List of Broadband Platform Members 2023

EPP Group

Tanya Hristova (BG/COTER, SEDEC) is Head of the Bulgarian CoR Delegation. She specialized academically in the domain of project and programme management. From 2008 to 2010 she was Deputy Mayor of Gabrovo Municipality, responsible for "sustainable development". In 2010 and 2011 she was Chief of the political office of the Minister of EU Funds, Head of the Central Coordination Unit and Secretary of the Council of control and management of EU funds. Ms. Hristova was Mayor of Gabrovo Municipality in the period 2011 - 2015 and in the period 2015 – 2019 and is now on her third term, winning the vote in the first round. At present, Ms. Hristova is the leader of the Bulgarian delegation of the local authorities at the Committee of the Regions and a full member of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget and Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture. Ms. Hristova has just been elected chair of the Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC).

Markku Markkula (FI/ENVE, SEDEC) is the Past President and current Vice-President of the CoR of which he is a member since 2010. He is also a Councillor in Espoo and the Chair of Espoo's largest political group (Kokoomus/EPP). Mr. Markkula has also been a member of several High-Level Expert Groups, such as the EU Smart Specialisation Mirror Group and Vice-Chair of the EU Open Innovation Strategy and Policy Group. In Finland he has among others been the Chair of the Board of the TIEKE Finnish Information Society Development Center. His relevant CoR rapporteurships include subjects such as "Digital Agenda for Europe", "Closing the innovation divide", "Creation of high-tech start-up ecosystems" and "Enhancing and focusing EU international cooperation in research and innovation".

Michael Murphy (IE/ECON, CIVEX) is the Mayor of Clonmel Borough District and Head of the Irish Delegation to the CoR. In parallel to his commitments as an elected local representative, Mr Murphy brings a wealth of private sector experience as a Senior Executive with Enfer, a bio-technology based group of companies, firmly rooted in local communities. Mr Murphy sees untapped potential in new and digital technologies in particular as a way for Europe to increase its sustainability and competitiveness.

Alin-Adrian Nica (RO/COTER, CIVEX) is a computer engineer and the President of Timiş County Council in Romania. He is a former chairman of the former EDUC Commission of the CoR that covered the IT domain. He has in the past acted as Rapporteur for three digital dossiers that covered the Digital Single Market and the Trans-European telecommunications networks.

PES Group

Member of Nagykanizsa Municipal Council, **Jácint Horváth (HU/NAT, SEDEC)** is an long-standing member of the Broadband Platform and the coordinator of the PES Group in the CoR in the SEDEC commission. He was the CoR's rapporteur on the Review of the audio-visual and media services Directive (AMSD) in 2019.

Anne Karjalainen (FI/SEDEC, ECON) is a member of Kerava City Council. She is the chair of the CoR Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC) for the period 2020-2022 and an outgoing member of the Broadband Platform. Ms Karjalainen is currently the CoR's rapporteur on the communication A Strong Social Europe for Just Transitions and a former rapporteur on opinions on « Digital Europe for All: delivering smart and inclusive solutions on the ground », « European Cloud Initiative and ICT Standardisation » as well as on the review of the directive on re-use of public sector information and open data ».

Christophe Rouillon (FR/ECON, CIVEX) is the CoR's current rapporteur on the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and president of the PES Group in the CoR. He is mayor of Coulaines, vice-President in charge of Finances and European funding of the Le Mans agglomeration and member of the Sarthe (département) council. He is also Vice-President of the French Association of Mayors in charge of European Affairs. 98% of the housing in Coulaines is connected to high-speed broadband, while the municipality counts more than 50% of social housing.

Mindaugas Sinkevičius (LT/CIVEX, ECON) is Mayor of Jonava District Municipality (2011–2016 and since 2019) and is former Minister of Economy of Lithuania (2016–2017). He is currently the chair of the Lithuanian delegation in the CoR.

Renew Europe Group

Jaroslava Pokorná Jermanová (COTER, ECON/Renew) is the Chair of the ECON commission and of the Broadband Platform, as well as Councillor of the Central Bohemian Region, Czech Republic. She is also member of the Czech national parliament, where she had served as Deputy speaker and 1st Vice-President from 2016 to 2020. She served as the Governor of the Central Bohemian Region from 2016 to 2020. Vice-Chairwoman of the ANO 2011 movement from 2015 to 2022. As

an MP, councillor, former governor and mayor, with HR and management experience from private and public sector, she is keenly aware of the importance of timely and well managed digital transformation for both businesses and citizens.

Nomination of second Renew Member pending

ECR

Ilpo Heltimoinen (FI/ECON, NAT): Lappeenranta City Councilor and Finnish delegation member of the CoR, Mr Heltimoinen is a member of the Commission for Economic Policy (ECON) and Commission for Natural Resources (NAT) in the CoR and a board member of South Karelia Social and Health Care District in Finland. Mr Heltimoinen perceives the access to fixed and reliable broadband connection as a basic service that needs to be offered for citizens in both urban and rural areas and be supported by local and regional authorities. He is a strong supporter of entrepreneurship and cutting red tape. His interests include history, foreign and security policy.

European Alliance

Dr Kieran McCarthy (IE/SEDEC, COTER) is an elected member of Cork City Council and an Irish delegate member of the European Committee of the Regions (COR). He holds membership of the Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC) and has personal interests in heritage and culture, informal and formal education, and lifelong learning. Kieran's Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project', was founded by Kieran in 2003 and is now annually implemented in 20 schools in Cork City with 800 students participating every year. At the Committee of the Regions, he has prepared several opinions linked to Broadband Platform issues.

Greens

Florian Siekmann (DE) alternate member; full member to provide mandate: Una Power (IE/ENVE, NAT). Mr Siekmann has been involved in the following former initiatives of the Greens in the Bavarian State Parliament: Strategy paper on smart schooling, Fiber optic connection for all households in Bavaria (Motion and study), Fighting online hate speech, Digitalising public services. His points of interest and priorities for the Broadband Platform are data strategy as a major interest, building a data secure and safe digital environment for educational purposes (Covid-19 once more showed how dependent we are on US software solutions and how much they are used especially within the educational sector) and access to fast internet in rural areas.