



**European Committee
of the Regions**

Brussels, 27 January 2020

STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATION
in preparation of a revised CoR Opinion
**"The services package: An updated view from Europe's local and
regional authorities"**

Rapporteur Jean-Luc Vanraes (BE/RE)

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Working document

Since the adoption of the CoR's opinion on the [services package](#) in October 2017, the ECJ's 2018 "Visser Vastgoed" ruling has shed new light on the current notification regime under the services package. Also the Commission's legislative proposals on the European services e-card and the notification procedure have not been approved yet, which could raise questions regarding the issues these proposals are aimed to address. In this context, the CoR is preparing a revised opinion on the services package.

The revised CoR opinion is scheduled for adoption at the ECON Commission meeting of 2 March 2020 and at the Plenary Session of 13-14 May 2020.

This consultation, aimed at providing the rapporteur, [Mr Jean-Luc Vanraes](#) (BE/RE) with comments and suggestions, is open to representatives of local and regional authorities and their stakeholder associations. Experts, officials of EU institutions and think tanks are also invited to contribute.

The rapporteur would like to hear stakeholders' views on the European services e-card, the proposed new notification rules for member states, and the implications of the ECJ's Visser Vastgoed judgment and how these might be dealt with in the framework of the new notification directive.

The following are some questions that the rapporteur would like stakeholders to address.

European services e-card

As the Commission's legislative proposals are blocked, are fresh initiatives needed in order to tackle barriers to cross-border provision of services? If so, what types of initiatives should be envisaged? Should the Commission consider new legislative proposals?

Notification directive

An important point at issue concerns the proposal for binding rulings by the Commission in relation to the compatibility of notified draft laws and regulations with the Services Directive. In the context of the on-going policy debate, what position should Europe's local and regional authorities now take on this issue? If the Commission is not to be given the powers proposed, what else could be done to make the notification rules more effective?

Visser Vastgoed judgement

The ECJ's Visser Vastgoed judgement raises potentially important issues for local authorities relating to administrative burden and delay associated with notification of land-use plans, possible uncertainty about the validity and applicability of zoning plans, and possible intrusion in local authorities' freedom to regulate local matters falling within their responsibility. How can or should the notification rules be adapted in the light of the ECJ ruling?