MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR CITIZENSHIP, GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (CIVEX)

– 1 FEBRUARY 2022 –

ITEM 4.6

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2022

of the Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX)
WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2022
of the Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX)

1. Introduction

The 2022 Work Programme of the CIVEX commission was developed having in mind the overarching priorities of the CoR for its current mandate\(^1\), the Strategic Guidelines for 2022 developed by the CoP\(^2\), as well as the European interinstitutional context and in particular the European Commission's Work Programme for 2022\(^3\). It sets out the milestones for work to be carried out in 2022, ensuring continuity and coherence in delivering the CoR's political priorities.

2022 will be a crucial year for the European Union and its local and regional authorities. It will be marked by the enormous efforts required to "rebuild better" after the COVID-19 pandemic and address the challenges of the green and digital transitions. Several large-scale processes will dominate the European context, such as the final stages of the Conference on the Future of Europe, the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the Green Deal for Europe. At the same time, the European Commission has announced a number of important legislative initiatives for 2022, in line with the priorities agreed jointly by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.

Against this background, the CoR has adapted its institutional approach to focus on the development and implementation of result-oriented planning, with a clear objective to increase the relevance and visibility of the CoR's political action in the interinstitutional context. For this reason, the work programmes of the CoR commissions set out the specific objectives in each policy area as well as cross-cutting priorities among the six commissions and put forward a strategy to channel the CoR's political messages to the other EU institutions.

With a view to demonstrating and further developing the added value of the European Committee of the Regions as an advisory body, the CoR has been developing new and innovative tools to gather evidence and expertise in support of the CoR's strategic activities. It is essential that the CoR effectively tap into the wealth of experience of its members and the local and regional authorities they represent in implementing its priorities and strategic orientations. In this regard, the CoR's studies programme will be designed to support the main objectives in the thematic planning of the commissions, as well as to address the horizontal research needs of the CoR. If needed, studies will also support the flagship projects and will include a foresight perspective and a clear outreach dimension, with outcomes that can easily be used in institutional and public communication.

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\(^1\) In June 2020, shortly after its Constitutive Plenary Session of February 2020 and during a time of major disruptions caused by the COVID pandemic, the CoR defined its priorities for the current mandate in the Resolution The European Committee of the Regions' priorities for 2020-2025 – Europe closer to the people through its villages, cities and regions. (RESOL-VII/004 - 2020-01392-00-00-RES-TRA)

\(^2\) On 30 November, following a joint discussion with the Commissions' Chairs, the CoP adopted the Strategic Guidelines for the CoR's political activities in 2022

In terms of policy-making, more attention should be given to "outlook opinions" where the European Commission could request input from the CoR at a very early stage as well as the "follow up of the opinions" with a view to enhancing their impact. In the context of implementing the "active subsidiarity approach", the new working methods of the European Commission should upgrade the quality of cooperation between the CoR and the other EU institutions by focusing on the European added value of all initiatives, in line with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, and within the context of a revisited EU better regulation agenda.

In the context of longer-term multi-annual planning, relations with the Council and the incoming EU presidencies will continue to progress in 2022, with a view to optimising cooperation and political dialogue, particularly as regards the legislative planning and the delivery of the EU strategic agenda.

2. Priorities of the CIVEX commission

The remit of the Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX) covers the following fields:

1. Constitutional affairs
2. Democracy, devolution and multi-level governance
3. Subsidiarity and proportionality
4. Annual monitoring of the state of the EU regional/local authorities
5. Regional and local governance
6. Fiscal decentralisation
7. Better law-making and regional/local impact of EU legislation
8. Communication and connecting with citizens
9. The future of Europe
10. The area of freedom, security, justice and rule of law
11. EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
12. Active citizenship and integration
13. Migration policy, asylum and visas
14. Radicalisation, terrorism and security
15. External relations
16. Enlargement
17. Neighbourhood policy
18. Development cooperation
19. International treaties and negotiations

Support bodies related to the CIVEX remit:

- CORLEAP
- ARLEM
- Joint Consultative Committees with Serbia, Montenegro and North Macedonia
- Working Group on the Western Balkans, Working Group on Turkey

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4 Bodies set up under Stabilisation and Association Agreements where the CoR represents the EU
2.1 Priority policy areas

At its 10th commission meeting on 16 November 2021, the CIVEX commission approved the following priority policy areas with high relevance to the EU agenda and direct impact on local and regional authorities on which to concentrate its efforts in 2022:

1. Conference on the Future of Europe
2. Migration and integration
3. Regional/local democracy and governance
4. Better regulation and active subsidiarity
5. Strengthening resilience in the neighbourhood and in the world

Details of these priority policy areas are provided in the following sections.

Within these priority policy areas and in order to translate them more effectively and visibly into political action and increase the impact of the Committee's political work, the CIVEX commission identified two specific flagship initiatives:

1. Boosting regional/local democracy and governance, including in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe
2. Migration pact and integration initiative within the migration and integration policy area

2.1.1 Conference on the Future of Europe

CIVEX activities on the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) fall under CoR policy priority 1: "Bringing Europe closer to its people" and under the headline ambition "A New Push for European Democracy" in the European Commission's (EC) political priorities 2019-2024.

The EC Work Programme 2022 confirms that the European Commission is ready to follow up on what is agreed by the CoFoE and emphasises the possible implementation of new and innovative tools to transform the way the EU engages with citizens. As stated in the CoR Resolution on the 2022 Work Programme of the European Commission, the CoR is ready to take a key role in the CoFoE and its follow-ups, whereas four out of the nine topics of discussion in the CoFoE fall into CIVEX's remit.

An explanatory sheet for each proposed priority policy area is enclosed in Appendix III. These policy areas will also be the first to benefit from the thematic planning process.

COR-2021-05438-00-01-TCD-TRA

COR-2021-06577-00-00-TCD-TRA (EN) 4/39
CIVEX's work on the CoFoE will develop over two phases, depending also on the timeline of the CoFoE, which should agree on its conclusions in spring 2022:

1. Until the conclusions of the CoFoE, CIVEX will focus on:
   - the support to the CoR delegation in the CoFoE Plenary and in Working Groups, with the preparation of relevant material, including through the participation in the CoFoE CoR Secretariat and TF4;
   - inputs to CoR positioning through political and legislative work on CIVEX dossiers and organisation or contribution to relevant events. Notably, CIVEX will contribute to the preparation of the CoR Summit in Marseille in March;
   - cooperation with LRA EU associations and with relevant institutional stakeholders (e.g. JRC);
   - synergies with the CoR YEPs programme will also be pursued, in line with the important role of young people in the CoFoE and with 2022 being the European Year of Youth.

2. In the second semester of 2022, CIVEX will focus on the follow-up of the CoFoE's conclusions through political and legislative works on CoFoE-relevant CIVEX dossiers and on proposals and avenues to strengthen the role of the CoR and of cities and regions in the EU framework (CoFoE topic on European Democracy). In particular, CIVEX will build on relevant CoFoE ideas/initiatives and will follow up on the CoFoE's conclusions, including through own-initiative opinions and with the knowledge support of a study on The territorial dimension of the Conference on the Future of Europe and its follow-ups.

Within this policy area, the flagship initiative of the CIVEX commission will be boosting regional/local democracy and governance, including in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

2.1.2 Migration and integration

In 2022, the CIVEX commission will concentrate its efforts on the priority policy area of migration and integration in line with the CoR's overarching political priority 2: Managing fundamental societal transformations: Building resilient regional and local communities. The work will be framed by the specifications in the CoR's resolution on its political priorities 2020-2025 and the resolutions RESOL-VII/13 and RESOL-VII/16 adopted in view of and following the European Commission's Work Programme 2022.

The key objective will be to ensure that the views and recommendations of CoR members on the topic are effectively recognised in the policy-making process at the EU level, be it through the uptake of the CoR's recommendations by other EU institutions in policy-making or through direct participation of the CoR members in political fora. Implementation of the integration partnership between the European Commission and the CoR in line with the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-

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2027 will continue to be crucial in 2022, so as to bring the benefits of this partnership to the CoR members and the members of the CoR's Cities and Regions for Integration network.

Within this policy area, the flagship initiative of the CIVEX commission will be the Migration Pact and Integration Initiative.

Under the first strand of this flagship initiative, the Migration Pact, the CIVEX commission will address the ongoing reform of the Common European Asylum System via its legislative work, focusing in particular on elaborating opinions on the EC proposal for a regulation on situations of instrumentalisation in the field of migration and asylum, and on the Legal Migration – Skills and Talent Package expected to be presented by the European Commission in 2022.

In June 2022, an external CIVEX commission meeting combined with a conference on The impact of managing migration and integration on LRAs, especially in border regions, and the need to enhance support to LRAs by the EU institutions will be held in Alimos, Greece. The exchanges at this meeting are going to be highly relevant for reiteration of the specificities in the EU's border regions.

Furthermore, to inform the members' work, the expertise support will include studies and territorial impact assessments, carried out either in-house or by our institutional partners.

The second part of this flagship, namely the Integration Initiative, will focus on supporting cities and regions by implementing the integration partnership between the CoR's Cities and Regions for Integration of Migrants network and the European Commission's Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs, with the objectives of building an open and regular dialogue between EU institutions and local and regional authorities on integration, building capacity and promoting exchange of experiences for local and regional authorities, and improving evidence and data on integration at the local level. Members of the CoR's integration network will also benefit from information and events organised in the context of the Urban Agenda Inclusion Partnership. A peer-learning event on Multi-Level Governance Arrangements for Migrant Integration is planned to take place in 2022 in cooperation with the OECD.

2.1.3 Regional/local democracy and governance

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11 Also as a follow-up to the CoR plenary segment of the EU Local Matters Debate, which took place on 2 December 2021 and focused on the topic of local and regional authorities and the refugee emergency.
12 COM(2021) 890 final, JOIN (2021) 32
13 The package is planned to include a Communication on skills and talents, a recast of Directive 2003/109/EC on long-term residents, and a recast of Directive 2011/98/EU on single permit.
14 https://www.inclusionpartnership.com/
A functioning and resilient democracy at all levels, including local and regional ones, is a democracy built on the EU's fundamental values: respect for human dignity, freedom, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

CIVEX activities in this context fall under CoR policy priority 1: bringing Europe closer to its people. In relation to the European Commission's political priorities 2019-2024, these activities correspond to the priorities a new push for European democracy and promoting our European way of life.

Within this policy area, the flagship initiative of the CIVEX commission will be boosting regional/local democracy and governance, including in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

CIVEX's work will continue to focus on the implementation of the European Democracy Action Plan (EDAP), and will follow up with legislative work on the package of measures contained in the EC Communication on *Protecting election integrity and promoting democratic participation*, which contains a broad range of proposals regarding transparency of online political advertising, the statute and funding of European political parties and foundations, and of electoral rights of mobile EU citizens in municipal and European elections.

Addressing disinformation will also be one of the priority areas for CIVEX, to be supported by a study commissioned by the CoR on *Developing a handbook on good practice in countering disinformation at local and regional level*. This topic will also be addressed in view of the forthcoming strengthened Code of Practice on disinformation, expected to be published in spring 2022. Following analysis of the Code and in view of the work on the study in preparation of a handbook in the area of disinformation, the CIVEX commission might consider pursuing consultative work, with a potential opinion, in this file in 2022.

Moreover, the work on strengthening local and regional democracy and enhancing citizens' engagement will be developed in synergy with the activities on the CoFoE described in paragraph 2.1.1.

The CIVEX commission will further pursue efforts to support the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights at the level of regions and cities, EU institutions and bodies, as well as to enhance the culture of respect for the rule of law at regional and local level.

### 2.1.4 Better regulation and active subsidiarity

In this policy area, the CIVEX commission will continue to provide horizontal political support to different activities relating to better regulation and active subsidiarity[^15], in particular by supporting the Subsidiarity Steering Group as well as the CoR's representatives in the Fit for Future platform. It will participate in the efforts of creating a CoR Better Regulation Toolbox to integrate all existing better regulation tools of the CoR into one governance framework, creating better cooperation, links and synergies between the individual tools and actors.

[^15]: See CoR idea on "Use "active subsidiarity" to better involve parliaments, regions and cities in the shaping of European policies" posted on the Conference on the Future of Europe's digital platform: https://futureu.europa.eu/processes/Democracy/f/6/proposals/114517
The CIVEX commission will actively relay the CoR's institutional claims with regard to better regulation and subsidiarity, such as the call for the systematic use of the subsidiarity assessment grid in the European Commission's proposals, an evidence-based approach when implementing the "one in, one out" principle, a multi-level review of the interinstitutional agreement on better regulation or the obligatory evaluation of the potential territorially differentiated impacts of each legislative initiative. The CoFoE will also be an important forum where CoR proposals can be brought forward and discussed, as described in paragraph 2.1.1.

Priority initiatives for 2022 will be set out in the Subsidiarity Work Programme 2022 put forward for adoption by the Subsidiarity Steering Group in consultation with the Subsidiarity Expert Group. These initiatives will identify priority policy areas for which the CIVEX commission will carry out oversight and cooperate closely with other commissions.

In 2022, the 10th Subsidiarity Conference is planned to take place. This biennial event will provide an opportunity for a further review process of the subsidiarity monitoring activities of the CoR in view of defining a new subsidiarity strategy of the CoR after 10 years.

CIVEX will also support the European Commission in mapping local and regional foresight capacity to take local and regional experience into account, notably in the annual Strategic Foresight Report.

2.1.5 Strengthening resilience in the neighbourhood and in the world

The CoR promotes awareness and action at local and regional level on the foundational EU values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, human rights and the rule of law, which must be protected and respected even in times of emergency, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. These values should also be at the core of the external relations of the EU, which the CoR is supporting on a sub-national level.

Contribution to the impact of EU external action will continue to be achieved by increasing the visibility and understanding of EU action abroad at local level, and outside the capitals, and by strengthening resilience at community level. As a lesson learnt from the COVID crisis, it is imperative to give an operational impulse to the regional and sub-regional cooperation in support of strengthening resilience, including by facilitating concrete projects that address the urgent needs of local communities. Details of this priority policy area are provided in three sub-sections below (European Neighbourhood Policy, Development Cooperation, and EU Enlargement).

Impact across the policy area will be sought through:

- city diplomacy in support of consolidating democratic values in non-EU countries and preparing the ground for territorial cooperation
- increasing the visibility of LRAs as policy shapers
- peer-to-peer cooperation

2.1.5.1 European Neighbourhood Policy

The European Union is facing a complex geopolitical context with many sources of uncertainty, including developments at the Russian-Ukrainian border, the gas crisis, the use of migrants as a geopolitical tool and the pandemic situation. The EU is well aware of the challenges faced by its partner countries. The CoR believes that grounded cooperation, such as within CORLEAP, gives us a
good opportunity to demonstrate the added value of the Eastern Partnership in addressing common challenges at the level of governance closest to citizens. The Eastern Partnership, an essential element of the EU Neighbourhood Policy, has already shown positive results and will continue to deliver.

A strong partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood is of high importance for the EU to maintain peace, stability and prosperity in the region and to support the prospect of post-COVID recovery. In this sense, the CoR and its CIVEX commission will contribute to shaping the local and regional dimension of the EU's cooperation with Mediterranean partner countries, notably through the activities of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) and in partnership with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) whose 2022 Work Programme specifically mentions ARLEM as a key partner to engage, as appropriate, local and federative regional governments in the promotion and implementation of its action plans. ARLEM activities will focus on the areas of sustainable economic development (including the continuation of the ARLEM award: Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean), climate action/a Green Deal for the Mediterranean and women's empowerment in line with the ARLEM action plan 2020-2022. In 2022, special focus will be given to youth in the context of the European Year of Youth and combatting climate change in preparation for the COP 27 in Sharm-el-Sheikh (Egypt). Finally, during 2022, ARLEM will start the new mandate after the change of CoR presidency by August 2022, in this context ARLEM will adopt its action plan for the second part of the mandate (2022-2024).

### 2.1.5.2 Development cooperation

The CIVEX commission will continue to build on the increased recognition given to local and regional authorities as active policy-makers in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through tools such as cooperation on a local and regional level, peer-to-peer partnerships and city diplomacy, LRAs can play a key role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the European Consensus on Development.

In this respect the aim is for the successful Nicosia Initiative to be followed by other peer-to-peer initiatives aiming at sharing the best practices for sustainable territorial development. The survey, which was launched among CoR members at the end of 2021 in order to better understand their past experiences and willingness to participate in the future peer-to-peer cooperation activities with partner countries, will be followed up. If feasible, new peer-to-peer initiatives might be considered, including beyond the existing cooperation, expanding into new thematic and geographical areas.

The CoR will continue to support its peer-to-peer and capacity-building activities with Libyan municipalities in the framework of the Nicosia Initiative of cooperation with Libyan local authorities.

The seventh edition of Forum Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation took place in a digital form on 29-30 November, giving valuable input to EU institutions and partner governments, including orienting the EU's engagement with local authorities during programming. The outcome and policy recommendations will strengthen policy dialogue among local and regional authorities (LRAs) from both EU and partner countries and with EU institutions, addressing current key policy challenges in development and sharing good practices at regional and local level. The CoR will, together with INTPA, consider possible follow-up activities in 2022 with a view to organising the new (physical) edition in 2022.
As a contribution to the implementation of the joint EU-Africa strategy, the CoR will, if possible, follow up on the Forum at the Africa-EU pre-summit preceding the EU-Africa Union summit 17-18, planned for February 2022, organised by Platforma and cooperation partners (UCLG, UCLG Africa).

The CoR will also continue contributing to the development of the Team Europe Partnership Portal planned to be launched at the end of 2021 and serving as a single platform for development cooperation between EU and partner country LRAs. The new portal should allow for both access to information about existing initiatives and good practices and matchmaking with the aim of creating new partnerships. It will be particularly important to make sure that the local and regional perspective is mainstreamed and visible within the portal.

2.1.5.3 EU Enlargement

The CoR has a statutory role in the EU's enlargement policy via the Joint Consultative Committees (JCC) with Serbia, Montenegro and North Macedonia. A JCC with Albania will be formed as soon as Albania can open accession negotiations, leaving the CoR's Working Groups on the Western Balkans covering only Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo*, two countries where the CoR's subsidiarity expertise will be particularly valuable.

The CoR has already volunteered its expertise on the Association/Community of Serb Municipalities of Kosovo dispute. Should such a contribution be requested, this could, for example, take the shape of a conference to present the many forms of local autonomy existing in the EU Member States, with a view to allowing the parties to discuss models suitable for them.

The Bosnian situation is also essentially a crisis of subsidiarity: three of the four levels of governance in Bosnia and Herzegovina are, in CoR terms, local and regional authorities: the entities, cantons and municipalities. Building on its success in helping solve the Mostar local elections dispute, the CoR could scale up its contribution to Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as in Kosovo.

Following the 2021 extension of the TAIEX programme to local authorities of the Western Balkans – a long-standing CoR request – the CoR will continue to provide advice to the European Commission to facilitate its implementation. In addition, it will develop peer-to-peer initiatives of its own, subject to the availability of resources.

2.2 Other thematic issues

2.2.1 Security and preventing radicalisation

The main actions of the European Commission in 2022 in the field of security will focus on building a stronger Schengen area based on mutual trust which will feed into Schengen and the revision of the Schengen Borders Code, in line with CoR RESOL – VII/009, point 50.

In relation to the priority 2 of the CoR – managing fundamental societal transformations: building resilient regional and local communities – the CoR will continue to facilitate and support the exchanges on practices and experiences between different levels of governance, organising

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16 COM (2021) 891
debates/workshops in order to promote and protect our democracies against radicalisation leading to terrorism and violent extremism.

Special attention will be paid to cooperation with the European Commission, co-organising the annual conference EU Cities against Radicalisation and participating actively in European Commission working groups, the Radicalisation Awareness Network Centre of Excellence, and other international networks.

2.2.2 European Citizens' Initiative

The CIVEX commission will continue to act as a CoR contact point for issues relating to the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), monitor the latest developments and liaise with the respective CoR commissions on ECIs within their thematic areas, particularly in view of the 10th anniversary of this instrument in 2022.

3. Follow-up of opinions

The opinions of the European Committee of the Regions are the main tools to convey the political viewpoint of the CoR to the other institutions of the European Union. In the current term of office, the CoR and its constitutive bodies, as well as all services of the administration, will put additional focus on the follow-up of opinions and the thematic communication strategy in advance as well as following their adoption, in order to ensure that the messages of the CoR can achieve the greatest political impact in the EU decision-making process.

4. Interinstitutional cooperation

The CIVEX commission will continue developing its relations with the European Parliament's AFCO, AFET, DEVE, JURI and LIBE committees, with the Joint Parliamentary Committees with candidate and pre-candidate countries, the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, with the European Commission's Directorates-General NEAR, REGIO, COMM, HOME, INTPA, JRC and its Secretariat-General, and with the EEAS as well as with the Council. In particular, the CIVEX commission will continue to liaise closely with the Legal Pathways and Integration Unit of the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) to further the partnership agreement on integration matters between the CoR and DG HOME.

The CIVEX commission will explore opportunities to substantiate its opinions by commissioning additional analysis from the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), as provided for in the cooperation agreement between the CoR and the European Parliament. The CIVEX commission will also continue to foster established cooperation with the European Investment Bank.

Where appropriate, the CIVEX commission will invite to its meetings the representatives from the rotating EU Presidency, relevant MEPs, in particular EP rapporteurs, high-level representatives of the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee.
5. Cooperation with other organisations and bodies

The CIVEX commission will continue to work closely with the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, notably in the context of the annual dialogue on the multilevel protection and promotion of fundamental rights, as well as with other EU agencies and bodies active in areas falling within its remit. To improve evidence and data on the policies within the CIVEX remit at the local level, CIVEX will continue to foster the mutually beneficial cooperation with the OECD aimed at data collection and analysis.

In the framework of its work on local and regional democracy, and specifically also in the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe, CIVEX will continue its cooperation with the European associations of local and regional authorities, including CPMR, CEMR, AER, Platform and Eurocities.

CIVEX will continue to work with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe on the basis of the common priorities and methods of cooperation set out in the Cooperation Agreement between the two institutions. Areas of joint interest will include the fight against corruption, cooperation within the framework of the Neighbourhood policy, as well as more broadly strengthening democracy on the local and regional level, including in approaches to disinformation. The CIVEX commission will also seek to develop its relations with the Stabilisation and Association Councils of the countries with which the CoR has established JCCs, as well as with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), in order to foster economic and social development, the consolidation of democracy and respect for human rights in South-East Europe. Finally, the CIVEX commission will continue to work closely with all the associations and stakeholders active in the areas of development cooperation from a local/regional angle.

6. Complementary activities

Organisation of Conferences and Seminars

As outlined in the thematic sections, CIVEX intends to organise or cooperate with relevant institutional counterparts in organising events linked to the priorities of its consultative agenda.

The following external events are planned, but remain subject to the health situation and sanitary rules in place:

- An external seminar on *Rethinking European identity and citizenship, the role of local and regional authorities*, in Mafra, Portugal, in September or October 2022.
- An external meeting and conference on *The impact of managing migration and integration on LRAs, especially in border regions, and the need to enhance support to LRAs by the EU institutions*, in Alimos, Greece, on 23 and 24 June 2022.

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N.B.: Annex and Appendices overleaf.
## APPENDIX I
List of documents already attributed to the CIVEX commission to be dealt with in 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference of European Commission document</th>
<th>Title of European Commission document</th>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Scheduled adoption by the CoR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><strong>Strengthening the EU-UK relationship at subnational level and remedying the territorial impact of the UK’s withdrawal from the EU</strong></td>
<td>CIVEX VII-011 Own-initiative opinion (Rule 41 b) ii) Rapporteur: Michael MURPHY (IR/EPP)</td>
<td>29 March 2022 (CIVEX) 27-28 April 2022 (Plenary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM(2021) 730</td>
<td><strong>Transparency and democracy package</strong></td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM(2021) 733</td>
<td>which they are not nationals (recast)</td>
<td>Proposal for a COUNCIL DIRECTIVE laying down detailed arrangements for the exercise of the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in municipal elections by Union citizens residing in a Member State of which they are not nationals (recast)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM(2021) 890 final</td>
<td>Proposal for a Regulation on situations of instrumentalisation in the field of migration and asylum</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOIN(2021) 32</td>
<td>Joint communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – Responding to state-sponsored instrumentalisation of migrants at the EU external border</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM(2021) 891 final SEC(2021) 440 SWD(2021) 462 SWD(2021) 463</td>
<td>Proposal for a regulation on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders</td>
<td>The CIVEX commission will examine which aspects of these proposals may have direct relevance for local and regional</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOIN(2021) 30</td>
<td>Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank <strong>The Global Gateway</strong></td>
<td>The CIVEX commission will examine which aspects of these proposals may have direct relevance for local and regional authorities and react accordingly.</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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</tbody>
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## APPENDIX II

List of the principal legislative and non-legislative proposals corresponding to the political priorities of the CIVEX commission for 2022\(^\text{17}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference of European Commission document</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reference TBC</td>
<td><strong>Legal Migration – Skills and Talents package</strong>&lt;br&gt; Containing:&lt;br&gt; - Communication on skills and talents&lt;br&gt; - Recast of Directive 2003/109/EC on long-term residents&lt;br&gt; - Recast of Directive 2011/98/EU on single permit 02/02/2022 (tbc)</td>
<td>Own-initiative opinion (Rule 41(b)(i))</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference TBC</td>
<td><strong>Media freedom – European media freedom act</strong>&lt;br&gt; legislative, incl. impact assessment, Article 114 TFEU, Q3 2022</td>
<td>Own-initiative opinion (Rule 41(b)(i))</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference TBC</td>
<td><strong>2022 Rule of Law Report</strong>&lt;br&gt; On the basis of the Commission’s Annual Rule of Law report a debate in Civex can be organised</td>
<td>On the basis of the Commission’s Annual Rule of Law report a debate in Civex can be organised</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference TBC</td>
<td>Revision of the victims’ rights acquis&lt;br&gt; legislative, incl. impact assessment, Article 82(2) TFEU, Q4 2022</td>
<td>The CIVEX commission will examine which aspects of these proposals may have direct relevance for local and regional authorities and react</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{17}\) The list is indicative and subject to change.
| Reference TBC | Transfer of criminal proceedings – Initiative on transfer of criminal proceedings Legislative, incl. impact assessment, Article 82(1) TFEU, Q3 2022 | The CIVEX commission will examine which aspects of these proposals may have direct relevance for local and regional authorities and react accordingly. | TBC |
| Reference TBC | Joint Communication on the Gulf | The CIVEX commission will examine which aspects of these proposals may have direct relevance for local and regional authorities and react accordingly. | TBC |
## APPENDIX III

Explanatory sheet for each Priority Policy Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Policy area</strong></th>
<th><strong>Conference on the Future of Europe</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CoR commission</strong></td>
<td><strong>CIVEX</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Policy objectives, key challenges and impact indicators

CIVEX activities on the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) stem from CoR policy priority 1: bringing Europe closer to its people. As concerns the European Commission's political priorities 2019-2024, this area falls under the priority a new push for European democracy. The EC WP 2022 confirms that the EC is ready to follow up on what is agreed by the Conference and emphasises the possible implementation of new and innovative tools to transform the way the EU engages with citizens.

With the CoFoE coming to a conclusion in spring 2022, and in line with the strong EC commitment to a proper follow-up of the CoFoE, CIVEX work will develop over two phases:

1. until the conclusions of the CoFoE (spring 2022): support to the CoR delegation with the preparation of relevant material, including through the participation in the CoFoE CoR secretariat and TF4; inputs to CoR positioning through political and legislative work in CIVEX dossiers (CoFoE topics on European Democracy; Values and Rights, Rule of Law, Security; Migration; EU in the world), cooperation with LRA EU associations and with relevant institutional stakeholders (e.g. JRC). Synergies with the CoR YEPs programme will also be pursued, in line with the important role of young people in the CoFoE and with 2022 being the European Year of Youth.

2. follow-up on the CoFoE’s conclusions (second semester 2022) through political and legislative works on CoFoE-relevant CIVEX dossiers and on proposals and avenues to strengthen the role of the CoR and of cities and regions in the EU framework – including via own-initiative opinions.

### Progress report summary on the fulfilment of the policy objectives in 2021

- Organisation of a thematic debate on the CoFoE in all CIVEX meetings (5):
  - 16/02: *The Conference on the Future of Europe: prospects for strengthening the CoR in the EU institutional framework*,
  - 30/03: *Citizens participation in the CoFoE and beyond* and *Presentation of the BELE project and CoR network of EU Councillors*,
  - 11/05: *The role of regional parliaments in EU decision-making and implementation*,

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- 28/09: *Equality as a building block of European democracy*,
- 16/11: *The Conference on the Future of Europe as an opportunity to strengthen European democracy. A regional and local perspective.*

- LSE delivered the study on *The Conference on the Future of Europe: Putting Local and Regional Authorities at the Heart of European Democratic Renewal*
- Contribution to the CoR activities concerning the CoFoE (inputs to content and process, monitoring and reporting activities, active role in TF4 and in the CoFoE secretariat, coordination with the HLG)
- Adoption of the opinion on the *European Democracy Action Plan* (July Plenary, rapporteur Aleksandra Dulkiewicz, PL/EPP)
- Follow-up of relevant opinions adopted in 2020 through the organisation of relevant events and the participation of rapporteurs in debates and events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed CoR measures and support activities in 2022 with timeline</th>
<th>CoFoE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to the works of the CoR delegation in the CoFoE (until spring 2022)</td>
<td><strong>January:</strong> last sessions of European Citizens' Panels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to the CoR Summit in Marseille (March 2022)</td>
<td><strong>21-22 January, 18-19 February, 11-12 March (tbc):</strong> Plenaries and Working Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Possible event co-organised with the French Presidency (Q2)</td>
<td><strong>22-24 April (tbc):</strong> European Citizens' Panels final session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvesting of relevant CoFoE ideas/initiatives and follow-up of the CoFoE's conclusions (Q3 and Q4), including through own-initiative opinions</td>
<td><strong>Spring 2022:</strong> CoFoE conclusions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative and political work on CoFoE-relevant CIVEX dossiers</td>
<td><strong>Key interinstitutional developments for follow-up and indicative timeline for implementation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study on institutional perspectives for cities and regions opened by the CoFoE (Q3 or Q4)</td>
<td><strong>CoFoE:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interinstitutional cooperation: relevant EP committees, notably AFCO, EC SG, JRC, EPRS, EESC</td>
<td><strong>January:</strong> last sessions of European Citizens' Panels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>21-22 January, 18-19 February, 11-12 March (tbc):</strong> Plenaries and Working Groups</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>22-24 April (tbc):</strong> European Citizens' Panels final session</td>
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<td><strong>Spring 2022:</strong> CoFoE conclusions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy area</td>
<td>Migration and Integration</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CoR commission</strong></td>
<td><strong>CIVEX</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy objectives, key challenges and impact</td>
<td>Policy objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>indicators</td>
<td>In its work in this area, the CIVEX commission shall be guided by</td>
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<td>specifications in points 41 and 42 of the CoR’s resolution on its political</td>
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<td>priorities 2020-2025.</td>
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<td><strong>Key challenges:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Ensure the views and recommendations of CoR members contained in CoR opinions on the</td>
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<td>topic are effectively recognised in the policy-making process at the EU level, be it</td>
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<td>through the uptake of the CoR's recommendations by other EU institutions or through</td>
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<td>direct participation of the CoR members in political fora</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Implementation of the integration partnership(^{18}) between the European Commission</td>
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<td>and the CoR in line with the <strong>Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027</strong>(^{19}),</td>
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<td>bringing the benefits of this partnership to the CoR members and the members of CoR's</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cities and Regions for Integration network (currently 158 members(^{20})).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Progress report summary on the</td>
<td>• For a detailed overview, see <strong>contribution of the CIVEX Commission to the Impact Report 2021</strong> – COR-2021-05205-00-00-TCD-TRA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fulfilment of the policy objectives in 2021</td>
<td>• Opinion CIVEX VII-005 (rapporteur Antje Grotheer (DE/PES)) on the <strong>New Pact on Migration and Asylum</strong>(^{21}) by the CoR plenary (18/3/2021)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Opinion CIVEX-VII/010 (rapporteur Vincenzo Bianco (IT/PES)) on the <strong>Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood. A new Agenda for the Mediterranean</strong> (1/7/2021)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Presentation of opinion CIVEX VII-005 (rapporteur Antje Grotheer (DE/PES)) on the <strong>New Pact on Migration and Asylum</strong> at the <strong>European Parliament – LIBE</strong>(^{22}) committee hearing (2/9/2021)</td>
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<td>• Implementation of the <strong>integration partnership</strong>(^{23}), including via</td>
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organisation of capacity-building events together with DG HOME:

- 28 September 2021: Funding inclusive communities

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<tr>
<th>Proposed CoR measures and support activities in 2022 with timeline</th>
<th>Migration</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Proposed CoR measures and support activities in 2022 with timeline</strong></td>
<td><strong>Migration</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| | • **Opinion** on Instrumentalisation in the field of migration and asylum
  - Proposal for a Regulation on situations of instrumentalisation in the field of migration and asylum
  - COM(2021) 890 final, JOIN(2021) 32
  - Tentative adoption: tbd |
| | • **Opinion** on the **Legal Migration package**, containing
  - Communication on skills and talents
  - Recast of Directive 2003/109/EC on long-term residents
  - Recast of Directive 2011/98/EU on single permit
  - Tentative adoption: tbd |
| | • **External CIVEX commission meeting and conference**, Alimos, Greece, June 2022
  - The impact of managing migration and integration on LRAs, especially in border regions, and the need to enhance support to LRAs by the EU institutions |
| | • **Supporting evidence-based policy-making:**
  - Foresight study on **Preparing Europe’s mayors for future migration and integration challenges**
  - Territorial Impact Assessment in support of own-initiative opinion on **Territorial Impact of Migration and Integration on LRAs in Border Regions** (tbd) |
| | • **Interinstitutional cooperation** (EC, EP LIBE Committee, EPRS, JRC, OECD, EUROCITIES, CPMR, CEMR, AER, etc.) |
| | **Integration** |
| | • Supporting cities and regions by implementing the integration partnership between the CoR’s Cities and Regions for Integration network and DG Home with the following objectives: |
| | 1. Building an open and regular dialogue between EU |

institutions and local and regional authorities on integration;
2. Building capacity and promoting exchange of experiences for local and regional authorities;
3. Improving evidence and data on integration at the local level.
- Capacity-building for LRAs, including a workshop on local integration strategies (co-organised with DG HOME); Urban Academy (co-organised with DG HOME); peer-learning event Multi-Level Governance Arrangements for Migrant Integration in cooperation with the OECD.
- Inclusion Partnership involvement\(^{24}\)
- Upgrade of the Integration Initiative website to provide the members with a more user-friendly platform with a better link to the European Web Site on Integration\(^{25}\) in support of the Integration Partnership.

### Key interinstitutional developments for follow-up and indicative timeline for implementation

| European Parliament: legislative work on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum proposals |
| Council presidency and the European Parliament have yet to reach an agreement, work and negotiations to continue in 2022 |
| Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2022: January-June: France; July-December: Czech Republic |
| Spring 2022: Conference on the Future of Europe – conclusions of the Citizens' Panel on **EU in the world/migration** |

\(^{24}\) [https://www.inclusionpartnership.com/](https://www.inclusionpartnership.com/)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Policy area</strong></th>
<th><strong>Regional/Local Democracy and governance</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CoR commission</strong></td>
<td><strong>CIVEX</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Policy objectives, key challenges and impact indicators | Respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights are founding values of the EU. CIVEX’s activities in this context fall under CoR policy priority 1: bringing Europe closer to its people. In relation to the European Commission’s political priorities 2019-2024, these activities correspond to the priorities a new push for European democracy and promoting our European way of life. CIVEX’s work will follow several strands:  
  i. to implement the European Democracy Action Plan (EDAP), with focus on the *Reinforcing democracy and integrity of election package* and on the fight against disinformation;  
  ii. to support the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, at the level of regions and cities and, equally importantly, among the CoR personnel, especially among the staff of the Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs Commission (CIVEX);  
  iii. to continue to promote the culture of respect for the rule of law at regional and local level and to share knowledge and best practices. |
| Progress report summary on the fulfilment of the policy objectives in 2021 | **Democracy**  
  - Adoption of the opinion on the European Democracy Action Plan (July Plenary, rapporteur Aleksandra Dulkiewicz, PL/EPP), which allowed the development of a holistic and integrated approach to democracy, including notably the fight against disinformation, strengthening democratic resilience and citizen empowerment  
  - Follow-up of relevant opinions adopted in 2020 through the organisation of events and the participation of rapporteurs in debates and events.  
  Moreover, as explained in the thematic sheet on the Conference of the Future of Europe, obviously Conference-related activities partly catalysed CIVEX’s work on democracy and citizens’ participation.  
  **Fundamental rights**  
  - Adoption of the opinion on *Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU* (July plenary, rapporteur, Jean Luc Vanraes (BE/ RE), which underlines that the involvement of the CoR in the interinstitutional dialogue concerning the Charter is essential and suggests setting up contact points to facilitate the flow of information on the Charter between the different levels of |
government. Furthermore, the Europe Day and the Conference on the Future of Europe offer excellent opportunities to promote local activities and to explain the paramount importance of the Fundamental Rights and the European Charter in our democracies.

- On 20 April, the CoR rapporteur on the EU’s Fundamental Rights Charter Strategy, Jean Luc Vanraes, spoke during the Public Hearing on Empowering Civil Society, Rights Defenders and Justice Practitioners organised by the EESC rapporteur on the subject. During the panel on raising people’s awareness about their Charter rights, the CoR rapporteur presented the main points of his opinion.
- On 25 May, the Fundamental Rights Agency hosted a national roundtable discussion on the role of the EU Fundamental Rights Charter in Poland. The CoR rapporteur on the EDAP presented the opinion.
- Fundamental Rights Forum 2021– Ms Dulkiewicz presented the main finding of her opinion during the panel What is a human rights city? Mayors take the floor and Mr Vanraes spoke during the panel Applying efficiently & effectively the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights to uphold values & rights in Europe.
- The 2021 Annual Dialogue will be focused on the human rights cities concept, funding available for cities to support projects that promote the concept of human rights cities, as well as fundamental rights and ways of engaging all levels of governance in advancing this concept.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed CoR measures and support activities in 2022 with timeline</th>
<th>Democracy (see also the thematic sheet No XX on the Conference on the Future of Europe)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Legislative and political work on:</td>
<td>• Legislative and political work on:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- dossiers expected by end 2021</td>
<td>- dossiers expected by end 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Reinforcing democracy and integrity of elections package</td>
<td>(1) Reinforcing democracy and integrity of elections package</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2) Strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation – Hate speech</td>
<td>(2) Strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation – Hate speech</td>
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<tr>
<td>(3) Media freedom act (Q3)</td>
<td>(3) Media freedom act (Q3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Study on good practice in countering disinformation at the local and regional level (Q3 or Q4)</td>
<td>• Interinstitutional cooperation: EP AFCO and LIBE, EC SG and DG CNECT, JRC, EPRS, EESC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Participation in the potential Commission high-level event on democracy and election-related matters, as outlined in the European Democracy Action Plan (date TBC)</td>
<td>• Participation in the potential Commission high-level event on democracy and election-related matters, as outlined in the European Democracy Action Plan (date TBC)</td>
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**Participatory democracy**

- The European Citizens’ Initiative will be marking its 10th anniversary
in 2022. Participation of CoR members should be envisaged in the context of the ECI day organised by the EESC and the European Citizens' Initiative Week organised by the European Commission.

- See also proposals and work on participatory democracy in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe and its follow-up.

**Fundamental rights**
The CIVEX commission will continue to promote and support the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights at the level of regions and cities and, not least among the Committee staff. In this regard, in collaboration with FRA, the CIVEX commission is planning to organise a capacity-building seminar in 2022.

**Rule of law**
On the basis of the Commission’s Annual Rule of Law report, a debate can be organised during the CIVEX meeting to foster a better understanding of the situation of the rule of law at European and national level and to share knowledge and best practices.

The CIVEX commission will continue to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law outside the EU, mainly in candidate and potential candidate countries, organising debates during the Enlargement Day and JCC meetings.

The rapporteurs will continue to participate in events organised by the European Parliament, the European Commission and other relevant stakeholders in the field.

| | in 2022. Participation of CoR members should be envisaged in the context of the ECI day organised by the EESC and the European Citizens' Initiative Week organised by the European Commission.  
- See also proposals and work on participatory democracy in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe and its follow-up.  
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The rapporteurs will continue to participate in events organised by the European Parliament, the European Commission and other relevant stakeholders in the field. |
### Key interinstitutional developments for follow-up and indicative timeline for implementation

**Democracy**
- November 2021: Package on reinforcing democracy and integrity of elections, in implementation of commitments from the European Democracy Action Plan and the EU Citizenship Report 2020 and comprising:
  - Communication on protecting election integrity and promoting democratic participation
  - Revision of the Regulation on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations
  - Amendment to Council Directives 93/109/EC and 94/80/EC on the right of mobile EU citizens to vote and stand as candidate in European and municipal elections
  - Legislative proposal on greater transparency in paid political advertising
- December 2021: Initiative to extend the list of EU crimes to all forms of hate crime and hate speech
- End 2021: Strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation
- End 2021: EP resolution on Engaging with citizens: the right to petition, the right to refer to the European Ombudsman and the European Citizens' Initiative
- Q3 2022: Media Freedom Act

**Fundamental rights**
- From 2021, the European Commission will present an annual report on the application of the Charter, which will look at the Charter's impact on the situation in the Member States in particular policy areas. In 2021, the Charter report will focus on fundamental rights in the digital age.

**Rule of law**
- Second semester: Rule of law report 2022

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy area</th>
<th>Better regulation and active subsidiarity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CoR commission</strong></td>
<td><strong>CIVEX</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy objectives, key challenges and impact indicators</td>
<td>Policy objectives: contributing to improving the quality of EU laws through better impact assessments taking into account the experience of regions and cities; reducing administrative burden and implementation costs for businesses, citizens or public administrations; simplification of EU legislation and an open and transparent decision-making process that is based on evidence, understanding the impacts and fit for the future. In pursuing these objectives, CIVEX will strive to: • mobilise CoR efforts to further strengthen LRAs' involvement and contribution to the EU policy- and law-making through enhanced consultations and impact assessments, including through the RegHubs, and bolster the territorial dimensions of EU policies; • streamline the CoR contributions to F4F, better regulation activities and subsidiarity-related processes by stepping up cooperation with other CoR commissions, and in particular with the ECON commission on RegHub-related matters, and working on the creation of a common entry point for these contributions in form of a &quot;toolbox&quot;; • mobilise all available resources and expertise on better regulation, including through enhanced involvement of the Subsidiarity Steering Group and Subsidiarity Expert Group in the preparation of CoR positions, and increased consultations with the Subsidiarity Monitoring Network; • ensure reporting and appropriate and promptly follow up to the F4F Platform's opinions.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Key challenges:</strong> ensuring horizontal governance and coordination of the CoR contribution to the EU better regulation agenda and good quality and timely contributions to the F4F work and consistency with the CoR's input to subsidiarity-related processes.</td>
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<td><strong>Impact indicators:</strong></td>
<td>• F4F opinions drafted by the CoR's representatives in F4F; • RegHubs implementation reports on topics, included in the F4F annual work programme and taken into consideration in F4F opinions, and/or drafted upon request of the F4F Secretariat to support the European Commission's work on better regulation; • CoR opinions, positions and other contributions taken into consideration by the European Commission and the F4F Platform; • strengthened cooperation with the European Commission – number</td>
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of events/speakers;
- enhanced channels of cooperation and coordination among CoR commissions on better regulation related activities – number of TF9 meetings;
- Opinion on better regulation: joining forces to make better laws adopted and promoted (i.e. EWRC workshops, conferences, seminars);
- CoR Better regulation toolbox developed.

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<tr>
<th>Progress report summary on the fulfilment of the policy objectives in 2021</th>
<th>Better Regulation</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• the CoR representatives in F4F (chairs of CIVEX, NAT and SEDEC commissions) participated in the F4F second plenary meeting, held on 4 March 2021, and the Platform’s sub-group meetings held on 17 May, 28 June and 15-17 September;</td>
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<td>• the F4F sub-group, composed of RegHubs, had a meeting on 25 June 2021;</td>
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<td>• the CoR contributed to the F4F annual work programme 2021 with proposals for topics which have been taken up by the F4F secretariat and included in the annual programme, in particular public procurement directives, ambient air quality directives, state aid legislation and cross-border healthcare;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• the CoR representatives in F4F drafted three out of fifteen opinions of the Platform:</td>
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<td>- opinion on public procurement legislation (e-procurement aspects), rapporteur Mark Speich (DE/EPP);</td>
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<td>- opinion on the Directive establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE), rapporteur Anne Karjalainen (FI/PES);</td>
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<td>- opinion on the Directive on the application on patient rights in cross-border healthcare, rapporteur Ulrika Landergren (SE/Renew Europe);</td>
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<td>• the CoR contributed to F4F opinions with available reports, studies and opinions. In particular, the RegHub implementation reports on cross-border healthcare, public procurement, air quality and INSPIRE, the CoR study on the new circular economy action plan and a number of CoR opinions relating to environmental policy served as a foundation for the respective F4F opinions;</td>
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<td>• the RegHub sub-group of the Platform drafted and presented to the Commission a special report on planning and permitting for infrastructure, requested by Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• mobilisation of CoR resources and expertise on better regulation has been further enhanced with the participation of Mark Speich</td>
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</table>
(DE/EPP), CIVEX chair and CoR representative in F4F, in the SSG meeting on 11 February 2021, to present the F4F Platform to SSG members and exchange views on the SSG involvement and contribution to F4F work;

- cooperation with the ECON commission on better regulation has seen further improvement with the participation of Piero Mauro Zanin (IT/EPP), rapporteur for the opinion on Better regulation, in the ECON commission meeting on 24 June 2021 and the exchange with the ECON members on better regulation, F4F and the RegHubs' contribution to the better regulation agenda;

- the CoR policy on better regulation has been further streamlined, and cooperation with other CoR commissions stepped in, with the consultation of CoR commissions on the EC Communication on Better regulation, initiated by CIVEX in the course of preparation of the opinion on the same topic;

- the opinion on Better regulation: joining forces to make better laws, with Piero Mauro Zanin (IT/EPP) as a rapporteur, was adopted at the CIVEX meeting on 28 September 2021 by a large majority. The opinion will be voted on at the CoR Plenary session on 1-3 December 2021;

- Better regulation has been further promoted with the workshop on Multi-level governance and active subsidiarity for sustainable recovery and resilience, organised by CIVEX on 13 October 2021 in the framework of the EWRC, with the participation of Mark Speich (DE/EPP) and Piero Mauro Zanin (IT/EPP) as speakers, attended by more than 130 participants.

Active subsidiarity

- In 2021, 9 legislative CoR opinions and 14 non-legislative CoR opinions included a specific reference to subsidiarity (state of play after October plenary). The position expressed in the CoR opinion on the minimum wage directive (rapporteur: Peter Kaiser (AT/PES) as one of the most sensitive legislative proposals in 2021 with regard to subsidiarity was confirmed by both the analyses of the Legal Services of the Council and of the European Parliament and reflected in the corresponding EP draft report.

- In relation to active subsidiarity, the section of the European Commission’s Annual Report 2020 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and on relations with national parliaments26 dedicated to the CoR took up the contribution

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provided by the CoR almost entirely verbatim. The chapter on the role of regional parliaments (6.) also specifically referred to the CoR's Subsidiarity Monitoring Network, the participation of regional Parliaments with legislative powers in the early warning mechanism on subsidiarity (REGPEX), the RegHub network, and the Fit for Future Platform.

- As requested by the CoR, the Commission has considerably increased the use of the subsidiarity assessment grid proposed by the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing less more efficiently". The Fit for 55 package presented on 14 July 2021 included 7 subsidiarity assessment grids.
- The CoR launched on the Conference on the Future of Europe's digital platform the idea of using "active subsidiarity" to better involve parliaments, regions and cities in the shaping of European policies.27

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<tr>
<th>Proposed CoR measures and support activities in 2022 with timeline</th>
<th>Better Regulation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activities in support of the F4F Platform and the CoR contribution to the EU better regulation agenda will encompass the following measures:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• providing coordination and support for the participation of the CoR representatives in F4F and the RegHubs and contribution to the F4F annual work programme 2022;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• streamlining the CoR contribution to F4F and other better regulation activities by enhancing further cooperation with CoR commissions on better regulation, and with the ECON commission on RegHub-related matters;</td>
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<td>• mobilising all available resources and expertise on better regulation, including through enhanced involvement of the Subsidiarity Steering Group and Subsidiarity Expert Group in the preparation of CoR positions, and increased consultations with the Subsidiarity Monitoring Network and associations of local and regional authorities;</td>
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<td>• ensuring appropriate and timely follow-up to the F4F Platform's opinions;</td>
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<td>• undertaking to bring all CoR tools and methodologies for collecting and analysing territorial data together into one single better regulation toolbox, to also include Subsidiarity and RegHub consultations;</td>
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<td>• strengthening links with the Commission's better regulation toolbox and the tools developed by the European Parliamentary Research</td>
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Service;
- ensuring appropriate follow-up to the recommendations of the Opinion on *Better regulation: joining forces to make better laws* (to be adopted at the CoR Plenary session on 1-3 December 2021);
- possible joint organisation of a Better Regulation Conference in spring 2022 with the European Commission and the OECD.

**Active subsidiarity**
- Priority initiatives for 2022 will be set out in the Subsidiarity Work Programme 2022 put forward for adoption by the Subsidiarity Steering Group in consultation with the Subsidiarity Expert Group. These initiatives will identify priority policy areas for which the CIVEX commission will carry out oversight and cooperate closely with other commissions.
- Further review process of the subsidiarity monitoring activities of the CoR with a view to defining a new Subsidiarity Strategy of the CoR after 10 years
- Organisation of the biennial Subsidiarity Conference in 2022

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<tr>
<th>Key interinstitutional developments for follow-up and indicative timeline for implementation</th>
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<td>- April/May 2022: final report of the Conference on the Future of Europe – follow-up to possible recommendations relating to subsidiarity</td>
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<td>- May-September 2022: the 10th Subsidiarity Conference should build on the momentum of the Conference on the Future of Europe by coming forward with proposals to make subsidiarity more operational, through a more circular approach to legislation, regulatory processes and EU spending programmes. Another issue at stake will be to reflect on the compatibility of the active subsidiarity concept with the better regulation agenda, the Fit for Future initiative, the work of the RegHub network and territorial impact assessments as multi-governance tools for improving European legislation, evaluating European policies and effectively enabling greater citizen involvement.</td>
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<td>Policy area</td>
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<td><strong>CoR commission</strong></td>
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<td>Policy objectives, key challenges and impact indicators</td>
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**EU Enlargement (JCCs and WGs)**
- Continuous public discussion of EU enlargement is needed at regional level and across Europe to ensure that the European prospects of the countries which share EU values remain on the agenda. The CoR is actively working to prepare local and regional authorities in these countries for their future responsibilities in the EU, to ensure that their voice is heard in the enlargement process, to foster decentralisation reforms and to boost territorial cooperation.
- The CoR is stepping up its efforts to engage in peer-to-peer cooperation with local and regional authorities in the Western Balkan countries, as it is among the best ways to boost their capacities and support local democracy.

**European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) (ARLEM and CORLEAP)**
- The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) promotes awareness and action at local and regional level on the fundamental EU values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, human rights and the rule of law, which must be protected and respected even in times of emergency, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. These values should also be at the core of the external relations of the EU, which the CoR is supporting on a sub-national level.
- The key challenges in working with neighbouring countries are linked to the lack of political stability, as well as the generally slow advance of reforms towards more democratic political systems that are respectful of human rights.

**Development cooperation**
- Development challenges vary considerably not only in different countries and world regions, but also in different types of territories (urban, rural, sparsely populated, etc.) within a given country. Consequently, there is a need for specific policies and measures, respecting the context of a zone, country, region or sub-national area. LRAs are often the most familiar with the development challenges of their own territory and provide many services that are essential to
meet the SDGs, in areas such as health systems, sanitation, education, transport and energy systems and water and waste management. Therefore, their cooperation initiatives can make a major contribution to achieving the SDGs globally.

- Build on the increased recognition given to local and regional authorities as active policy-makers in contributing to the stability of the EU neighbourhood and to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Improve and increase LRA participation in EU development policy and raise awareness of the universal nature of the SDGs, including their external dimension.
- Support LRAs in implementing and monitoring the SDGs.
- Promote development cooperation between LRAs in the EU and partner countries to determine challenges and priorities, exchange good practices and foster concrete cooperation initiatives contributing to achieving the SDGs and monitoring the process thereof.

**EU-UK relations (CoR-UK Contact Group)**

- The relationship of the European Union with the United Kingdom is still very much determined by the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), which prioritises the "intergovernmental" relationship, omits to involve local and regional authorities, and whose implementation is still a work in progress, and by the circumstances of management of the pandemic. In part for these reasons, the relationship lacks territorial "depth". In this still-transitional period of shaping the new relationship with the UK, the CoR-UK Contact Group (CG) remains the only institutional structure in place for ensuring dialogue between EU and UK local and regional authorities. The CoR should look for ways to involve the CG the works of the EP delegation to the Parliamentary Partnership Assembly. Moreover, the CoR should contribute to setting a positive agenda for territorial co-operation with UK local and regional authorities based on new avenues.

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**IMPACT INDICATORS FOR ALL THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS:**

- policy changes and changes in administrative behaviour
- legislative measures setting up the basis for necessary reforms
- administrative measures setting up a relevant administrative structure for implementing the adopted legislation
- participatory processes including the involvement of civil society and other stakeholders including academic networks.
- Organisational capacity (skills, structures, resources) – relevant activities relating to education and training and life-long learning
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<tr>
<th>Progress report summary on the fulfilment of the policy objectives in 2021</th>
<th>For Enlargement:</th>
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<td></td>
<td>• The president reiterated in a letter to the Slovenian Presidency the CoR's willingness to contribute towards a solution to the dispute on setting up a Community/Association of Serb Municipalities in Kosovo. The CoR's longstanding request to expand the TAIEX programme to Western Balkans LRAs was announced by the acting DG of DG NEAR, Maciej Popowski.</td>
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<td>For CORLEAP:</td>
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<td>• CORLEAP's proposal to establish an EaP Academy for Public Administration was taken up as a priority deliverable and endorsed at the 6th EaP Summit in December 2021.</td>
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<td>• The 10th Annual CORLEAP meeting of 14 December 2021 was held ahead of the EaP Summit of 15-16 December 2021. With the participation of the President of the Republic of Moldova, aiming at joining the voices of the LRAs to the Summit's decision on re-shaping the Eastern Partnership.</td>
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<td>• CORLEAP adopted recommendations to heads of state or government ahead of the EaP leader's meeting in June 2020 and presented them in view of the 6th Summit.</td>
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<td>• CORLEAP held a joint workshop with the Euronest on Green regions and cities in resilient and sustainable Eastern Partnership economies during the EUREgionsWeek.</td>
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<td>• Preparatory work for the next phase of peer-to-peer cooperation with Ukrainian cities with support of the EUACI programme was launched.</td>
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<td>For ARLEM:</td>
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<td>• The CoR plenary adopted the opinion on Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood – A new Agenda for the Mediterranean on 30 June 2021 (Rapporteur: Vincenzo Bianco (IT/PES). As</td>
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rapporteur, Mr Bianco has been participating in several meetings of the Union for the Mediterranean and other stakeholders to explain the key messages of the opinion. This opinion is part of the contribution of the CIVEX Commission to the Impact Report 2021 – COR-2021-05205-00-00-TCD-TRA.

- At the sixth Regional Forum in Barcelona in November 2021, the co-presidency of the Union for the Mediterranean encouraged ARLEM to continue amplifying the voices of local and regional authorities and to promote the territorialisation of the Euro-Mediterranean sectoral policies.
- ARLEM is organising the fourth edition of the ARLEM award Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean, opening up new cooperation perspectives notably with the members of its evaluation committee: DG NEAR, the JRC, the ETF, the UfM, EUROCHAMBRES, Anima Invest, Medcities, the Intermediterranean commission of CPMR and Womenpreneur.

For the Nicosia Initiative:
- The added value of the CoR’s Nicosia Initiative of cooperation with Libyan municipalities was manifested through the start of the two projects REBUILD and TAMSALL in the beginning of the year, making it possible to continue the strand of continuous learning for Libyan municipalities. The projects had their first steering group meetings after the summer with active participation by the CoR.
- Flanders and Transparency International also continued their activities for local integrity systems. CIVEX held a seminar in Rome in December 2021 to inspire other partnerships along this model of cooperation.
- An external CIVEX seminar was organised in Rome 9-10 December 2021 together with ANCI on the theme of Building territorial partnerships: The experience of local and regional authorities in the Nicosia Initiative to support Libyan municipalities. It included 45 registered members.

For development cooperation:
- The forum Cities and regions for international partnerships was organised as a digital event on 29-30 November 2021 focusing on sustainable and green recovery as well as participatory citizenship and good governance.
- The CoR contributed to the EC’s feasibility study about the future of the Portal of Decentralised Cooperation. An integration of LRAs into the new Teams Europe Partnership Portal emerged as the option favoured by DG INTPA.
- The European Committee of the Regions participated with a digital stand at the European Development Days on 15-16 June 2021 and several members spoke at the event.

**For the CoR-UK CG:**
- High-ranking MEPs participated in all three CG meetings in 2021. Andreas Schieder (Austria/S&D), the standing AFET rapporteur on the EU-UK relationship, committed to finding ways to involve the CG in the works of the EP delegation to the Interparliamentary Assembly.
- Loïg Chesnais-Girard (France/PES), chair of the CG, also acted as CoR rapporteur on the Brexit Adjustment Reserve (in the ECON commission) and was influential in leaving a strong territorial footprint in the final regulation.
- The interactions with academic networks were strengthened (EPC, CASE-study on restoring lost connections\(^{28}\), different professors were invited to CoR-UK CG meetings, etc.)
- The CoR launched on the Conference on the Future of Europe's digital platform the idea of Developing links between the EU and the UK with the support of local and regional authorities\(^{29}\).

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<th>Proposed CoR measures and support activities in 2022 with timeline</th>
<th>Enlargement</th>
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<tr>
<td>- The flagship Enlargement Day will be held on 6-7 July 2022 (tbc) with the JCCs and working groups meeting on the first day. The E-Day and the enlargement bodies will form an integrated approach to enlargement together with an opinion on the latest Enlargement Package, and peer-to-peer activities in the Western Balkans. The CoR will continue to address the danger of &quot;local state capture&quot; as raised in the Local Democracy Challenges in the Western Balkans opinion (Nikola Dobroslavic, HR/EPP), with a view to a subsidiarity-driven approach to rule of law in the enlargement countries.</td>
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**CORLEAP**
- CORLEAP will continue feeding into the EaP multilateral architecture meetings (new name given to the former EaP platforms) that will be taking off in 2022.
- Two thematic reports will be drawn up in 2022 (one on localising the green agenda in the EaP and one on the role of decentralisation in of the democratic process in EaP countries) both aiming at enriching some horizontal CoR priorities (such as Local Democracy and the

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\(^{28}\) Restoring "lost connections" between the EU and the UK as a consequence of Brexit through local and regional authorities (europa.eu)

Green Deal).
• A study will be commissioned in support of one of the above-mentioned CORLEAP reports.
• Also within the new EaP architecture, CORLEAP will be closely following the creation of the EaP Green City concept (with DG Near in the lead).
• CORLEAP external Bureau (in spring 2022, in Moldova – tbc).
• The 11th Annual CORLEAP meeting will be organised in close cooperation with and as part of the EU Presidency's agenda (for the third time since CORLEAP's creation) in Liberec (CZ) on 2-3 November 2022.
• Furthermore, the exchange of good practices in public administration should be fostered (including by contributing to the conceptualisation of the EaP Academy for Public Administration and participation in the dedicated stakeholders' conference), and funding opportunities for local and regional authorities highlighted (updates of the studies on EU financial assistance available to LRAs in the EU's neighbourhood and enlargement regions have been contracted).

Working Group on Ukraine
• The Working Group (WG) will meet in line with the provisions of its Work Programme 2021-2025.
• Peer-to-peer exchanges with focus on transparency will be launched under the auspices of the WG and with the support of the European Commission's EUACI programme (more details below under "Development and peer-to-peer cooperation timeline").

ARLEM
• During 2022 ARLEM will start the new mandate after the change of CoR presidency by August 2022. Additionally, ARLEM will organise a commission meeting and a plenary during the year. The ARLEM award 2021 ceremony will take place as well as the launch of the ARLEM award 2022 during the second semester. ARLEM will take part in the UfM ministerial conferences: Research and Innovation (June 2022), Employment (first semester 2022), Urban Development (2022) and Transport (2022) (tbc).

Development cooperation
• The CoR's focus remains on promoting and showcasing the contribution of development cooperation partnerships on a local/regional level to achieving the SDGs, through related opinions, horizontal activities and events, and support for concrete cooperation actions such as the Nicosia Initiative.
Peer-to-peer cooperation timeline

- Exploring possibilities and putting to practical use the first results of the peer-to-peer cooperation survey among CoR members launched in the end of 2021; second round of survey if pilot proves useful;
- Co-organising with the EU Delegation in Skopje a matchmaking event in Skopje, on 15 December, in hybrid format, for Macedonian municipalities and their EU counterparts;
- The new phase of peer-to-peer cooperation with Ukraine will be launched and implemented during the year, with the support of the EUACI programme and its "Integrity cities" concept, focusing on anti-corruption measures and on raising transparency of public administration;
- Peer-to-peer cooperation activities with Libya will be followed-up with possible new and old peer-to-peer initiatives considered for other partner countries in the Southern Neighbourhood and, if feasible, expanding into new thematic areas;
- Following up from the forum in 2021, possible CoR contribution to LRA-related events connected to the EU-African Union summit in February 2022;
- Active participation in the European Development Days in June 2022;
- Possible workshop linked to ARLEM and/or development cooperation during the European Week of Regions and Cities in October 2022;
- Political support and practical advice where possible to the EC for integrating LRAs into the new Team Europe Partnership Portal.

EU-UK Relations (CoR-UK Contact Group)

- Pending confirmation of the continuation of the CoR-UK CG at mid-term, three meetings should be organised in 2022:
  6th CoR-UK Contact Group meeting: January/February 2022 (possibly in UK (Wales), subject to invitation)
  Suggested topics:
    ➢ Supporting EU-UK civil society cooperation – preparing mid-term review of CoR-UK CG
  7th CoR-UK Contact Group meeting, June 2022
  8th CoR-UK Contact Group meeting, November 2022

- An own-initiative CIVEX opinion on strengthening the EU-UK relationship at subnational level and remedying Brexit's territorial impact (rapporteur Michael Murphy (Ireland/EPP) was launched on 11 October 2021 and will allow for increased institutional visibility in 2022.
| Key interinstitutional developments for follow-up and indicative timeline for implementation<sup>30</sup> | • Participation in the EaP foreign affairs ministerial meetings and other strategic conferences;  
• The Global Gateway Initiative on connectivity will be launched;  
• Full implementation of the Team Europe Partnership Portal, where private and public providers can showcase what they can offer as support to partner countries, should be available by the end of 2021;  
• The launch of accession negotiations with North Macedonia and Albania may give a new impetus to the work of JCC North Macedonia, and the CoR is working with other institutions towards the establishment of a Joint Consultative Committee with Albania. |

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<sup>30</sup> In the field of "A stronger Europe in the World" the EC is planning to adopt: "Amendment of the Blocking Statute Regulation", a "New Strategy on International Energy Engagement", a Joint Communication on "International Ocean Governance" and a Joint Communication on "A partnership with the Gulf"