



# Regions and cities: vital for Europe's economic recovery

9 May, Europe Day



## 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**, Member of 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)
  - **Klára 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
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