



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

Brussels, 21 January 2022

**MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR TERRITORIAL COHESION POLICY AND  
EU BUDGET (COTER)**

**– 11 February 2022 –**

**ITEM 4.6**

**WORK PROGRAMME 2022**

**of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER)**

## **WORK PROGRAMME 2022**

### **of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER)**

#### **1. Introduction**

The 2022 Work Programme of the COTER commission was developed keeping in mind the CoR's overarching priorities for its current mandate<sup>1</sup>, the Strategic Guidelines for 2022 developed by the CoP<sup>2</sup>, as well as the European interinstitutional context, and in particular the *European Commission's Work Programme for 2022*<sup>3</sup>. It sets out the milestones for work to be carried out in 2022, ensuring continuity and coherence in delivering the CoR's political priorities.

The year 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 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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<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> COM(2021) 645 final and annexes, available at: [2022 Commission Work Programme – key documents | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/com_inf_21_645).

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" in view of 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 COTER commission

The remit of the *Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy (COTER)* covers the following fields:

1. EU Budget and Multiannual Financial Framework
2. Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion
3. Cohesion Policy Funds
4. Territorial Development, including the Territorial Agenda
5. Urban Policy
6. Spatial Planning and Housing
7. Territorial Cooperation including Cross-border Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies
8. Transport policy, TEN-T and Missing Links
9. Regional Statistics and Indicators

### 2.1 Priority policy areas<sup>4</sup>

The COTER commission will concentrate its efforts on the following priority policy areas with high relevance to the EU agenda and a direct impact on local and regional authorities:

1. Implementing cohesion policy in partnership
2. Just Transition
3. Cross-border Cooperation
4. Transport, including TEN-T and sustainable urban transport

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 COTER commission identified *one* specific **flagship initiative**:

#### 2.1.1 Flagship Initiative: Implementing cohesion policy in partnership

With a volume of EUR 392 billion for the 2021-2027 period, cohesion policy remains the main EU investment policy to implement the Treaty objective of strengthening the economic, social and territorial

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<sup>4</sup> 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.

cohesion of the EU and reducing the disparities between the levels of development of the various regions. With the entry into force of the new regulations on 1 July 2021, Member States are negotiating their Partnership Agreements with the European Commission, but generally only after they have presented their National Recovery and Resilience Plans relating to the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

Following the recommendations of the CoR Opinion<sup>5</sup> on effectively engaging local and regional authorities in the preparation of the Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes for the 2021-2027 period, the COTER commission will continue to politically assess the application of the partnership principle and the multilevel governance approach in the ongoing programming and upcoming implementation phase, as well as the coherence with the Recovery and Resilience Facility National Plans.

Europe's local and regional authorities have been at the forefront of Covid-19 crisis management over the last year. Even if the worst is behind us, the consequences are still being felt and the result of a survey carried out by the COTER commission showed a clear request to temporarily extend the flexibility measures included under the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII & CRII Plus). The COTER commission will cooperate with the European Court of Auditors to properly evaluate the impact of these emergency tools financed with cohesion policy funds, and will follow-up the implementation of the new REACT-EU regulation.

After the entry into force of the new cohesion policy regulations, the focus of the COTER commission will shift from legislative work towards the implementation and delivery of the new policy, as well as to promoting the concept of cohesion as an overall value of the EU. The COTER commission will continue promoting a new narrative on cohesion as an expression of solidarity between the Member States and their regions, in the long-term.

The COTER commission aims to closely cooperate with the French Presidency of the Council of the EU on cohesion policy in order to highlight the CoR's views on the 8th Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion through a Presidency referral.

The COTER commission will continue to promote the implementation of the principle of territorial cohesion, highlighting the need to pay special attention to territories facing natural, geographic and demographic handicaps, in line with Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

### **2.1.2 Just Transition**

The transition to a greener and digitalised future has a great impact on Europe's regions. The exit from coal production and use as well as the envisaged cuts on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Europe, while laying the foundations for cleaner environment and future-proof jobs, remain a structural challenge for the coal and energy-intensive regions. The new Just Transition Fund is designed to support the impacted areas, but it represents no direct substitute for directly lost livelihoods. As the implementation of this place-based instrument is still in its beginning, the COTER commission will follow closely its roll-out, and

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<sup>5</sup> COTER VII-012, rapporteur: Juraj Droba (SK/ECR).

will continue to engage local and regional authorities from relevant regions through targeted events and its consultative work.

The European Commission has proposed to phase out internal combustion engine cars by 2035 and replace them with zero emission road vehicles in order to achieve the objective of carbon neutrality. This is one key aspect of how to achieve the objectives of the Green Deal, but it will have a huge impact on regions with automotive industry and relevant supply industries. They will undergo a fundamental cross-cutting transformation process. This transition must make sure that the negative effects on regional growth and jobs are sufficiently addressed. A "Just transition for the automotive regions" must be foreseen and the relevant existing funds must address the transformation process in the automotive regions.

### 2.1.3 Cross-border Cooperation

According to Article 307 TFEU, the CoR has a particular role to play in cross-border co-operation. It therefore is the "natural" EU actor in putting forward comprehensive recommendations on the **future of cross-border cooperation** as part of the CoR's contribution to the Conference on the Future of Europe. During 2021, the CoR has carried out extensive public consultations on this topic, as well as a number of stakeholder meetings and studies; at the July 2021 Plenary, the CoR also adopted a Resolution on "**A Vision for Europe: The Future of Cross-Border Cooperation**"<sup>6</sup>.

The actions and policy proposals related to this policy priority will be based on the Resolution on "A Vision for Europe: The Future of Cross-Border Cooperation", which outlines a number of concrete proposals for cross-border cooperation and for the betterment of day-to-day conditions for citizens and businesses in European border regions. The first step in this regard will be to make sure that all the proposals are taken up by the Conference on the Future of Europe. Following the conclusions of the Conference, the COTER commission will assess the progress and define a strategy on the follow-up to the proposals taken up by the Conference, as well as those that might not be taken aboard.

The COTER commission will continue to underline that **cross-border cooperation** has clear European benefit for citizens, and make sure that the difficult lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic are taken into account in a meaningful way. It will aim to be involved in the discussions among the co-legislators on the matter, following up on its opinion on the European Cross-Border Mechanism<sup>7</sup> and especially look into resolving the existing administrative and legal border obstacles that continue to make the lives of border citizens and businesses challenging on occasions.

A good number of proposals from the 2018 opinion on **European Territorial Cooperation**<sup>8</sup> have been taken up by the co-legislators and in the coming year the COTER commission will closely follow the implementation of the **INTERREG Programmes**, especially when it comes to **Small Project Funds**,

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<sup>6</sup> RESOL-VII/014.

<sup>7</sup> COR-2018-03596-00-00-AC, rapporteur: Bouke Arends (NL/PES).

<sup>8</sup> COTER-VI/047, rapporteur: Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis (FR/EA).

which have been given a better structure in the upcoming programming period and on which the CoR issued a related opinion in 2017<sup>9</sup>.

Additionally, the COTER commission, in close cooperation with DG REGIO, will continue its work on **Cross-Border Public Services** and follow-up to the 2021 Opinion<sup>10</sup> of the CoR on the matter. In this regard, the CoR and the European Commission will present the results of an extensive study in the second half of 2022.

#### 2.1.4 **Transport, incl. TEN-T and Sustainable Urban Transport**

The COTER commission will continue its work on the transformation of the road transport system ("towards zero emission road transport") in the areas of alternative fuels infrastructure deployment and CO2 emission standards for cars and light vans. The opinion on these legislative files will be adopted in January 2022, and will feed into the broader debate on the need for a just transition for the regions that host automotive industry clusters.

The new Urban Mobility Initiative published in December 2021 will be at the centre of transport work for the COTER commission in 2022 and beyond. The decarbonisation and digitalisation of transport will be the key aspects for this policy field which is governed by subsidiarity. The COTER commission will continue to work closely with the European Commission/DG MOVE and promote a multi-level governance approach in this strategic area. A study on the subject will be conducted by an external contractor in close cooperation with the COTER Secretariat in Q1 2022. The COTER commission will also continue to monitor and feed in to the Horizon EU mission on climate-neutral and smart cities, which will also play a crucial role in this area.

The trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) Regulation defines the TEN-T network and its components. It is the infrastructure backbone of the internal market and provides for the connectivity of all regions. The eligibility of infrastructure components under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) are defined through the TEN-T regulation. The network is also defined in the Regulation and therefore it is of utmost importance for territorial cohesion and connectivity for all regions. The better integration of "urban nodes" into the TEN-T, improved connectivity with secondary networks and the completion of missing links, will also be central questions in the context of the forthcoming review.

More generally, the COTER commission will continue to monitor and contribute to fitness checks and other measures undertaken by the European Commission to ensure the suitability of the legislative framework in the context of the decarbonisation objectives set out under the Green Deal and the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Strategy.

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<sup>9</sup> COTER-VI/023, rapporteur: Pavel Branda (CZ, ECR).

<sup>10</sup> COTER-VII/005, rapporteur: Pavel Branda (CZ, ECR).

## 2.2 Other thematic issues

### 2.2.1 Regional statistics and indicators

The COTER commission will continue strengthening its ties with EUROSTAT and the ESPON Programme, in a continued effort to promote regionalised statistical indicators, and the development of tools and methodologies to support better policy-making. These efforts will play a role in the future foresight activities of the CoR and help deliver relevant content in support of the Pilot Action on Territorial Impact Assessments of the Territorial Agenda 2030.

### 2.2.2 European Union policy towards the outermost regions

The COTER commission will continue its discussion on territorial cohesion in outermost regions, following up on its previous opinion<sup>11</sup> on the matter, in order to ensure that the updated version of the EU's Strategy on these territories is appropriately considered by the new Communication on a "Renewed strategic partnership with the outermost regions", planned for the second quarter of 2022. The COTER commission could envisage adopting an opinion on the matter, contributing towards a discussion on the implementation of the updated strategic partnership with the EU's outermost regions.

### 2.2.3 EU Budget

The COTER commission will continue to follow all budget-related files, with special attention to development in the field of own resources, the issuance of EU bonds and bills and the financing of the European Green Deal, possibly also through an own-initiative opinion.

### 2.2.4 Macro-regions

Macro-regional strategies help to overcome traditional frontiers and administrative patterns. The COTER commission will continue to advocate for stronger macro-regional strategies, follow the European Commission's work on the implementation of existing macro-regions, and support the work towards the creation of new EU macro-regional strategies. In this respect, the COTER commission will follow up with the European Commission on adopting a macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian region and reflect on the possible creation of a macro-regional strategy for the Mediterranean.

### 2.2.5 EGTC

The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) is a key instrument for effectively organising and managing cross-border cooperation. The COTER commission, through the EGTC Platform, will continue to promote the implementation of the Regulation on the EGTC and will continue to support the further development of the EGTC, on the basis of interinstitutional cooperation, in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders and the interregional group on cross-border cooperation (see the EGTC Annual Work Programme 2022<sup>12</sup> for further details). In this respect, the EGTC Platform will

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<sup>11</sup> COTER–VII/007, rapporteur: Angel Victor Perez (ES/PES).

<sup>12</sup> COR-2022-00077-00-00-TCD-TRA.

organise the 12th EGTC Platform meeting, a conference on Cross-Border Tourism in cooperation with INTERACT, the 2022 EGTC Awards, the 2nd Borders Forum in cooperation with MOT and a meeting of EGTC National and Regional Authorities.

## 2.2.6 Urban Policy

Since the adoption of the New Leipzig Charter- The transformative power of cities for the common good – at the Informal Ministerial Meetings organised on 30 November 2020, the Trio Presidencies of the EU (Germany, Portugal and Slovenia) have been working towards the launch of a new phase of the Urban Agenda for the EU and its 14 Partnerships. This renewal process reached a very pivotal moment on 26 November 2021 with the adoption of the Ljubljana Agreement, which will update the Urban agenda rules of procedure and four new themes for partnerships.

The COTER commission will ensure its close involvement in this process and based on the main recommendations expressed by the CoR Opinion on this matter<sup>13</sup>, will contribute to the discussions on the new list of priority topics under the French and Czech presidencies of the EU over the course of 2022. Moreover, the COTER commission will also promote the participation of urban authorities in the new thematic partnerships of the relevant urban partnerships, in order to capitalise on the results of their work. The new pact has expressly mentioned the need to further involve small places in EU policies and initiatives. In this view, the COTER Commission envisages to adopt an Opinion on the role of small urban areas as key actors of a just transition over the first semester of 2022.

Following the decision to set up a new European Urban Initiative (Article 12 ERDF CF) and to dedicate an 8% share of the ERDF resources to supporting sustainable urban development (Article 11) over the current programming period 2021-2027, the COTER commission will participate in the governance of the future European Urban Initiative which will start to be operational by the second half of 2022. In this respect, the COTER commission will continue cooperating with the URBACT programme, aiming to strengthen capacities and transfer knowledge between cities.

### 3. Follow-up of opinions

The opinions of the European Committee of the Regions are the main political tools to convey the political viewpoint of CoR members to the other institutions of the European Union. In this 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 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 COTER commission will continue its excellent cooperation with the European Parliament's REGI, TRAN and BUDG committees, with the European Commission DGs, EUROSTAT, and with the Council.

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<sup>13</sup> COTER-VII/001, rapporteur: Juan Espadas Cejas (ES/PES).



The COTER 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 European Parliament.

Where appropriate, the COTER commission will invite 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 to its meetings.

## **5. Cooperation with other organisations and bodies**

The COTER commission will continue to work closely with relevant European and national associations of regional and local governments (especially in the process of adopting opinions) and will encourage the exchange of information in areas of common interest. It will continue to promote its good relations and contacts with Eurocities, CEMR, CPMR, AER, AEBR, CALRE, and others, in particular with regard to promoting cohesion as an overall value of the EU, ensuring the proper application of the partnership principle in the implementation and delivery of the new cohesion policy, ensuring the synergies between cohesion policy and other policies. To this end, the COTER commission will also continue its strong engagement in the #CohesionAlliance.

The COTER commission will continue to work closely with the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) and the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives (CESCI) in the framework of the European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance on the issues of cross-border cooperation.

In line with the memorandum of understanding between the CoR and the OECD<sup>14</sup>, the COTER commission will continue to strengthen its cooperation with the OECD, in particular in the area of regional and urban development. To this end, COTER will in particular invite the OECD to present its activities on policy matters relevant to COTER remits in upcoming COTER commission meetings.

The CoR is a permanent institutional member of the European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC) at a Director/Head of Unit level, representing the position of local and regional authorities. The COTER commission will continue to promote the CoR's objective of feeding the territorial perspective into ESAC's work. With a view to enriching and further targeting its consultative work, the COTER commission will continue to cooperate with other international centres of expertise, such as EUKN<sup>15</sup> and the EPRC<sup>16</sup>.

The COTER commission will maintain regular contact with the ESPON Programme, oversee the implementation of the CoR/ESPO joint Action Plan<sup>17</sup> and work towards the maintenance of regular cooperation between the two organisations beyond 2022.

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<sup>14</sup> COR-2014-05891-13-01-NB-TRA.

<sup>15</sup> European Urban Knowledge Network.

<sup>16</sup> European Policies Research Centre.

<sup>17</sup> COR-2021-03354-07-01-NB-TRA.

## 6. Complementary activities

### Organisation of Conferences and Seminars

As outlined in the thematic section, the COTER commission intends to organise or cooperate with other institutional players in organising events linked to the priorities of its consultative agenda.

The following external events will be organised:

- An external meeting and conference in Prague, Czech Republic, on the topic of "Investing in the decarbonisation and modernisation of public transport"
- A study visit to Hanover, Germany, on the topic of "The importance of regions for successful deployment of the Structural Funds to implement the Green Deal and achieve sustainable mobility – examples from Lower Saxony"
- In the framework of the EGTC Platform, the COTER commission plans to organise:
  - Conference on Cross-Border Tourism in cooperation with INTERACT, Brussels, BE
  - 2nd Borders Forum, in cooperation with Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, Paris, FR
  - Meeting of National and Regional EGTC Authorising Authorities in cooperation with the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Budapest, HU
  - 12th EGTC Platform meeting in cooperation with Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa and the Liberec Region, Liberec, CZ

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**N.B.:** Annex and Appendices overleaf.

## APPENDIX I

### List of documents already attributed to the COTER commission to be dealt with in 2022

<b>Reference of European Commission document</b>	<b>Title of European Commission document</b>	<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Scheduled adoption by the CoR</b>
n/a	Towards a macro-regional strategy in the Mediterranean	Own-initiative	tbc
COM(2021) 556 final COM(2021) 559 final COM(2021) 560 final	Towards zero emission road transport: Deploying alternative fuels infrastructure and strengthening CO2 emission performance standards	Mandatory referral	January 2022
Not yet published	8th report on economic, social and territorial cohesion	Presidency referral	April 2022
JOIN(2021) 27 final	A stronger EU engagement for a peaceful, sustainable and prosperous Arctic	Own-initiative	June 2022
n/a	Small urban areas as key actors to manage a just transition	Own-initiative	June 2022
COM(2021) 810 final COM(2021) 812 final	Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)	Mandatory referral	October 2022 (tbc)
COM(2021) 811 final	The New EU Urban Mobility Framework	Own-initiative	October 2022 (tbc)

## APPENDIX II

### List of the principal legislative and non-legislative proposals corresponding to the political priorities of the COTER commission for 2022<sup>18</sup>

Reference of European Commission document	Title of European Commission document	Procedure	Scheduled adoption by the CoR
<b>Transport, incl. TEN-T and Sustainable Urban Transport</b>			
2022 Commission Work Programme	Multimodal digital mobility services	Mandatory referral	tbc
<b>European Union policy towards the outermost regions</b>			
2022 Commission Work Programme	Renewed strategic partnership with the outermost regions	Non-legislative	tbc

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<sup>18</sup> The list is indicative and subject to change.

## APPENDIX III

### Explanatory sheet for each priority policy area

Policy area	Flagship initiative Implementing cohesion policy in partnership
<b>CoR Commission</b>	<b>COTER</b>
Policy objectives, key challenges and impact indicators	<p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– put forward the CoR's views on the 8th report on the economic social and territorial cohesion;</li> <li>– promote a new narrative on cohesion as an expression of solidarity between the Member States and their regions in the long-term;</li> <li>– monitor the application of the principles of partnership and multilevel governance in the programming and implementation phases of the European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027.</li> <li>– follow-up the implementation of the REACT-EU regulation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Challenges:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– ensure that the elaboration and implementation of the Partnership Agreements and programmes for 2021-2027 fully complies with the principles of partnership and multilevel governance;</li> <li>– provide relevant evidence on the impact of key EU policies in ensuring the cohesion of the European Union;</li> <li>– strengthen the place-based approach, multilevel governance, and a strong partnership principle in delivering EU key policies and initiatives other than cohesion policy.</li> </ul> <p><u>Impact indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– proper application of the partnership principle by the Member States in the programming exercise;</li> <li>– disseminating the CoR's views in the 8th Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion report;</li> <li>– providing a proactive input of the CoR (and its partners) to the debate on cohesion as a value in the Conference on the Future of Europe.</li> </ul>
Progress report summary on the fulfilment of the policy objectives in 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Throughout the year the CoR has continued to advocate for a strong, effective and visible EU cohesion policy for all regions post-2020.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The CoR also provided its input to the discussion on the extension of the flexible measures introduced by the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII and CRII+) within cohesion policy regulations aimed at addressing the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.</li> <li>– The CoR closely cooperated with its partners in the strategic #CohesionAlliance, which played an important role in influencing the political discussion on the cohesion policy for 2021-2027, promoting the CoR's key policy recommendations vis-à-vis the co-legislators.</li> <li>– As a result, a number of key CoR recommendations have been taken on board in the final regulations which entered into force on 1 July 2021.</li> </ul>
Proposed CoR actions and support activities in 2022 with timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– After the entry into force of the new cohesion policy regulations, the focus of the COTER commission will shift from the legislative work towards the implementation and delivery of the new policy, and toward promoting the concept of cohesion as an overall value of the EU. In this respect, the COTER commission will undertake the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– the CoR will monitor the application of the principles of partnership and multilevel governance in the cohesion policy programming for 2021-2027;</li> <li>– the CoR will continue its close cooperation with the Cohesion Alliance partners in order to promote the above-mentioned objectives.</li> </ul> </li> <li>– A joint reaction of the Cohesion Alliance in view of the 8th Cohesion report (expected for early 2022) could be envisaged.</li> </ul>
Key interinstitutional developments for follow-up and indicative timeline for implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– February 2022: presentation of 8th Cohesion report by the European Commission.</li> <li>– During 2022: adoption of all partnership agreements and most of the operational programmes; beginning of the implementation phase in the Member States.</li> </ul>

<b>Policy area</b>	<b>Just Transition</b>
<b>CoR Commission</b>	<b>COTER</b>

<p>Policy objectives, key challenges and impact indicators</p>	<p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- making the voice of regions in transitions heard</li> <li>- helping them manage transitions from a local perspective</li> <li>- putting forward policy measures</li> <li>- addressing the concrete policy areas of a "just transition for the road transport sector" where automotive regions are concerned.</li> </ul> <p><u>Challenges</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Societal transition is hard to measure in qualitative and quantitative terms.</li> <li>- The just transition is a territorial policy, while funding is mostly thematically structured, creating the need for broad cross-policy integration to meet societal challenges, much like green and environmental policies, that now are integral parts of all EU policies.</li> <li>- The automotive sector is undergoing a fundamental cross-cutting transformation process towards zero-emission and digitally-connected vehicles. The whole automotive production and supply chain will be affected, requiring economic restructuring and re- and up-skilling of the concerned workforce.</li> </ul> <p><u>Impact indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- involvement of CoR members from regions in transition</li> <li>- stakeholder involvement and participation</li> <li>- influencing future policies and legislation (long-term)</li> <li>- impact on the legislative proposal on the revision of the CO<sub>2</sub> emission standards Regulation (COM(2021) 556)</li> <li>- high-level conference of the strong automotive regions to request a "just transition mechanism".</li> </ul>
<p>Progress report summary on the fulfilment of the policy objectives in 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creation of a multi-level dialogue on just transition in cooperation with DG REGIO (2x a year).</li> </ul>
<p>Proposed CoR actions and support activities in 2022 with timeline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coalition building with strong automotive regions to request a "just transition mechanism" for the automotive regions.</li> <li>- Build further on the successful cooperation with DG REGIO.</li> <li>- Confirm multi-level dialogue as an integral part of the regular meetings of the Just Transition Platform (Q2 2022 and Q4 2022).</li> <li>- Cooperation with WWF's Forum of Mayors on Just Transition.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Possibly an opinion on the implementation of the Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTJs).</li> </ul>
Key interinstitutional developments for follow-up and indicative timeline for implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 2022: start of the implementation of the TJTJs throughout regions.</li> <li>– Q2 2022: high-level conference of the strong automotive regions.</li> <li>– Q4 2022: possibly the Council conclusions on cohesion and just transition.</li> <li>– Throughout 2022: discussion on the legislative proposal on the revision of the CO2 emission standards regulation.</li> </ul>

<b>Policy area</b>	<b>Cross-border cooperation</b>
<b><i>CoR commission</i></b>	<b>COTER</b>
Policy objectives, key challenges and impact indicators	<p><u>Objectives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Based on the Resolution on a vision for Europe: Future of Cross-Border Cooperation, which outlines a number of proposals for cross-border cooperation, the COTER commission will make sure that all the proposals are taken up by the Conference on the Future of Europe.</li> <li>– Following the conclusions of the Conference, the COTER commission will assess the progress and define its strategy on the follow-up of the proposals taken up by the Conference, as well as those that might not be taken on board.</li> <li>– Follow up on the proposed European Cross-Border Mechanism (ECBM) Regulation, and start the reflexion period on possible alternatives if the proposal is dropped.</li> <li>– Follow up on the implementation of the European Territorial Cooperation (INTERREG) programmes, especially when it comes to the Small Project Fund which has been, for the first time, clearly defined in the Regulation.</li> <li>– Work with the European Commission on the issue of cross-border public services and the related study and online platform.</li> <li>– Build on the newly established partnership with cross-border organisations (MOT, CESCO and AEBR) within the framework of the European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance.</li> </ul>



	<p><u>Challenges</u></p> <p>The main challenge will be to have all, or the majority of all proposals on the future of cross-border cooperation taken up by the Conference on the Future of Europe. Another challenge will be the outcome of debates in the Council on the European Cross-Border Mechanism (ECBM) Regulation, and what dropping the proposal will mean for the future of cross-border cooperation, especially when it comes to cross-border obstacles.</p> <p><u>Impact indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of new EGTCs.</li> <li>- Number of new EGTCs as a result of the new requirements in the ETC Regulation (Small Project Fund).</li> <li>- Number of the proposals from the CoR Resolution on a vision for Europe: Future of Cross-Border Cooperation, taken up by the Conference on the Future of Europe.</li> <li>- Timely launch of the Platform on Cross-Border Cooperation on the CoR website, with a focus on cross-border public services, as part of a large study of the European Commission on the topic, in which the COTER commission is closely involved.</li> </ul>
<p>Progress report summary on the fulfilment of the policy objectives in 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The COTER commission organised the following related events in 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cross-border rail connections: fostering cohesion between regions and their citizens, in cooperation with the EGTC Pamina, on 10 and 11 June 2021, online;</li> <li>- Conference on the Future of Cross-Border Cooperation, in cooperation with the European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance members, on 7 July 2021, online;</li> <li>- the 11th EGTC Platform meeting in cooperation with Euroregion Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino and the Land of Tyrol, on 30 September and 1 October, in Innsbruck, AT.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- EU-wide public consultations on the future of cross-border cooperation were organised in cooperation with the European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance, gathering 340 replies from European border region entities from all Member States (except Lithuania), with the majority of them located in Italy, Germany and France, followed by Poland, Croatia, the Netherlands and Austria. Additionally, regions from non-EU countries (Switzerland, Norway, Serbia, Andorra, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom) also answered the survey.</li> <li>- Seven brainstorming meetings were organised on the future of cross-border cooperation, within the COTER commission (2), the Interregional Group on Cross-Border Cooperation (2), as</li> </ul>

	<p>well as a number of stakeholders such as INTERACT (1), INTERREG managing authorities (1) and the EGTC Platform (1).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Three new EGTCs were registered (EGTC Kvarken, EGTC European Campus of Studies and Research, and EGTC Pirineos-Pyrénées), and three were modified.</li> </ul>
Proposed CoR measures and support activities in 2022 with timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– April 2022: Conference on Cross-Border Tourism in cooperation with INTERACT, Brussels, BE.</li> <li>– June 2022: 2nd Borders Forum, in cooperation with Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, Paris, FR.</li> <li>– September 2022: meeting of national and regional EGTC authorising authorities in cooperation with the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Budapest, HU.</li> <li>– September 2022: presentation of the Platform and the results of the <i>Study on cross-border public services</i> (cooperation with DG REGIO).</li> <li>– November 2022: 12th EGTC Platform meeting in cooperation with Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa and the Liberec Region, Liberec, CZ.</li> </ul>
Key interinstitutional developments for follow-up and indicative timeline for implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Make sure that the proposals from the CoR Resolution on "A Vision for Europe: The Future of Cross-Border Cooperation" are taken on board by the Conference on the Future of Europe.</li> <li>– Finalise the work on the European Commission's Study <i>Cross-border public services</i> that will result in an online platform which will map out cross-border public services in Europe, and more widely the complexity of cross-border cooperation.</li> </ul>

Policy area	Transport policy, incl. sustainable urban mobility and TEN-T
<b>CoR commission</b>	<b>COTER</b>
Policy objectives, key challenges and impact indicators	<p><u>Objectives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Link transport to the Green Deal and the need for decarbonisation; ensure due focus on inclusive transition for rural as well as urban regions and as a prerequisite for territorial cohesion.</li> <li>– Work on the new "urban mobility initiative" which the Commission presented in December 2021, and which will shape urban mobility for the coming years; continue to advocate for a place-based approach in this central area of LRA competence.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Bring the regional perspective into the revision of the Trans-European Transport network (TEN-T), building on (among other things) the experiences of regions to date as highlighted during the EYR 2021.</li> <li>– Facilitate the implementation of the Horizon EU Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission.</li> <li>– Continue working on the road towards zero-emission road transport (alternative fuels infrastructure deployment and CO<sub>2</sub> emission standards for cars and light vans).</li> </ul> <p><u>Challenges</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The subsidiarity principle needs to apply to urban mobility while many decarbonisation and digitalisation aspects that will transform our mobility system (including urban mobility) are regulated at EU level. This needs to be reconciled via a multi-level governance approach.</li> <li>– Risk of exacerbating the urban/rural divide through the transformation of the transport system, especially in alternative fuels in road transport and where missing links are not completed.</li> <li>– Ensuring transformation of the transport system in an economically sustainable and socially fair manner.</li> <li>– Development of digital solutions for an integrated and sustainable mobility system (mobility services to address market gaps in the combined use of transport modes, including rail) and their impact on territorial and social cohesion.</li> </ul> <p><u>Impact indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Transport- and mobility-related CoR policy recommendations, and references in relevant legislative files or papers/studies.</li> <li>– CoR involvement in the Horizon EU Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission.</li> <li>– Continued close cooperation with DG MOVE (joint outreach workshops etc.) and other Commission DGs as appropriate.</li> <li>– CoR input to REFIT exercises in the transport sector (incl. via RegHub).</li> </ul>
<p>Progress report summary on the fulfilment of the policy objectives in 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Several policy recommendations of the CoR opinion on the <i>Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy</i> have been tabled by MEPs in the TRAN Committee as amendments to the TRAN report.</li> <li>– In the preparation of the new "urban mobility initiative", a dedicated political session with the CoR was held in June 2021</li> </ul>

	<p>where CoR members were able to present the key aspects to achieving sustainable urban mobility at local level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Green Deal Going Local working group in October 2021 highlighted the role of the Cities Mission within the Horizon EU programme.</li> <li>– Uptake of a number of recommendations set out in the CoR opinion on the <i>European Year of Rail 2021</i> in both the final version of the legislative Decision as adopted by the co-legislators, and the June 2021 Council conclusions on reinforcing the role of rail in the context of the Green Deal.</li> <li>– Close cooperation with DG MOVE in ensuring a strong regional dimension to the European Year of Rail 2021 (organisation of ca. 70 regional events as part of the EYR following the CoR's outreach to stakeholders); CoR Members, regions and regional offices, were actively involved together with the COTER commission, In, inter-alia, the journey of the Connecting Europe Express in autumn 2021, and in EYR conferences with high-level political participation organised jointly with COTER).</li> </ul>
Proposed CoR actions and support activities in 2022 with timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Highlight the need for a just transition for the automotive regions in connection with the legislative proposals for alternative fuels infrastructure deployment and CO<sub>2</sub> emission standards for cars and light vans.</li> <li>– Actively engage in the discussion on the new "urban mobility initiative".</li> <li>– Facilitate the implementation of the Horizon EU Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission.</li> <li>– Contribute to the revision of the TEN-T Guidelines regulation as it is the basis for funding from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)</li> </ul>
Key interinstitutional developments for follow-up and indicative timeline for implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Early 2022: selection of the 100 candidates to become climate-neutral cities under the Horizon Cities Mission.</li> <li>– Q2 2022: high-level conference of the automotive regions to claim a just transition mechanism.</li> <li>– September: European Mobility Week.</li> </ul>