



European Committee
of the Regions

Press Release

CoR/19/065.en
Brussels, 21 June 2019

Anchoring EU policies locally: European Committee of the Regions to share its vision to renew Europe

Also on 26-27 June [#CoRplenary agenda](#): EU Commissioners Katainen and Cañete to debate Sustainable Development Goals and climate change

A few days before the first plenary sitting of the newly-elected European Parliament and in view of the new EU institutional mandate, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) will unveil the [proposals of cities and regions to radically change the way the EU works](#) and reconnect the Union to its citizens.

During the two days of [their plenary session](#), the 350 local and regional elected representatives of the CoR and leaders of the European institutions – including Jyrki Katainen, European Commission's Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, and Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate action and Energy – will debate some of the Union's most pressing issues. This includes the need for a new way of working for the EU, the local dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change and energy transition, the integration of migrants in local communities and the [CoR's Integration Initiative \(#Regions4Integration\)](#).

The Committee and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe will also [jointly celebrate their 25th anniversary](#), with a ceremony followed by a [joint conference](#) on “The added value of local and regional authorities in building a united Europe”.

The plenary will also host the [European Entrepreneurial Regions Award 2020](#) which will be handed over to those EU regions showing an outstanding and innovative entrepreneurial policy strategy.

- [Agenda of 26-27 June plenary session](#)
- [WATCH #CoRplenary LIVE](#)
- [See all plenary documents](#)

The media programme below will guide you through the main themes and highlights of 25-27 June:

Throughout plenary days: **MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES**

Joint statements per Country with CoR members and new MEPs

Languages: national languages

Between 24 and 27 June, the political groups of the newly elected European Parliament are having their constituting meetings in Brussels. Together with the CoR's political groups we will try to provide media opportunities with the new MEPs and CoR members.

[#CoRPlenary](#) [#FutureOfEurope](#)

DAY 1 | TUESDAY 25 JUNE 2019

13:00-14:00 | INTEGRATION PRESS BRIEFING

Where: 5th floor – European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99-101, Brussels

Who: CoR members

Languages: Country specific languages

In April, President Lambertz and the European Commissioner responsible for migration, Dimitros Avramopoulos, launched an initiative to bring together cities and regions that are working on integrating migrants into their local community. This came amid discussions on the EU's next long-term budget that could result in the EU providing more funding for integration. On 25 June, the CoR will hold a workshop focused on the challenges faced by smaller communities. President Lambertz would discuss the rationale for more EU involvement and the importance of local and regional authorities in helping refugees and migrants secure housing, find work, gain language skills, and acquire vocational skills. [#Regions4Integration](#)

Contact: Andrew Gardner | Tel: +32 473 843 981 | andrew.gardner@cor.europa.eu

14:30-18:00 | Seminar - Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Small Territories

Where: European Committee of the Regions | Van Maerlant building, Room 2 | 2 Rue Van Maerlant, Brussels

Speakers include:

- **Karl-Heinz Lambertz**, President of the European Committee of the Regions
- **Pehr Granfalk (SE/EPP)**, Mayor of Solna
- **Monica Hernando Porres**, Director of Human Rights, Basque Government, Spain
- **Deolinda Seno Luis**, Deputy Mayor of Odemira, Portugal
- **Petra Hueck**, Director of the International Catholic Migration Commission Europe
- **Sinthujan Varatharajah**, of the European Migrant Advisory Board

Languages: EN/FR/PT/IT/ES

This seminar will bring together politicians and officials from the European, national, regional and local level to discuss ways to better support the integration of migrants in small and medium-size communities and, in the process, how to boost the local economy and community. [#Regions4Integration #Regions4Results](#)

Contact: Andrew Gardner | Tel: +32 473 843 981 | andrew.gardner@cor.europa.eu

DAY 2 | WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2019

9:15 – 10:00 | PRESS BREAKFAST WITH THE CoR PRESIDENT

Where: European Committee of the Regions, room JDE 61 (6th floor), Rue Belliard 99, Brussels

Who: Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the CoR

Language: FR

What: Expectations and proposals from EU's regions cities for the next EU mandate 2019-2020

A few days before the inaugural meeting of the newly-elected European Parliament, the CoR President will meet the press and reveal the proposals of EU's cities and regions to reform the European Union. Entitled "[Working together to bring the EU closer to its citizens](#)", the document published by the Committee calls on the Member States to radically change the way the EU works.

These proposals have been shared with the new MEPs and EU leaders to contribute to the EU's strategic agenda for 2019-2024. In this document the Committee argues that all EU decisions and policies must be anchored locally if it is to strengthen democracy and regain citizens' trust. The Committee will adopt a resolution to formalise these views on 26 June.

President Lambertz will take questions about the CoR's initiatives aimed at giving a greater say to regions and

cities in EU decision-making, to bridge the gap between the EU and its citizens, and to reinforce local democracy. The President will also discuss the main topics of the CoR June plenary session, including the fight against climate change, the [CoR's "Integration initiative"](#), and regions' and cities' contribution to the EU's implementation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. [#FutureOfEurope](#)

Contact: Nathalie Vandelle | Tel: +32 2 282 24 99 | nathalie.vandelle@cor.europa.eu

15:00-21:00 | CoR PLENARY SESSION | European Parliament Hemicycle | Rue Wiertz 60, Brussels

The plenary session will be live streamed on the [CoR website](#)
[Click here to access the plenary Agenda and documents in all EU official languages](#)

15:15–16:30 | DEBATE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS | Plenary Session

Statements and debate with members of the European Committee of the Regions:

- **Jyrki Katainen**, European Commission's Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness
- **Arnoldas Abramavičius (LT/EPP)**, debate and adoption of rapporteur's opinion on ['Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\): a basis for a long-term EU strategy for a sustainable Europe by 2030'](#).

65% of the 169 targets included in the 17 SDGs cannot be reached without the involvement of local and regional authorities (UN). Cities and regions are therefore indisputable players in this regard. The CoR welcomes the EC's reflection paper on SDGs. Yet, the CoR calls for a European overarching strategy with specific regionally differentiated targets, clear milestones and timelines by 2030 to achieve SDGs on the ground. They further call to align the European Semester and the future cohesion policy to 'localise SDGs' including a legally binding code of conduct on partnership as to ensure that cohesion investments target local realities and challenges.

[#SDGs](#)

Contact: Carmen Schmidle | Tel: +32 (0)494 73 57 87 | carmen.schmidle@cor.europa.eu

19:15 | EUROPEAN ENTREPRENEURIAL REGION (EER) AWARD CEREMONY | Plenary session

The European Entrepreneurial Regions (EER) award 2020 will be handed over to the three EER winners during the CoR plenary session. The European Entrepreneurial Region (EER) award identifies and rewards EU regions, which show an outstanding and innovative entrepreneurial policy strategy, irrespective of their size, wealth and competences. During the CoR's plenary session the three European regions with the most credible, forward-thinking and promising vision and plan are granted the label "European Entrepreneurial Region" (EER) for the following year. [#CoRPlenary](#) [#EERAward](#)

Contact: Carmen Schmidle | Tel: +32 (0)494 73 57 87 | carmen.schmidle@cor.europa.eu

DAY 3 | THURSDAY 27 JUNE 2019

9:00-13:00 | CoR PLENARY SESSION

European Parliament | Paul Henri Spaak building – Hemicycle | Rue Wiertz 60, Brussels

10:15-10:30 | CLIMATE CHANGE PRESS POINT

Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy –
Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions
Where: European Parliament | Paul Henri Spaak building – outside the Hemicycle
Languages: EN/FR

Cities and regions propose new measures and better targeted public funding to reach a net zero emissions economy by 2050. The CoR asks to raise the share of the EU budget spent on climate to at least 30% along with tax breaks within EU climate-neutral funding programmes. Rapporteur **Michele Emiliano (IT/PES)** requests to systematically involve regions and local authorities in the implementation of SDGs, the Paris agreement and COP25 preparatory work, including a CoR representative as observer in all UNFCCC bodies. Members support an Energy Tax Directive and state aid rules to foster the further market take-up of renewable energies. Rapporteur Kata Tüttő (HU/PES) recalls that 50 million Europeans face difficulties with heating their homes due to energy prices, low incomes and damp unhealthy homes. The CoR calls for a European goal to end energy poverty. [#CoRPlenary #Regions4climate #Regions4results](#)

Contact: David Crous | Tel: +32 (0) 470 88 10 37 | david.crous@cor.europa.eu

10:30-11:30 | DEBATE ON CLIMATE CHANGE – Plenary session

Statements and debate with members of the European Committee of the Regions:

- **Karl-Heinz Lambertz**, President of the CoR
- **Miguel Arias Cañete**, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy
- **Michele Emiliano (IT/PES)**, President of the Puglia region. Debate and adoption of rapporteur's opinion on ['A Clean Planet for All: a European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy'](#).
- Kata Tüttő (HU/PES), Representative of Local Government of District 12 of Budapest. Debate and adoption of rapporteur's opinion on ['Multilevel governance and cross-sectoral cooperation to fight energy poverty'](#).

The EU is on track to surpass its 2020 CO2 emissions reduction targets with a projection of a 24.5% decrease since 1990. Yet, open fronts remain. The share of renewables in the energy mix moves in slow motion while transport emissions hardly decrease. Air pollution kills 400,000 people annually.

A third of EU's land suffers from water stress while water scarcity is a concern in many Member States. How is the 2050 climate-neutral strategy addressing these multiple challenges? Strategies and mechanisms to locally scale-up Europe's clean energy transition will be debated as local governments remain pivotal to **reach net-zero emissions by 2050** and reverse alarming trends both on global warming and biodiversity loss.

[#CoRPlenary #Regions4climate #Regions4results](#)

Contact: David Crous | Tel: +32 (0) 470 88 10 37 | david.crous@cor.europa.eu

11:30 | JOINT 25TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS AND THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The two institutions will hold a special ceremony in the European Parliament's hemicycle to celebrate their 25th anniversary. CoR President **Karl-Heinz Lambertz** and Congress President **Anders Knape** will both address the audience on this occasion.

The ceremony will be followed in the afternoon by a [joint conference](#) at the Committee of the Regions on "The added value of local and regional authorities in building a united Europe". The conference will consist of two debates on decentralisation and the state of local and regional democracy, as well as its practical implementation in the Member States, based on the example of the fight against climate change.

[#FutureofEurope #eulocal](#)

Where: Committee of the Regions' building, Jacques Delors Building, Rue Belliard – Room JDE 52

When: 14:00 – 17:00

Contact: Nathalie Vandelle | Tel: +32 2 282 24 99 | nathalie.vandelle@cor.europa.eu

The following 11 opinions will also be submitted for adoption during the plenary:

"Towards a more efficient and democratic decision making in EU tax policy"

by **Christophe Rouillon** (FR/PES)

"A place-based approach to the EU industrial policy strategy" by **Jeannette Baljeu** (NL/ALDE)

"Cross-border dimension in disaster risk reduction (DRR)" by **Roberto Ciambetti** (IT/ECR)

"A new European agenda to speed up the development of maritime industries"

by **Christophe Clergeau** (FR/PES)

"Towards a comprehensive EU framework on endocrine disruptors" by **Uno Silberg** (EE/EA)

"A sustainable Bioeconomy for Europe: Strengthening the connection between economy, society and the environment" by **Jácint Horváth** (HU/PES)

"Strengthening STE(A)M education in the EU" by **Csaba Borboly** (RO/EPP)

"Macro-regional strategies, such as the Danube: a framework for promoting transnational clusters"

by **Dainis Turlais** (LV/ALDE)

"Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): a basis for a long-term EU strategy for a sustainable Europe by 2030" by **Arnoldas Abramavičius** (LT/EPP)

"A Clean Planet for all A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy" by **Michele Emiliano** (IT/PES)

"Multilevel governance and cross-sectoral cooperation to fight energy poverty" by **Kata Tüttö** (HU/PES)

All opinions, resolutions, and working documents can be downloaded in the 23 EU official languages [here](#).

Accreditations:

Plenary session **badges** will be available at the **reception area of the European Committee of the Regions**, Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 99-101, Brussels. **Please note that badges are not delivered at the European Parliament.**

25/06/19 from 12.00 – 19.00

26/06/19 from 09.00 – 20.00

27/06/19 from 08.00 – 12.00

Additional AV badges (for photographers or camera operators) will be delivered on demand when picking up the Plenary Session badge. All requests for accreditation should be sent in advance to journalists@cor.europa.eu



Interviews can be arranged upon request by contacting the press officers:

Press Officers	Languages	Contact	Phone
Pierluigi Boda	IT, EN, FR,	pierluigi.boda@cor.europa.eu	+32 (0) 473 851 743
David Crous	ES, FR, EN,	david.crous@cor.europa.eu	+32 (0) 470 881 037
Andrew Gardner	EN, FR, CZ	andrew.gardner@cor.europa.eu	+32 (0) 473 843 981
Lauri Ouvinen	FI,FR,EN,ES,	lauri.ouvinen@cor.europa.eu	+32 (0) 473 536 887
Carmen Schmidle	DE, EN	carmen.schmidle@cor.europa.eu	+32 (0) 494 735 787
Nathalie Vandelle	FR, EN	nathalie.vandelle@cor.europa.eu	+32 (0) 473 860 530
Wioletta Wojewodzka	PL, FR, EN	wioletta.wojewodzka@cor.europa.eu	+32 (0) 473 843 986

Audio-visual services

We offer the possibility to record TV debates in the European Parliament ("VoxBox"), and can help you with the content, organisation and contact with members.

Contacts:

Laura Serassio: laura.serassio@cor.europa.eu +32 (0) 487 14 53 82

Nina Paukovic: nina.paukovic@cor.europa.eu +32 (0) 474 95 77 14

A selection of rough-cuts of the plenary will be available via EbS (see [EbS schedule for timing](#)). Speeches and images can also be recorded and made available upon request. A stand up is available outside the plenary room for recording interviews. Cutaways packs illustrating the main topics of the plenary will be sent to the attending AV journalists in advance of the plenary

Contact:

Stéphanie Paillet: stephanie.paillet@cor.europa.eu +32 (0) 282 25 32 or +32 (0)473 52 29 88

Web streaming: The plenary session will be broadcast live on www.cor.europa.eu

Twitter Lives will be organised for the main debates. [Click here](#)

The plenary will also be covered in a live blog: www.cor.europa.eu/corplenary.go

Photographs & Images

For free high resolution event photos, please contact photocor@cor.europa.eu. Images will also be available for free download from the [CoR photo library](#).

Contacts:

Nuno Rodrigues: +32 (0) 2 282 20 45

Giedre Daugelaite: +32 (0) 2 282 23 92



The European Committee of the Regions

The European Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of regional and local representatives from all 28 Member States. Created in 1994 following the signing of the Maastricht Treaty, its mission is to involve regional and local authorities in the EU's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies. The European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. To sit on the European Committee of the Regions, all of its 350 members and 350 alternates must either hold an electoral mandate or be politically accountable to an elected assembly in their home regions and cities. [Click here](#) for more details on your national delegation.

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