



**RESOL-VII/023**

**150th plenary session, 29-30 June 2022**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION**

**THE OUTCOME AND FOLLOW UP OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE  
FUTURE OF EUROPE**

**Submitted by the EPP, PES, Renew Europe, EA and The Greens Groups**

**Deadline for tabling amendments: 29 June 2022 no later than 4 p.m. (Brussels time)**

**Amendments to the resolution must be submitted, preferably in English, French or German, through the online tool for tabling amendments (available on the Members' Portal: <https://memportal.cor.europa.eu/>).**

The Helpdesk (+32 (0)2 546 96 97, email: [helpdesk@cor.europa.eu](mailto:helpdesk@cor.europa.eu)) is at your disposal to provide you with any assistance you may need. In addition, a user guide is available at <https://memportal.cor.europa.eu/>.

Urgent resolution submitted in accordance with Rule 45(3)(b) of the Rules of Procedure, to be discussed on the second day of the plenary session on 30 June 2022. It will be removed from the plenary session agenda if not approved by the Bureau on 28 June 2022.

**Number of signatures required: 6**

## **Draft resolution of the European Committee of the Regions – The outcome and follow up of the Conference on the Future of Europe**

THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS (CoR),

Having regard to:

- its Resolutions on the Conference on the Future of Europe of 12 February 2020<sup>1</sup> and of 7 May 2021<sup>2</sup>, as well as on the contribution of local and regional authorities to the Conference on the Future of Europe of 27 January 2022<sup>3</sup>;
  - the CoR Marseille Manifesto of local and regional leaders: "Europe starts in its regions, cities and villages" of 4 March 2022<sup>4</sup>;
  - the Report on the final outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe of 9 May 2022<sup>5</sup>;
  - the European Parliament Resolution of 2 May 2022 on the follow-up to the conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe<sup>6</sup>;
  - the report of the CoR High Level Group on Democracy<sup>7</sup>;
  - the European Parliament Resolution of 9 June 2022 on the call for a Convention for the revision of the Treaties<sup>8</sup>;
1. welcomes the conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) as endorsed by the CoFoE Plenary on 30 April 2022 and presented to the Council Presidency, to the Presidents of the European Parliament and of the European Commission on 9 May 2022, while acknowledging the challenge of an effective outreach and a genuine bottom-up approach;
  2. strongly supports citizens' call for a more democratic, transparent, fair and sustainable EU and considers that it requires a prompt and effective follow-up, translating the CoFoE objectives and proposals into political initiatives and concrete actions, including through a more active inter-institutional cooperation;
  3. considers that an ambitious reform of the functioning of the EU to meet the challenges ahead and ensure greater transparency and accountability in the EU decision-making process, duly empowering citizens and local and regional authorities, requires Treaty revisions; thus welcomes the call of the European Parliament to call for a Convention by activating the procedure for the revision of the Treaties (Article 48 TEU);

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1 COR-2020-00192-00-00-RES-TRA

2 COR-2021-01674-00-00-RES-TRA

3 COR-2021-06503-00-00-RES-TRA

4 The Marseille Manifesto of local and regional leaders: "[Europe starts in its regions, cities and villages](#)".

5 [20220509RES29121.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

6 2022/2648(RSP)

7 <https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Report-of-the-High-Level-Group-on-European-Democracy.aspx>

8 2022/2705(RSP)

4. considers that the future Convention should fully involve members of the European Committee of the Regions to represent the voices of the over 1 million regionally and locally elected politicians in Europe, and this should be reflected in its composition;

*European Democracy*

5. **(40)**<sup>9</sup> welcomes the fact that the CoFoE has acknowledged the multi-level nature of European representative democracy, and has proposed reforming the CoR by giving it *"an enhanced role, in the institutional architecture, if matters with a territorial impact are concerned"*. The CoR considers that this reform should lead to enhancing the scope of policy areas of territorial relevance for which its consultation becomes mandatory; this implies a review of Articles 43 (CAP/fisheries), 79 (migration) and 114 TFEU (single market general clause), as well as a review of Articles 13 TEU and 294, 300 and 307 TFEU;
6. is of the opinion that in areas of mandatory consultation, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the EU should provide substantiated reasons if those opinions are not taken into account. The CoR should also be given access to the co-decision trilogues, based on a review of the Inter- Institutional Agreement on Better Lawmaking;
7. **(39.3)** welcomes the COFE proposal suggesting changing the names of the EU institutions, to clarify their functions and respective role in the EU decision-making process for citizens; to this end, the Committee proposes to change its own name in order to better reflect the political and legal responsibilities of its members as well its role as the European assembly of regions and municipalities;
8. calls for enhanced inter-institutional synergies involving the CoR in the work of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union (e.g. committees, commissions and working groups) because of its ability to provide a good knowledge and better understanding of how the EU functions on the ground;
9. **(40, 40.2, 40.4)** applauds the recognition that *"active subsidiarity and multi-level governance are key principles and fundamental features for EU functioning and democratic accountability"*, the plea for a *"systematic use a subsidiarity definition commonly agreed by all EU institutions"* to clarify the level - European, national, regional or local level at which decisions to have to be taken and the proposed enlargement of the subsidiarity warning mechanism *"to all regional parliaments within the EU that have legislative power"*. These proposals should help to clarify that subsidiarity is not about preventing the European level from taking action, but about identifying which level of government should have the lead role, whether via formal exclusive powers, or via formal shared powers, with the other levels supporting the policy objectives;
10. further considers that the aforementioned subsidiarity-related proposals should lead to a review of Article 5(3) TEU, of Protocol n. 1 on the role of national parliaments in the EU and Protocol no. 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. Such a review should

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<sup>9</sup> The numbers in bold and in brackets at the beginning of various points correspond to the CoFoE Plenary proposals and measures, included in the [Report on the final outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe of 9 May 2022](#)

encompass granting the principle of proportionality equal consideration as that for subsidiarity, giving the CoR a role in the *ex-ante* phase of subsidiarity monitoring, as defined above, and also applying the subsidiarity and proportionality principles to EU governance processes more often and in a better way. In the meantime, the Inter- Institutional Agreement on Better Lawmaking in the EU should be adapted to already enhance the role of the CoR in the current institutional framework to help identify which level of governance should have the lead role, taking account of the CoR's territorial impact assessments, its work on rural-proofing, and its newly enhanced Better Regulation and Active Subsidiarity governance scheme;

11. **(36)** supports the CoFoE proposals aimed at complementing representative democracy by increasing citizens' participation in European democracy at all levels. The CoR reiterates its call to set up a permanent and place-based mechanism for dialogue with citizens, supported by local and regional authorities that would ensure a two-way communication between the citizens and the EU institutions, thus leading to a better understanding of the local and regional impact of EU policies across the EU; considers that streamlining existing citizens' participation mechanisms requires amending Article 11 TEU, as well as Articles 24 and 227 TFEU;
12. commits to continuing to organise local dialogues with citizens and structured initiatives of participatory democracy that could feed into the permanent mechanism;
13. **(36.6)** welcomes the CoFoE proposal to "*create a system of local EU Councillors*" as a way to reduce the distance between the EU institutions and citizens, and commits to implementing this proposal in cooperation with the European Commission through its own fast-growing [European Network of Regional and Local Councillors](#)<sup>10</sup> and through the project "Building Europe with Local Councillors"<sup>11</sup>;

*Values and rights, rule of law, security*

14. **(25.1, 25.3)** welcomes the call to ensure that the values and principles enshrined in the EU Treaties and in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights are fully upheld in all Member States and are non-negotiable, irreversible and *sine qua non* conditions for EU membership and accession. Considering that the more than 80 000 local and regional governments in the EU are a fundamental level of democratic legitimacy, the CoR calls for the continuous involvement of local and regional authorities in promoting the Charter's values and monitoring compliance with the principles associated with it. The CoR therefore believes that its participation in the inter-institutional dialogue on the Charter and the Rule of Law monitoring process is essential;
15. **(25.4)** agrees with effectively applying and evaluating the scope of the "Conditionality Regulation", considering that breaches of the rule of law principle must result in the suspension of payments or financial corrections;

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<sup>10</sup> <https://cor.europa.eu/en/engage/Pages/Network-of-Regional-and-Local-EU-Councillors.aspx>

<sup>11</sup> [https://building-europe-with-local-councillors.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://building-europe-with-local-councillors.europa.eu/index_en)

### *Climate Change, Energy and the Environment*

16. **(3.1, 2.3)** highlights the recognition of the role of local and regional authorities for an inclusive and just green transition;
17. shares the ambition to speed up the green transition; welcomes the push for greener cities through urban planning and construction, the use of nature-based solutions to promote biodiversity and strategies to eradicate energy and mobility poverty. In this context, underlines the importance of the involvement of local and regional authorities in the New European Bauhaus initiative;
18. **(3)** supports the CoFoE objective of enhancing European energy security and achieving the EU's energy independence, providing its citizens with sufficient, affordable and sustainable energy, and calls in this context for direct access to EU funds for LRAs implementing Green Deal projects;
19. is convinced that, in order to follow up on the CoFoE proposals, a more prominent interinstitutional cooperation should be channelled through, inter alia, the CoR's Green Deal Going Local Working Group, the CoR communication campaign on the European Green Deal and the Multilevel Energy and Climate Dialogues; considers the current CoR cooperation with stakeholders such as the EU Covenant of Mayors (on the Cities' Energy Saving Sprint campaign) and other EU institutions (such as the European Commission's Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform) should be reinforced;
20. commits to continuing to promote the role of local and regional authorities on climate and biodiversity policies through sub-national climate diplomacy actions and in the UNFCCC framework; considers that the different UN frameworks on climate, environment and SDGs should be as consistent and interconnected as possible, with a view to promoting systematic implementation and avoiding redundant planning. The CoR asks the European Commission to support the multilevel governance principle and promote a bottom-up approach in the definition of the global goal on adaptation;
21. **(3.8)** welcomes the call for a just transition to protect workers and jobs, which requires a strong territorial component in all its dimensions, in order to assure the place-based approach according to the specific needs of the different communities. The CoR calls, in this context, for a European mechanism to support a just, clean and successful transition for the European automotive and supply industry regions by establishing a multi-level governance and partnership approach for appropriate and effective policy planning and budgetary action;

### *Health*

22. **(10.2, 10.3)** welcomes the call for an enlarged EU competence on health, and calls for revising Article 4 TFEU to include health and healthcare among the shared competencies between the EU and the Member States. As stressed in the CoFoE proposals, this change should take "*full account of the principle of subsidiarity and of the key role of local, regional and national players in health matters*";

23. **(10.6, 12.15)** shares the call for open access to existing treatments and for medicines across the EU to be of equal quality, and of fair local cost. The CoR stresses, in this regard, the crucial role of cross-border healthcare cooperation;

*A Stronger Economy, Social Justice and Jobs*

24. **(11.3)** expresses strong support for the CoFoE call to review the EU's economic governance framework and the European Semester to better promote its main economic and fiscal coordination objectives alongside just green and digital transitions, as well as social justice. The CoR echoes the CoFoE call for a stronger role for local and regional authorities, which must be implemented through a "Code of Conduct" to ensure their involvement in the European Semester, modelled on the Code of Conduct for Partnership in the structural funds. Such a Code for the European Semester would improve both the efficacy of the process and its democratic legitimacy. Furthermore, the CoR calls for the explicit reintegration of SDGs into a reformed European Semester, with a view to a place-based sustainable recovery;
25. **(13, 14)** shares the strong call of the CoFoE to ensure the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and its headline targets for 2030 at EU, national, regional and local levels while respecting the division of competences and the principles of subsidiarity, proportionality and the existing competences at national, regional and local level;
26. **(15)** insists that the demographic transition should be dealt with urgently and efficiently. Further stresses the dangers for the economy, and for democracy as a whole, of the rising social, economic, territorial, and digital inequalities, leading inter alia to brain drain, and thus emphasises the need to increase the attractiveness of depopulated, ageing regions via investment and support, in particular for young people and families;
27. underlines the several references in the CoFoE report to the need for more cohesion, and highlights the role of cohesion as an overall value of the EU and the "do no harm to cohesion" principle recently put forward in the 8<sup>th</sup> Cohesion Report. The CoR sees the need for close cooperation between the CoR (and its Cohesion Alliance) and the EU institutions to put the principle into practice in future EU policy-making and in the 2021-2027 cohesion policy programming period;
28. **(12)** strongly supports the call for the strengthening of cross-border cooperation in order to enhance the cohesion and resilience of border regions, and supports the reference to the European Cross Border Mechanism Regulation, which has the potential to significantly improve cross-border cooperation and the livelihoods of citizens living in border regions. The CoR, however, regrets the lack of proposals related to the problems border regions face on a daily basis, and refers to its 2021 Resolution "Vision for Europe – Future of Cross-Border Cooperation", which outlines a number of proposals to support border regions and improve cross-border cooperation in general;

### *Digital Transformation*

29. **(4.4, 12.14, 31)** welcomes the recognition by the CoFoE of digital cohesion as complementary to economic, social and territorial cohesion, and recommends the mainstreaming of digital cohesion across European Union policies and calls for Article 175 TFEU to be reviewed accordingly. The CoR further underlines the persistent issue with availability of data on digital transformation at sub-national level, and therefore will continue to develop and implement, together with the European Commission, a system of measuring digital maturity at local and regional level;

### *Migration*

30. **(43.2)** highlights the vital role that municipalities and regions play in successfully integrating migrants and refugees, and calls for a greater focus on integration policies in EU-level discussions about migration. The CoR strongly supports the CoFoE proposal to increase EU financial, logistical and operational support, including for local authorities, regional governments and civil society organisations, for the management of the first reception of migrants and asylum seekers, which would lead to the effective integration of refugees and regular migrants in the EU or the repatriation of irregular migrants; points out that Article 79 (4) TFEU ought to be amended in this sense to enable incentives and support not only for the action of the Member States, but also, in full respect of the principle of subsidiarity, for their local and regional authorities, with a view to promoting the integration of third-country nationals residing legally in their territories, irrespective of their country of origin;
31. **(44.2)** agrees with the CoFoE proposal to revise the Dublin system in order to guarantee solidarity and the fair sharing of responsibility among Member States, coordinated at European level and helping to alleviate migratory pressure on EU's frontline regions;

### *Education, culture, youth and sport*

32. welcomes the CoFoE proposals concerning the importance of education as a means for promoting active European citizenship. In this context, is committed to developing its pilot project on Promoting European Values through Education and Culture, including mapping the best practices at local and regional level throughout the EU. The CoR values the CoFoE proposals aimed at coordinating the level of all different education programmes in the EU, with acceptance of the national, regional and local contents;
33. **(47.7)** welcomes the call for special efforts to avoid brain drain from certain regions and countries within the EU due to insufficient opportunities being available, especially for young people. To this end, supports the plea of the CoFoE for more decisive action for job security, quality and fair remuneration of jobs and traineeships, equal access to social protection and affordable housing opportunities for young people (especially those from vulnerable groups). These measures should be aimed at closing the existing territorial gaps in youth opportunities in life and wellbeing in the EU;

34. welcomes the many references to research and innovation in the CoFoE report and underlines the need to close the innovation divide and to combine place-based innovation strategies with territorial missions, as recently done with the Pilot Action on Regional Innovation;
35. **(36.9)** supports the introduction of a "youth check of legislation", which should consist of a youth focused impact assessment mechanism applicable to EU legislation and policies in areas relevant for young people. This mechanism should be aimed at better taking into account long-term interests, the need for the active participation of young people in EU decision-making, and should measure the positive impact of European legislative proposals on the lives of young people. Against this background, the CoR points at its contribution to this endeavour through the CoR network of Young Elected Politicians (YEPs) and the co-drafting of a European Charter for Youth and Democracy together with the European Youth Forum;
36. **(48.2)** welcomes citizens' expectations towards the promotion and protection of European diversity; in that respect, shares the CoFoE recommendations on promoting multilingualism and regional languages;

*EU in the World*

37. **(25.1, 38.1)** welcomes the call for the EU institutions to act as "ambassadors of our democratic model" in other countries, emphasising that it encapsulates in essence what the CoR has been doing for a number of years in its cooperation with the candidate countries, potential candidates and partner countries from the EU's Eastern and Southern Neighbourhoods;
38. considers that the reconstruction of Ukraine will be one of the most challenging processes for the EU and its international partners. In this context, the CoR points to its initiative of establishing an Alliance of Cities and Regions for the reconstruction of Ukraine bringing together local and regional authorities in Europe and in Ukraine, with a view to giving self-government a pivotal role in the reconstruction strategic planning, further implementing the devolution process and multi-level governance in Ukraine and improving good local/regional governance;
39. instructs its President to forward this Resolution to the European Commission, the European Parliament, the French, Czech and Swedish Presidencies of the Council of the EU and the President of the European Council.

Brussels,

The President  
of the European Committee of the Regions