institutions as part of better and more targeted EU legislation.

2

Post-2020 MFF proposal and reform of EU own resources

COTER and its working group on the EU Budget, will continue its political and consultative work on the next Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) beyond 2020, including considerations for new EU own resources. In a second step, it is envisaged that COTER will explore the possibility to draw up an opinion on the actual MFF proposal.



In the COTER Commission, we will do our best to contribute to the responses required to the major territorial challenges facing the EU in order to achieve the objectives of territorial cohesion across the Union. Securing a strong, effective and visible cohesion policy for all regions in the negotiations on the next MFF will therefore be the key priority for COTER in 2018.

Petr OSVALD (CZ/PES), COTER Chair



3

Implementation of the Urban Agenda for the EU

COTER will continue its work on the implementation of the Urban Agenda for the EU in close cooperation with the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Investment Bank, OECD and other partners, and with the active participation of CoR members involved in the thematic partnerships. In this respect, it will revise the CoR follow-up strategy on the EU Urban Agenda accordingly and will adopt an opinion related to the European Commission's Report on the Urban Agenda for the EU, the adopted action plans of the urban partnerships and the urban dimension of the Agenda 2030.

4

Cross-border cooperation: EGTC, cross-border review and missing links

COTER will continue to emphasise the European added value of cross-border cooperation. Following-up on its previous opinions on the matter, COTER will issue an opinion on the European Commission's cross-border review and the related Communication on "Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions". The EGTC Platform will continue its proactive cooperation focusing on removing barriers and working with the EU and Member States to facilitate more widespread use of EGTCs.

5

Transport

In the field of transport policy, COTER will focus its work on the "Europe on the Move" legislative package and the Clean Mobility Package, and will consider issuing opinions related to the implementation of the Trans-European Transport Network and the post 2020 Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). As a follow-up to the opinion on Missing transport links in border regions, COTER will also closely monitor the development of any future CEF calls for proposals in close cooperation with European border regions and the EGTC network.

Commission for Economic Policy

The activities of the ECON commission revolve around five key thematic areas: trade strategy; public procurement, competition and state aid policy; the single market, including the business environment and industrial competitiveness; an EU sustainable long-term strategy for jobs & growth and challenges to investments at regional and local level; and monitoring of the European Semester and European economic governance, including the debate on the future of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). In addition, the ECON-related networks, European Entrepreneurial Regions (EER) and Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform provide evidence-based policy advice for ECON members. In 2018, the ECON commission will continue to focus on these policy areas, which have a direct impact on local and regional authorities (LRAs).

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Rob JONKMAN (NL/ECR), member of the Executive Council of Opsterland

1

Europe's trade strategy

Based on the need for more transparency and enhanced democratic governance of trade negotiations, ECON will highlight the important role played by LRAs in building up public legitimacy of trade agreements. ECON will continue its work on trade and harnessing globalisation, in part by adopting an opinion on the trade package and by bringing up the importance of territorial impact assessment as a tool to help public authorities base their policy-making from the onset on conclusive evidence. ECON will also continue its analytical and political work pertaining to the likely impact of the UK's withdrawal from the EU on EU27 regions and cities.

2

Public procurement, competition and state aid policy

ECON will examine the effect of the public procurement directives on the functioning of the single market from a regional and local perspective, and carry out activities (including an opinion) relating to the new public procurement package.

It will also monitor the European Commission's decisions and initiatives in the field of competition policy, with a particular focus on state aid and other areas with a direct impact on LRAs. ECON will follow up on the work accomplished in the context of the opinions on the European Commission report on competition policy and on state aid and Services of General Economic Interest.



With major reforms underway in the economic and monetary union, questions around a new long-term sustainable development strategy or how to better manage globalization and industrial transformation, as well as the internal market at a crossroads, we need to ensure that cities and regions are heard and listened to at EU level.

Michel DELEBARRE (FR/PES), ECON Chair



3

Single market, SMEs and industrial renewal

Promoting a place-based approach to industrial renewal will be a key objective for ECON, through the adoption and political follow-up of an opinion on a European strategy for industry and on the European Defence Fund. Events will also be organised at European level, and an external seminar of the ECON commission on “Shaping change – towards a holistic industrial strategy” will be held in Dresden, Germany in early May. ECON will continue focusing on making life easier for SMEs by providing territorial input to the COSME successor programme, scrutinising Commission activities intended to strengthen the single market and to make it more efficient, particularly for SMEs, and following up on its opinions on smart regulation for SMEs and boosting start-ups and scale-ups in Europe. “Supporting the development of SMEs” will also be the focus of ECON’s external conference to be held in Bucharest, Romania, in June. The services sector will carry on being an important focus of the work of ECON, as it follows up on the opinion on the European Commission’s single market services package. ECON will also continue to contribute to the debate on the evolving sector of the sharing economy, including potential legislative developments at European level.

4

Promoting an EU sustainable long-term strategy for jobs & growth, strengthening investment in EU LRAs

Through its work, ECON will highlight the need for a coherent long-term strategy for the EU, with a territorial dimension, as a precondition to deliver sustainable growth, jobs and investment across Europe’s cities and regions. This strategy should build on Europe 2020, integrate the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable development, and aim to bridge the investment gap that still affects much of the EU, and cities and regions in particular. ECON has the lead in setting the CoR contribution to an EU long-term strategy to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals.

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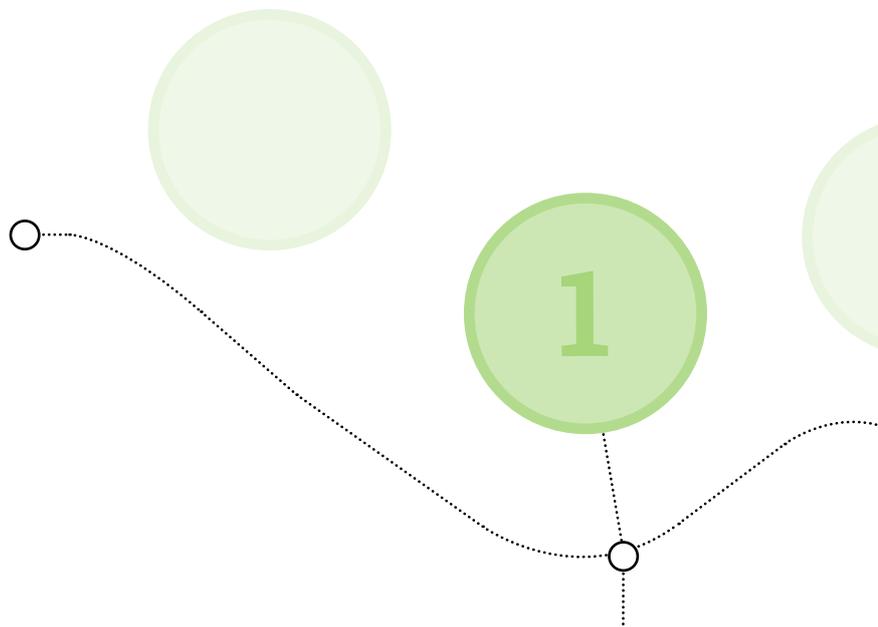
Economic Governance and the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)

Following on the Commission’s Roadmap on deepening the EMU, the European Semester and EU economic governance will continue to be an important focus of the work of ECON, in particular in relation to the new budgetary instruments proposals. ECON will follow up with the Commission, the Parliament and the Council on the its call to involve the local and regional authorities as partners in the European Semester, based on its proposal for a Code of Conduct. The CoR will take part in the EP-led Inter-parliamentary Conference on the European Semester and organise own events to exchange with key interlocutors and players on EU economic governance. Two CoR Opinions on the EMU package, as well as the annual Resolutions on the 2018 AGS and the ongoing Semester, will voice the views of EU cities and regions.

Commission for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy

The remit of the ENVE Commission covers Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Space policies of the European Union. Within these remits, the ENVE Commission will structure its work following political priorities with high relevance and direct impact on local and regional authorities:

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Andres JAADLA (EE/ALDE), Member of the Rakvere City Council
Andrew COOPER (UK/EA), Member of Kirklees Council
Daiva MATONIENĖ (LT/ECR), Member of Šiauliai City Municipal Council



Energy Policy

The ENVE Commission's work will be carried out in the framework of the transition to smart energy systems which includes energy efficiency improvement, more renewable energy generation, and better connected infrastructure of the electricity and gas markets. The ENVE Commission will continue looking into framework conditions for sustainable energy investment at the local and regional level. Regarding the EU Energy Infrastructure policy, the ENVE Commission will be represented in the annual Energy Infrastructure Forum with the aim to represent the citizens' perspective and local and regional concerns. The ENVE Commission will develop opinions on the European Commission's proposal to amend the gas directive and on the EU policy guidelines for energy and climate change policy in the coming decade. Particular attention will be given to the increasingly important challenges of defining an empowering framework for successful operation of energy communities. Moreover, affordable energy will remain an important concern in the political work of the ENVE Commission, and in this context, local energy ownership models will be examined.



The ENVE Commission will work to make Europe more sustainable and more resource efficient. We will focus on the transition to smart energy systems at local and regional levels and we will strive to strengthen the involvement of regions and cities in the global climate governance system. We will reinforce the role of local and regional authorities in the development and implementation of the EU's circular economy policy and make proposals for the future Environment Action Programme post-2020.

Cor LAMERS (NL/EPP), ENVE Chair



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Climate change

The ENVE's work in the field of climate change will be in the spirit of the global climate governance negotiation process, notably as regards the implementing rules of the Paris Agreement which will be finalised at the UNFCCC COP24 to be held in Poland in December. In this respect, ENVE will put forward policy recommendations aiming at improving the involvement of regions and cities in the global climate governance system.

The ENVE Commission will support local and regional authorities to receive more information on funding and technical assistance and will continue its activities to improve access to the available climate finance as regards mitigation and adaptation.

ENVE will further reinforce its cooperation with the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, stepping up the CoR's involvement and visibility via its main tool - the Covenant Ambassadors. ENVE will closely follow the work of the governance structures of both the Global and European Covenant of Mayors.

Environment

ENVE will strengthen the role of local and regional authorities in the development and implementation of the EU's circular economy policy and legal framework, notably by drafting opinions on legislative proposals and initiatives foreseen by the European Commission in 2018 and including plastics and a revised Drinking Water Directive.

ENVE will also prepare an opinion on the 8th Environment Action Programme and will keep following the implementation of the EU environmental policy, in particular in the context of its work on the Environmental Implementation Review, the Action Plan for nature, people and the economy, and the joint CoR/European Commission Technical Platform for Cooperation on the Environment.

ENVE will also continue to contribute to the policy work on biodiversity at European and international level by participating in the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP14) and by adopting an opinion on the topic.

EU Space Policy

The ENVE Commission will contribute to shape the role and interests of local and regional authorities as both users and providers of technology and services in the EU Space Industrial Policy. The development of innovative small and medium-sized businesses and a greater use of satellite-based services and applications by public governments in areas of their competence such as environmental monitoring and traffic management should be encouraged by the EU policy. The CoR will create closer exchange of information with the key organisations involved in the space policy, notably the European Space Agency. Cooperation with networks, such as NEREUS, will be continued and developed further and participation in the Copernicus User Forum will be continued.

Commission for Natural Resources

The Policy Areas covered by the Commission for Natural Resources are the following: the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Rural Development, Forestry, Food Production, Public Health, Consumer Protection, the Common Fisheries Policy, Maritime Affairs Policy, Civil Protection and Tourism. Within these remits, the NAT Commission will structure its work following political priorities with high relevance and direct impact on local and regional authorities:

In general, the NAT Commission will continue developing its relations and cooperation with the European Parliament's AGRI, PECH, ENVI, IMCO, DEVE and TRAN Committees as well as the Intergroup on rural, mountainous and remote areas (RUMRA), with European Commission DGs AGRI, SANTE, ECHO, GROW and MARE, and with the relevant Council Working Groups. This will include exchanges with Committee chairs, bilateral contacts and discussions with rapporteurs and shadow rapporteurs.

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Cees LOGGEN (NL/ALDE), regional councillor of Noord-Holland

Enda STENSON (IE/EA), Member of Leitrim County Council

Adam BANASZAK (PL/ECR), Vice-chair of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Regional Assembly

1

CAP and Rural Development

The NAT Commission's main policy objectives for 2018 are to ensure the CAP is becoming more sustainable, of high-quality and based on solidarity for the benefits of farmers, regions and consumers. The commission aims at a full recognition of rural territories as development and innovation hubs which contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy in the framework of a balanced relationship with urban hubs in order to achieve the goal of territorial cohesion enshrined in the Treaty of Lisbon.

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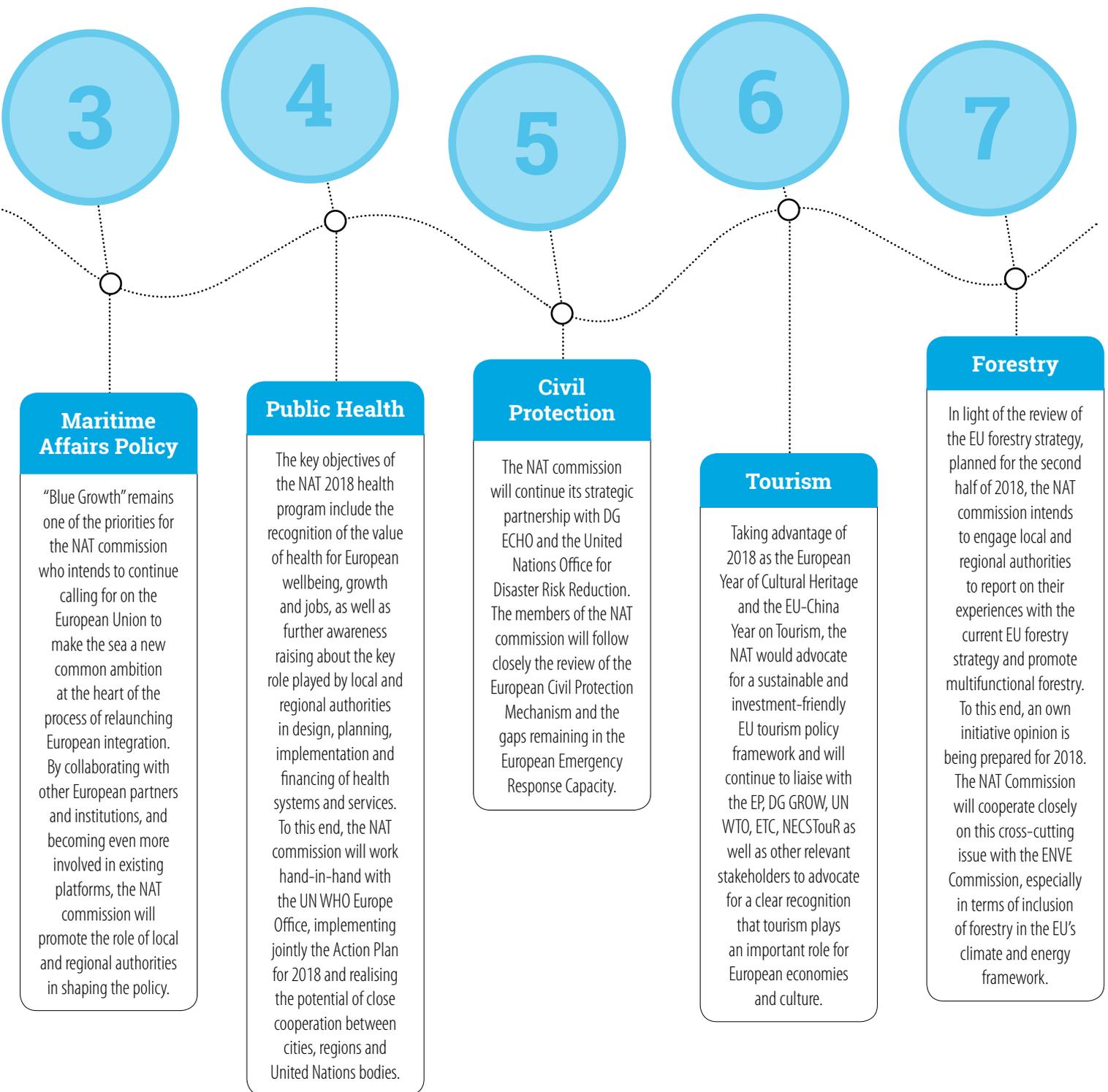
Consumer and food policy

Key objective of the NAT commission in the field of food and consumer policy is to contribute towards establishing a comprehensive food policy at the EU level. Building on its previous work in the field of sustainable food, the NAT commission looks forward to the legislative proposal on consumer policy, addressing current flaws and modernization of consumer rights. It will also continue its work on the EU action in the field of food losses and food waste through its participation in the EU Platform on food losses and food waste and during the seminar organized in Nantes in April 2018.



The remits of the NAT Commission are broad but all the topics we cover are close to what really matters to Europeans: be it healthy food, local farms and fisheries, traveling or getting medical assistance at home and abroad.

Ossi MARTIKAINEN (ALDE/FI), NAT Chair



SEDEC

Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture

The SEDEC commission has a very wide remit, covering a multitude of policy areas, including: employment policy, social policy and social protection, mobility, equal opportunities, education and training, R&I, the digital agenda, EU information society, Trans-European ICT Networks, the audio-visual industry and media technologies, youth and sport, multilingualism, the promotion of minority languages, culture and cultural diversity. This year, the SEDEC commission will prioritise the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Broadband platform and the European Year of Cultural Heritage

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Jasna GABRIČ (SI/ALDE), Mayor of the Municipality of Trbovlje

Kieran McCARTHY (IE/EA), councillor of the Cork City Council

Paweł GRZYBOWSKI (PL/ECR), Mayor of Rypin

1

Employment policy and social policy

The European Commission presented a proposal for a Social Fairness Package, which includes a proposal to establish a European Labour Authority – with the aim of strengthening cooperation between labour market authorities at all levels and better managing cross-border issues – an initiative on access to social protection and an initiative on a European Social Security Number. The SEDEC commission will therefore continue to address issues related to labour mobility and follow up on proposed legislation on the posting of workers and the coordination of social security systems. It will also follow progress by the co-legislators on the proposed Directive on work-life balance. SEDEC will continue to work on the territorial dimension of Europe's demographic challenge by ensuring an inclusive, sustainable and collective approach. The SEDEC commission will closely follow the developments in the European Pillar of Social Rights.



Europe has made us stronger and our European commitment continues to grow. Boosting employment, demographic challenges, the social dimension of Europe, research and innovation, digitisation, the pact for youth enfranchisement and the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 will be much of the focus for this year in SEDEC.

José Ignacio CENICEROS GONZÁLEZ (ES/EPP), SEDEC Chair



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Education, youth and culture

As a follow up on the Gothenburg Summit, in 2018 the European Commission is "laying the foundations of the European Education Area: for an innovative, inclusive and values based education". The SEDEC commission will work in support for the general vision of a European Education Area, as well as on the completion of the New Skills Agenda. SEDEC will also follow the Youth Initiative and measures related to the European Solidarity Corps and seek to proactively reach out to regional and local stakeholders in order to monitor the overall situation of young people in Europe. The SEDEC commission is spearheading the CoR participation in the celebration the European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018 (EYCH2018), including by drafting two related Opinions that would feed into a larger debate on "Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture". Building on the dedicated seminar on "The Role of Cultural Heritage in Building a Europe of Citizens" (Burgos, 4 May 2018), the SEDEC commission will continue to focus on cultural heritage's relation with and impact on economic growth and employment, as well as education and youth policies.

Digital Single Market

The SEDEC commission will continue its work on the implementation of the Digital Single Market (DSM) Strategy, monitoring the most recent legislative and non-legislative initiatives. Next initiatives coming will deal with the third data package, and fake information through on-line platforms. Focusing on the need to overcome the digital divide, particularly at regional and local level, SEDEC is in charge of the Broadband Platform, a joint endeavour with the European Commission, with the support of the Commissioner Mariya Gabriel. The Platform seeks to ensure a high level of engagement and cooperation between relevant public and private entities for broadband investment. Hence, it will adopt an own-initiative opinion on boosting broadband investments in Europe in view of the next financial period. SEDEC contributes to the Urban Agenda's Digital Transition Partnership in its role as stakeholder.

Research and Innovation

2017 saw two important and interlinked Commission initiatives: the mid-term review of Horizon 2020 and the consultation on the new (9th) Framework Programme on Research and Innovation. The EC communication on FP9 is expected to be published in the coming months.

SEDEC's work has focused, and will continue to focus, on the future of smart specialisation and the link between R&I policies and regional development. In 2018, SEDEC will continue to coordinate the Knowledge Exchange Platform initiative, together with the European Commission's DG for Research and Innovation. The themes agreed for this year are Innovating cities with nature and Nature-based solutions, and Cultural Heritage.

SEDEC is also involved in two series of events, which will most likely continue to be held in the coming year:

- 1) "Science meets Parliaments" and "Science meets Regions", which are organised in conjunction with the JRC and aim to involve all competent stakeholders in a discussion on the role of science in contemporary society;
- 2) The Innovation Camps, which involve the EC (JRC), aim to explore the possibility of promoting innovation in all fields of European policy-making.

With its opinion on "Strengthening innovation in Europe's Regions through Smart Specialisation", the CoR is making relevant and precise proposals for the future.

A better Europe, defining itself on the base of its regions and cities, can only be achieved through adequate financial investment and by respecting its institutions. The CFAA is taking its role very seriously in order to ensure sufficient CoR finances while being appreciative of financial constraints.



Per BØDKER ANDERSEN (DK/PES), CFAA Chair

CFAA

Commission for Financial and Administrative Affairs

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Head of Unit

Peder Jakobsson

Members

Per BODKER ANDERSEN (DK/PES), Councillor of Kolding

Anders KNAPE (SE/EPP), Member of Karlstad Municipal Council

Ewa-May KARLSSON (SE/ALDE), Member of Vindeln Municipal Council

Michel LEBRUN (BE/EPP), Member of Viroinval Municipal Council

Cor LAMERS (NL/EPP), Mayor of Schiedam

Hans-Jörg DUPPRÉ (DE/EPP), Head of the District Authority of Südwestpfalz

Uno SILBERG (EE/EA), Member of Kose Municipal Council

Roby BIWER (LU/PES), Member of Bettembourg Municipal Council

Joseph CORDINA (MT/PES), Mayor of Xaghra

Alain HUTCHINSON (BE/PES), Member of the Municipal Council and Deputy Mayor of Saint-Gilles

Jean-Noel VERFAILLIE (FR/ALDE), Member of the Nord Departmental Council

Rob JONKMAN (NL/ECR), Member of the Executive Council of Opsterland

The Commission for Financial and Administrative Affairs (CFAA) is a political body with an advisory role to the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) Bureau. It has responsibility for political monitoring of the financial, organisational and administrative matters concerning Members, their alternates, the internal organisation of the CoR and its Secretariat-General including the establishment plan and its constituent bodies.

The CFAA is made up of twelve Members derived from the five political groups. The chairman is selected by CFAA's Members and is charged with the task of guiding the work of the Commission in close cooperation with the 1st vice-chair. In addition to this role the chairman acts as the CoR's representative to the EU budget authorities, is also the chair of the CoR's Audit Committee and co-chair of the Political Monitoring Group with the EESC with whom we currently share joint services.

In fulfilling its role to the Bureau, the CFAA reviews provisions and decisions in budgetary, financial, and administrative areas, monitors its implementation and recommends as such positions to the Bureau.

As part of its remit, CFAA also reviews before adopting the annual preliminary draft budget of the CoR. Once CFAA has given its approval, the budget is submitted to the Bureau.

The CFAA chair subsequently as the political representative of the CoR on budgetary affairs maintains dialogue with the budgetary authorities, in particular, the European Parliament BUDG Committee's representatives. In addition, CFAA also plays a role as regards the annual Discharge procedure. The CFAA also appoints rapporteurs from among its Members in areas of pressing interest to the functioning of the CoR. The main task of these reports is to analyse in depth a specific issue and bring recommendations to the attention of the CFAA and the Bureau.



European Committee of the Regions
Comité européen des régions

2018

Commissions CoR / Cdr
External Commission CoR /
Commission externe CDR

Bureau and plenary
sessions CoR /
Bureau et sessions
plénières CDR

External Bureau CoR /
Bureau externe CDR
Weekends - Holidays /
Congés

Plenary sessions EESC /
Sessions plénières CESE
External Bureau EESC /
Bureau externe CESE

EP Sessions Strasbourg
EP Sessions Brüssels

JANUARY JANVIER	FEBRUARY FÉVRIER	MARCH MARS	APRIL AVRIL	MAY MAI	JUNE JUN	JULY JUILLET	AUGUST AOÛT	SEPTEMBER SEPTEMBRE	OCTOBER OCTOBRE	NOVEMBER NOVEMBRE	DECEMBER DÉCEMBRE
1	1 PLENARY SES. (HEM)	1	1 Weekend	1	1	1 Weekend	1	1	1 NAT	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2 Weekend	2	2	2 Weekend
3	3	3	3	3	3 Weekend	3 BUREAU	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4 PLENARY SES. (HEM)	4	4	4	4 Weekend	4 BUREAU
5	5	5	5	5	5	5 PLENARY SES. (HEM)	5 Weekend	5	5	5	5 PLENARY SES. (HEM)
6	6 CIVEX	6	6	6	6 COTER* BUREAU COTER	6	6	6	6	6	6 PLENARY SES. (HEM)
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8 ENVE	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8 BUREAU / PLENARY SES. (WEEK OF EUROPEAN CITIES AND REGIONS)	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9 PLENARY SES. (CHARL)	9	9
10	10	10	10	10	10	10 CIVEX	10	10	10	10	10
11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
12	12	12	12 CIVEX	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
13	13	13	13 ENVE	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13 ECON
14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14 COTER
15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
21	21 SEDEC	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
23	23	23	23 SEDEC	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
24	24	24	24 ECON	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
27	27 COTER	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
31	31 PLENARY SES. (HEM)	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31

* These dates are subject to change. The calendar will be updated accordingly and published on the CoR website. (Version of 24/11/2017)



European Committee of the Regions

Created in 1994 following the signing of the Maastricht Treaty, the European Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of 350 regional and local representatives from all 28 Member States, representing over 507 million Europeans. Its mission is 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 are obliged to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union if its rights are infringed or it believes that EU law infringes the subsidiarity principle or fails to respect regional or local powers.

March 2018

