Europe Day for regions and cities

Online forum

“Regions and cities: vital for Europe’s recovery”

9 May, 10:00-13:00 CET

This online forum is designed to enable regional and local leaders, and the citizens they represent, to interact on Europe Day. It is also a way to pay tribute to the thousands Mayors, Regional Governors and Councilors from all across Europe who are on the forefront of the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hosted by CoR President Apostolos Tzitzikostas, the forum will be organised with CoR members, #CohesionAlliance members, other selected politicians and VIP guests including the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, the President of the European Parliament, David Sassoli, European Commissioner Elisa Ferreira, European Commission Vice-President Dubravka Šuica, European Parliament Vice-President Klára Dobrev, European Parliament Vice-President Othmar Karas, and Member of the European Parliament Jan Olbrycht. The debate will take place in the context of the current health, social and economic crisis and will be divided into three parts:

Session I 10:00-11:00

**Theme:** Recovering from Coronavirus, the future of EU cohesion policy and the new proposal for the EU budget 2021-2027

**Speakers:**

- Apostolos Tzitzikostas, Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia, Greece, the President of CoR
- Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission (Video message)
- Elisa Ferreira, European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms
- Vasco Cordeiro, President of the Regional Government of the Azores, Portugal, 1st Vice-President of the CoR and President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions
- Michael Murphy, Member of the Tipperary County Council, Ireland, and chair of the CoR’s Economic Affairs Commission
- Isabelle Boudineau, Vice-President of the Region Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France and chair of the CoR’s Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU budget
- Ann-Sofi Backgren, Ostrobothnia Region, Finland – President of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
- Magnus Berntsson, Region of Västra Götaland, Sweden – President of the Association of European Regions (AER)
- Stefano Bonaccini, President of Emilia Romagna Region – President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)
- Dario Nardella, Mayor of Florence, Italy – Vice-President of Eurocities
- Jan Olbrycht, Member of the European Parliament

Session II  11:00-12:00

**Theme:** Regions and cities at work for a resilient and sustainable recovery

**Speakers:**

- **Apostolos Tzitzikostas**, Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia, Greece, President of the CoR
- **David Sassoli**, President of the European Parliament (Video message)
- **Klara Dobrev**, Vice-President of the European Parliament, responsible for the relations with the European Committee of the Regions
- **Ulrika Landergren**, Member of the Kungsbacka Municipal Council, Sweden, and chair of the CoR’s Commission for Natural Resources
- **Matteo Luigi Bianchi**, Member of the Italian Parliament, Member of the Morazzone Municipal Council and First Vice-President of CoR’s SEDEC Commission
- **Juan Espadas**, Mayor of Seville, Spain and chair of the CoR’s Environment, Climate Change and Energy Commission
- **Mark Speich**, Secretary of State for Federal, European and International Affairs, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, and Chair of the CoR Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External affairs

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Session III  12:00 to 13:00

**Theme:** EU democracy – future of Europe

**Speakers:**

- **Apostolos Tzitzikostas**, Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia, Greece, President of the CoR
- **Dubravka Šuica**, European Commission Vice-President
- **Othmar Karas**, Vice-President of the European Parliament, responsible for Information Policy, Press and Citizens Relations
- **Vasco Cordeiro**, President of the Regional Government of the Azores, Portugal, 1st Vice-President of the CoR and President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions
- **Kieran McCarthy**, member of Cork City Council, Ireland, and President of the EA Group in the CoR
- **Muhterem Aras**, President of the regional parliament of Baden-Württemberg, Germany