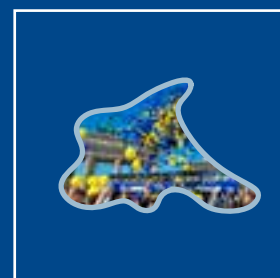




Europe.
It is all of us!

The German Delegation in the European Committee of the Regions



The German Lander and their cities, districts and municipalities

EN

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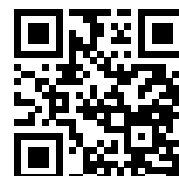




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Foreword

by the President of The European Committee
of the Regions

Apostolos TZITZIKOSTAS

President of The European Committee of the Regions

The German Presidency of the Council of the European Union comes at a time of monumental importance. During one of the most severe health crisis Europe and the whole world has ever faced, the German EU Presidency showed true leadership by bringing the member states together to agree an exceptional EU budget and recovery plan. All levels of government now need to be similarly decisive by cooperating, working across borders and delivering concrete results, leaving no region or person behind.

The German EU Presidency's priorities offer the foundations for a better future. Our shared challenge is to build an innovative, greener, more resilient and competitive Europe. A Europe that is fairer, sustainable, and grounded upon our common European fundamental values. To achieve these goals we need not only unprecedented investment, but a deeper partnership between the three levels of government. Let us not forget that it is the EU's local and regional governments on the front-line responding to the emergency, protecting lives and our economies. It is our regions, cities and villages who continue to deliver 70% of EU laws and two-thirds of public investment. Our recovery is synonymous with the efforts of local and regional leaders. When our regions and cities recover, Europe will recover.

This is why our Committee's five-year goals complement those of the German EU Presidency. We are determined to ensure the EU effectively supports every region, city, town and village so they can respond to the pandemic, and to challenges such as climate change, demographic change and migratory flows. Our Committee's is also determined to place cohesion as a fundamental value in all of the EU's policies, because cohesion is more than just money, it is a value that leads sustainable economic growth, creates long-term jobs and delivers place-based policies that meet the real needs of our communities. Cohesion binds our Union.

The European Committee of the Regions – the voice of all local and regional governments in the EU – was created 25 years ago on the initiative of the German Länder and Chancellor Helmut Kohl. This was the first formal recognition that the EU, national, regional and

local levels of governments equally play a vital part in protecting democracy. This legacy of democracy must be strengthened during these turbulent times that will define Europe's future. We must reach out to the one million regional and local elected politicians to use their experience and closeness to local communities. Local and regional governments are Europe's democratic foundations and its safety net. The one million trusted democratic leaders can help Europe reach citizens. We do not need to reinvent the wheel, we just need to look deeper in the heart of Europe. We need to look to and build upon successful democratic models such as Germany's federal state system to make Europe stronger.

The pandemic must be the turning point for Europe. Taking leadership, respecting our differences, and assuming responsibility for our common future of Europe must be all of our priorities. The European Committee of the Regions will soon begin work on the Conference on the Future of Europe representing the interests of all regions and cities. We are determined to work with the other EU institutions to enable local and regional governments to deliver projects in our communities. Our Committee would highly value and welcome every German Länder and city to join us, so that all of Europe can benefit from our knowledge, experience, innovation, and political leadership. By joining forces, we will send a message across Europe that we are determined to come and work **Together for Europe's Recovery**, for our common home, for a resilient Europe closer to its people.

Apostolos TZITZIKOSTAS

Introduction

by the Chair of the German Delegation to the European Committee of the Regions

Dr. Mark Speich

Chair of the Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX); Chair of the German Delegation



Dear Readers,

The European Union is not only a union of nation states, but also a union of regions and cities. The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is the only European institution through which regional and local politicians participate in European decision-making processes. Its task is to assess in concrete terms how European Union legislative projects will affect citizens in the regions and cities. The members of the CoR are committed to ensuring that the concerns, needs and challenges of the regions and cities and thus of the citizens on the ground are heard in Brussels.

The 24 full and 24 alternate members of the German delegation to the CoR are representatives of the Länder and local authorities, legitimised by elections. They vote on CoR decisions in the plenary assembly. At the same time, they participate actively in the six CoR commissions and constitute three members of the CoR Bureau, which decides on the CoR's political priorities. In this brochure, we present the members of the German delegation and their work in the CoR.

The brochure is published on the occasion of the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2020. The agenda of this Presidency is focused on issues that will have an impact well beyond the six months of the German Presidency. Major challenges set the course for the future of the European Union.

The Conference on the Future of Europe is a key instrument and a unique opportunity for the European Union to reflect on its future structure, its political objectives and the relationship with its citizens. For the CoR, the key question is the role of regions and cities in the future European Union. Regional and local politicians play a crucial role in the relationship between the European Union and its citizens. Metaphorically speaking, they are the hinge between these two levels. The members of the CoR combine their regional or local function in their home country with the task of making their expertise and the voice of the people on the ground heard in European politics. At the same time, they communicate the

political decisions of the European Union to the regional and local level. In my view, the European Union can only become stronger if greater importance is attached to this mediating function of regional and local politicians in its future structure.

I wish you an interesting reading!

Dr. Mark Speich



Baden-Württemberg



Guido Wolf
Member

„We want the voice of the regions and local authorities to be heard at the EU level. We want more and not less room for manoeuvre. Europe needs a bottom-up approach“

Minister of Justice and European Affairs of the State of Baden-Württemberg
Member of the CIVEX and COTER commissions

Political Group: EPP

/GuidoWolfinfo



Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Reinhart
Alternate Member

„Baden-Württemberg lies at the heart of Europe. Our state is front runner in research and development, export champion and growth driver among the 111 European regions. As part of the cross-border Upper Rhine area, as a driving force behind the cooperation within the Danube area and as one of the “Four Motors for Europe”, Baden-Württemberg is a pioneer and forerunner in interregional cooperation. Without the strong voice of the regions, Europe cannot succeed. Baden-Württemberg lives this active and diverse “Europe of the regions”, which preserves regional identities and promotes subsidiarity. In the regions, Europe can be experienced. This is where the idea becomes concrete reality. For Baden-Württemberg and all European regions, Europe is a vital question. Also in the future they must be the carriers, driving force and shapers of Europe.“

Member of the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg

Political Group: EPP

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Baden-Württemberg



Muhterem Aras
Member

„Europe needs the regions. We have a role to play in making the voices of the citizens audible and in integrating their expectations of Europe into the work of the EU.

My guiding principle is that we need both strong, sovereign regions and a Europe that cooperates more.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences encourage me in this. The situation was and is different in rural, sparsely populated regions from urban centres. This also means that the measures that we take, as those responsible on the ground, take differ. But they only take effect if they are embedded in an overall strategy at national and European level.“

President of the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg
Member of the ECON and ENVE commissions
Political Group: The Greens
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Josef Frey
Alternate Member

„In my home region at the border triangle, I constantly move between Germany, Switzerland and France. I can see on a daily basis the direct added value of European and cross-border cooperation. Through my work in the CoR, I want to continue building bridges between the countries of Europe and to support the deepening of cross-border cooperation at the regional level across Europe.“

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Freistaat Bayern



Dr. Florian Herrmann
Member

„The European regions are close to the people and can thus address issues locally in a quick and effective manner. They furthermore serve as guarantors for safeguarding the diversity of European cultures. These strengths I would like to further expand with the help of the Committee of the Regions.“

Minister for Federal and European Affairs and for Media of the State of Bavaria
Member of the Bavarian State Parliament
Member of the ECON and COTER commissions
Political Group: EPP



Tobias Gotthardt
Alternate Member

„The Committee of the Regions is the strong voice of local and regional authorities in Europe – and an essential building block of a Europe of Citizens. Together with the state parliaments, we ground the European project. We advance the European system and bring the idea of Europe closer to its citizens. Especially in times of national differences, the regions are a constructive and pragmatic link in Europe: a catalyst for a Europe that delivers. What counts for us is a clear wording and the concrete action – this is the Bavarian way in the Committee of the Regions.“

Member of the Bavarian State Parliament
Political Group: RENEW Europe
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Freistaat Bayern



Dr. Franz Rieger
Member

„The Committee of the Regions is an important institution because it makes regional diversity more visible and more present at the European level. In fact, it is the relevant EU institution for the regions to exert a greater say and to influence decision-making in the EU. Bavaria has particularly contributed to the foundation of the CoR. This we are very proud of because the CoR helps to breathe life into the principle of subsidiarity.“

Member of the Bavarian State Parliament
Member of the SEDEC and ENVE commissions
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Florian Siekmann
Alternate Member

„As Member of Parliament, the Committee of the Regions for me is a valuable institution because it enables me to exchange views across borders with colleagues from other Member States. But it is not only a platform to exchange best practices and to develop new ideas. It is also the public body for regions to contribute directly to European Union policies. In the end, most of European legislation must be implemented on the local level. Therefore, regional and local authorities must also have an opportunity to participate in policy on the European level. In times of climate crisis, all levels must work hand in hand to lead the European Union into the future.“

Member of the Bavarian State Parliament
Political Group: The Greens
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Gerry Woop
Member

„The challenges faced by cities in the European Union are greater than ever when it comes to achieving sustainable social and economic cohesion. The New Leipzig Charter, whose development process is closely accompanied by Berlin, outlines ways and principles with which cities can carry out the necessary transformations: urban policy for the common good, integrated approach, participation and co-creation, multi-level governance. The New Leipzig Charter also renews the commitment to the Urban Agenda for the EU. Within the CoR, Berlin is committed to continuing the Urban Agenda and to linking it more closely to the EU policy-making process. Urban interests must be fully taken into account in the formulation and implementation of European policies at all levels.“

State Secretary for Europe of Berlin
Member of the SEDEC and COTER commissions
Political Group: PES
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Karin Halsch
Alternate Member

„We have had a successful partnership between Berlin and Brandenburg for decades. Our metropolitan region has evolved into an internationally sought-after spot of culture and film industry. The European regions offer a diverse culture. This is a great strength. We should use this resource to improve citizens' support of the European idea. As a community of states we need the public's confidence, if we want to play a role in the future political world scene. In the SEDEC commission I will convey Berlin's cultural identity and work on combining the cultural power of all regions for a forward-looking European policy.“

Member of the Berlin House of Representatives
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Jobst-Hinrich Ubbelohde
Member

„Decisions are made at the EU level that have a direct impact on Brandenburg. We can strengthen our citizens' trust in the EU by incorporating our regional characteristics and interests into European decision-making processes. Brandenburg, as an eastern federal state, capital region, and part of a common interaction area with western Poland, has unique interests. In the Committee of the Regions, I want to give them a voice.“

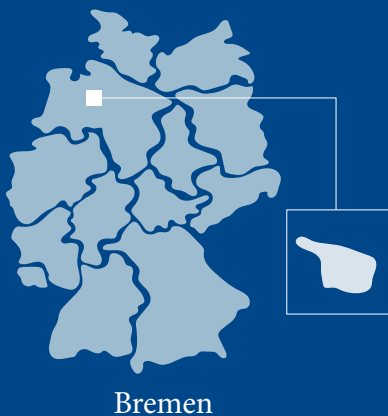
State Secretary for Europe of the State of Brandenburg
Member of the COTER and NAT commissions
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Barbara Richstein
Alternate Member

„The CoR facilitates fruitful exchanges and mutual learning between its members and the region they represent. At the same time, it provides a wonderful platform for regional policy within the EU. I am convinced that it is precisely the involvement of the regions and regional parliaments in the European decision-making process that contributes to an EU policy that is closer to its citizens. This also strengthens European cohesion.“

Vice President of the State Parliament of Brandenburg
Spokeswoman for Europe, integration and migration, dealing with the victims of the SED dictatorship, human rights
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Dr. Henrike Müller
Member

„A strong Europe can only be built if it can count on the support of its citizens. For this reason, the members of the European Committee of the Regions with their inbuilt closeness to Europe's citizens are of crucial importance. By practicing open dialogues about the European idea, they can convince citizens of the validity of the European idea. They are the link between the European institutions and the cities and municipalities in EU Member States.“

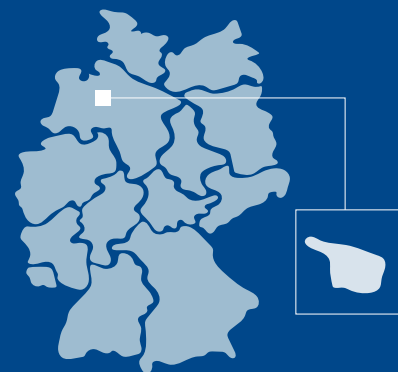
Member of State Parliament Free Hanseatic City of Bremen
Deputy Head of the Green Party in the State Parliament Free Hanseatic City of Bremen
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Cindi Tuncel
Alternate Member

„The EU should stop border closures, open legal escape routes and evacuate the EU hotspots on the Greek islands. Germany should take the lead and welcome 10.000 refugees.“

Member of the State Parliament Free Hanseatic City of Bremen
Speaker for Youth, Migration, Sports, European and International affairs and Seniors of the Left Party parliamentary group
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Bremen



Antje Grotheer
Member

„Bremen’s future lies in a strong Europe! Europe has always had the aim to ensure the peaceful and democratic coexistence of the people on our continent. A return to the national state cannot be the answer to the numerous challenges we are facing in the present. Much rather, the answer is a democratic, citizen-oriented and economically strong European Union with all its regions. The European Committee of the Regions contributes to this in a unique and indispensable way. A strong EU can only be achieved if we are close to the citizens.“

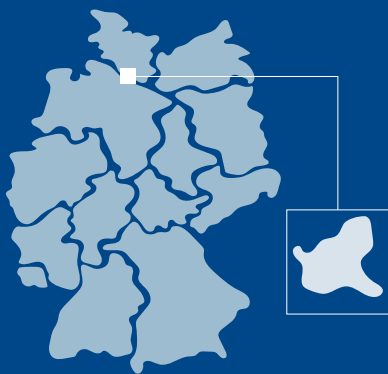
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Susanne Grobien
Alternate Member

„When it was founded 70 years ago, Europe was a security problem and a promise for peace to its citizens. In order to keep that promise in the future, we need a strong Europe more than ever!“

Member of State Parliament Free Hanseatic City of Bremen
 Chair of the Committee for Federal and European Affairs, International Contacts and Development Cooperation of the State Parliament Free Hanseatic City of Bremen
 Speaker for Ports and Science of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) parliamentary group
 Political Group: EPP
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Hamburg



Danial Ilkhanipour
Member *

„Hamburg has always had an international tradition. Tolerance and diversity beyond national borders are not only economically important but also culturally enriching. Especially in times of national tendencies of some people, it is our task as convinced Europeans to protect the European idea of freedom and community and to fight for it every day anew.

The port of Hamburg is the lifeline of our city and I would like to make a commitment to ensure that not only Hamburg but also the entire metropolitan region has a voice at European level.“

Member of the Hamburg State Parliament
Political Group: PES



Alske Freter
Alternate Member *

„I grew up in a unified Germany and in a unified Europe. In Hamburg we also consider our port as the “gateway to the world“. I live this unity, this diversity and this internationality every day and my values are European values. Through the Committee of the Regions, European values and European solidarity can be brought to the local communities and regions. That’s where European awareness can be promoted best. For this purpose transparency and dialogue play a crucial role.“

Member of the Hamburg State Parliament
Political Group: The Greens

* At the time of printing, the Council had not yet nominated the Member.




Hessen



Mark Weinmeister
Member



„Effectively representing the interests of our citizens should remain the main focus of the German members of the European Committee of the Regions, precisely because this is the task of the representatives from local and regional authorities who are therefore closest to the citizens. This is best done by dealing with the issues in a factual manner that have been decided at a European level and this has to be done across the borders of the Member States. I am therefore pleased that I am currently addressing citizens' concerns about an increasingly digitised society, in particular by serving as rapporteur on the Opinion on shaping Europe's digital future and a European data strategy.“

State Secretary for European Affairs for the State of Hessen
Member of the ECON and NAT commissions
Political Group: EPP
 /Kukushayner



Boris Rhein
Alternate Member

„With the closure of the internal European borders as a result of the pandemic, we Europeans recently found ourselves experiencing something that we thought had been overcome long ago. We saw how tightly networked Europe's regions are and how we now take this for granted. But we also realised how necessary European co-operation and European solidarity are in order to guarantee long-term prosperity and freedom for our citizens. In order to ensure that the differences within Europe in this respect are also observed in the European legislative process, the various voices of the regions must always be included. For Europe is the sum of many different voices - national, regional and local.“

President of the Hessian State Parliament
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Mecklenburg-Vorpommern



Tilo Gundlack
Member

„As a member of the Regional Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and ordinary member, I have been representing Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) since July 2017. I am very committed to the matters of interest of my homeland, and see myself as an intermediary between citizens and the European Union. In this sense, I perceive my CoR-membership as a chance to raise people's awareness of EU politics with its complex decision-making process and of European diversity. I also seek to find opportunities for cooperation with representatives from other local and regional authorities.“

Member of State Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Full member of the Committee of the Regions since July 2017
Member of the ECON and NAT commissions
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Katy Hoffmeister
Alternate Member

„Nowadays Europe is more important than ever before. Within the European Union we are united in our strive for peace and liberty. Europe embodies a unique peace project in the world. Within this project, we don't have to fear the loss of our individual identities. I was born and raised in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. It is the place where I live, I work and where I am at home. In my heart and mind I am a committed European. Especially in the European Committee of the Regions I can see how similar we are to each other upon all our diversity. Together we stay strong!“

Minister of Justice of the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Political Group: EPP
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Niedersachsen



Birgit J. Honé
Member

„We bring the interests of the regions to the European level and actively represent them there. Because: Europe is what we make of it!“

Minister for Federal and European Affairs and for Regional Development
Member of the ENVE and COTER commissions
Political Group: PES
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Clemens Lammerskitten
Alternate Member

„Safeguarding the principle of subsidiarity and local self-government are important tasks of the CoR. The EU cannot achieve its goals alone, but only together with its regions and municipalities. Who wants to stop populism and Anti-European movements must also listen to regions and municipalities. The EU not only acts internally, but also externally, worldwide. Together with the CoR, municipalities and regions also advance the EU's global sustainability agendas and climate protection goals.“

Member of the State Parliament of Lower Saxony
Political Group: EPP
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Nordrhein-Westfalen



Dr. Mark Speich
Member

„With 18 million inhabitants, North Rhine-Westphalia is one of the core regions of the EU. Together with our neighbours Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, with whom we maintain particularly close relations, our State forms a cultural and economic region with more than 45 million people. Not only North Rhine-Westphalia's economy, but all areas of public life are today inextricably linked with Europe. This is why it is so important for North Rhine-Westphalia to participate in shaping Europe. As a member of the Committee for North Rhine-Westphalia, I am therefore particularly committed to ensuring that our citizens' expectations of Europe are taken into account as early and directly as possible in the European legislative process.“

State Secretary for Federal, European and International Affairs of North Rhine-Westphalia

Member of the CIVEX and ECON commissions

Political Group: EPP

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Dr. Marcus Optendrenk
Alternate Member

„The current situation shows that democracy cannot be taken for granted. It grows locally. That is why it is important to stand up for it at all levels.“


Member of the State Parliament of North-Rhine Westphalia

Political Group: EPP

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Nordrhein-Westfalen



Dietmar Brockes
Member

„Europe is a great project that has brought us peace, freedom and prosperity for decades. It is worth continuing to invest in Europe’s future. In particular in the border regions, Europe is an integral part of our everyday lives. We must ensure that it is not complicated by unnecessary bureaucracy.“

Member of the State Parliament of North-Rhine Westphalia
 Head of the Committee for European and International affairs
 Speaker for industry and energy of the Free Democratic Party (FDP) parliamentary group
 Member of the CIVEX and SEDEC commissions
 Political Group: RENEW Europe
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Dirk Wedel
Alternate Member

„The decisions taken at the level of the European Union have a direct impact on regional and local issues. The EU must therefore recognize the regions, cities and municipalities as equal partners. The Committee of the Regions is the voice of local and regional authorities within the EU and represents their interests. Europeanization and regionalization are not contradictory, they go hand in hand. We are the local ambassadors for Europe. The EU must involve the regions and municipalities as a democratic, citizen-friendly level in order to reach the citizens. The regions, cities and municipalities are the foundation of European civil society.“

State Secretary in the Ministry of Justice of the State of North-Rhine Westphalia
 Political Group: RENEW Europe
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 in Dirk Wedel



Rheinland-Pfalz



Heike Raab
Member

„The Covid-19 pandemic has shown the great importance of the Schengen Agreement. When borders were closed to measure the infection, people and the economy stood still. The EU has managed the crisis and has a clear view on reconstruction and reform projects. The Green Deal, digitalization and the social cushioning of these transformation processes will remain important for overcoming the consequences of the pandemic.

As a CoR member, I want to bring the EU closer to the people. All EU and national decisions should be taken as closely as possible to the citizens in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. We must discuss new EU legislation to reduce administrative burdens and implementation costs for regions.“

State Secretary and Representative of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate to the Federation with responsibility for Europe, the Media and digital affairs
Member of the SEDEC commission

Political Group: PES

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/Heike Raab

/HeikeRaab



Heike Scharfenberger
Alternate Member

„The history of the European cooperation has shown us that we are only able to weather the challenges of today's world with the help of our European neighbors.

A strong Europe is essential for our peace, prosperity and security.“

Member of the State Parliament of Rhineland-Palatinate

Political Group: PES

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rlpNews



Saarland



Helma Kuhn-Theis
Member

„The Corona crisis has highlighted that joint action, common approaches and crisis units are needed more than ever to protect the health and well-being of all EU citizens. We do not need closed borders, but a coordinated approach to tackle the crisis. I will devote all my efforts to a unified approach that will protect the health of all our citizens.“

Member of the State Parliament of Saarland
Chairwoman of the Committee on European Affairs and matters of the Interregional Parliamentary Council in the Saarland State Parliament
Member of the CIVEX and SEDEC commissions
Political Group: EPP
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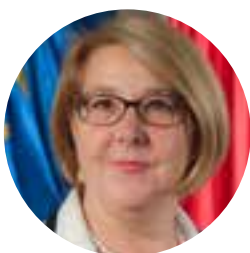
Roland Theis
Alternate Member

„As a Saarlander and dual citizen, whose mother is French and whose father is German, the European project lies close to my heart. A person's regional roots and homeland play an ever-increasing role as they provide identity and something to hold on to in a globalized world. Therefore, regions and local communities, those places where one feels at home, play an irreplaceable role in Europe's success.“

State Secretary in the Ministry of Justice of the State of Saarland and Representative of the Saarland for European Affairs
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Saarland



Isolde Ries
Member

„I am fighting for a democratic Europe in which, despite all the differences, values such as humanism and solidarity form the common and binding basis for political action. Today I see national egoism and populism dangerously on the rise. However, there is no reason not to continue fighting. To the opposite, especially in times of Corona, it is important to develop Europe into more than one economic community. I live in the border region with France, Luxembourg and Belgium. The closure of the borders due to the corona pandemic made the importance of open borders clear to us. These borders must never be closed again – this is an additional motivation to fight for a common Europe.“

First Vice-President of the State Parliament of Saarland
Member of the ECON and NAT commissions
Political Group: PES
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Reiner Zimmer
Alternate Member

„As a native of the Saarland and local politician for many years, for me as a member of the Saarland state parliament, the Committee of the Regions is particularly important for our state. We all want and need a strong Europe, and this can best be achieved with democratic regions that are close to the people. I want to work on this together with our neighbors.“

Member of the State Parliament of Saarland
Political Group: PES
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Freistaat Sachsen



Thomas Schmidt
Member

„The Free State of Saxony is in the heart of Europe. We work intensively in the border triangle with our neighbours Poland and Czech Republic. I want us to shape the numerous changes in the coming years together:

- *the structural change due to the exit from lignite-based electricity generation;*
- *different demographic trends in cities and villages;*
- *digitisation from building the infrastructure to new applications.*

It is my aim to represent Saxon issues in the European Committee of the Regions in Brussels and to ensure that people in all regions of Europe have good prospects and development opportunities.“

Member of the State Parliament of Saxony
Minister for Regional Development of Saxony
Member of the ECON and ENVE commissions
Political Group: EPP
adr@smr.sachsen.de
www.smr.sachsen.de/ausschuss-der-regionen



Katja Meier
Alternate Member

„Europe is not only made in Brussels. The spirit of Europe lives through the member states, the regions, the municipalities and through Saxony. We all together are Europe! I would like to give a voice to our Free State in the European Committee of the Regions. In cooperation with the European institutions, I want to strengthen the European idea in Saxony in order to make Europe very concrete in my region: A peaceful Europe that offers just and liveable prospects for all individuals; a climate-protecting Europe that guarantees sustainable prosperity which is not based on resource consumption. A Europe of togetherness of people!“

Minister for Justice and for Democracy, Europe and Equality of Saxony
Political Group: The Greens
adr@smj.justiz.sachsen.de
<https://www.europa.sachsen.de/>



Sachsen-Anhalt



Dr. Michael Schneider
Member

„The European Union is a historically unique community. The EU improves the lives of Europeans in many ways. Nevertheless, it has to deal with acceptance problems almost permanently. There is only one way out of this dilemma: What the EU can do more efficiently than any individual member state alone must be convincingly implemented. By feeding the point of view of the local and regional level into the European opinion-forming process, we members of the Committee of the Regions participate in this process. Our strength is the specific experience of how EU law works in reality. Our recommendations are derived from this.

Taking them into account increases the closeness to the citizens, the quality of EU decisions and thus their acceptance.“

State Secretary for European and International Affairs and Representative of the State of Saxony-Anhalt to the Federation
Member of the CIVEX and COTER commissions
Political Group: EPP
Michael.Schneider@lv.stk.sachsen-anhalt.de
🐦 MSchneiderEPP



Andreas Dittmann
Alternate Member

„A common Europe without a strong foothold in our villages and cities could at best be an illusion. Therefore, I am convinced working in the Committee of the Regions is an important bridge between the European institutions and local realities“

Mayor of the City of Zerbst
Political Group: PES
www.andreas-dittmann.de
andreas.dittmann@stadt-zerbst.de
📘 andreas.dittmann.56
🐦 AndreasDittmann2
📷 andreas.dittmann.56



Schleswig-Holstein



Bernd Claus Voß
Member

„Europe must remain the democratic project of the future on our continent. We must resolutely oppose isolation and national isolation.

Much is being implemented in the regions, cities and municipalities. In addition to energy system transformation and climate protection, this includes combating the current corona crisis. Strengthening them and giving them a voice is the great challenge facing the European Committee of the Regions.“

Member of the State Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein
Member of the ENVE and NAT commissions
Political Group: The Greens
Co-President of the Greens in the CoR



Claus Christian Claussen
Alternate Member *

„The Corona crisis poses new challenges for Europe. The European Union and its Member States will launch an unprecedented reconstruction and aid programme to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

For the German EU Presidency and beyond, the management of the economic and social consequences of the pandemic will play a central role. As well as the question what lessons are learnt from the crisis in order to better prepare the EU for similar challenges in the future. Only together we will find our way out of the crisis.

In our regions, the realisation of the European idea is particularly important, as the European added value can be conveyed better in direct, citizen-oriented cooperation across borders than through the ‘great narrative’ of cooperation at EU level.“

Minister for Justice, Europe and Consumer Protection of the State of Schleswig-Holstein
Political Group: EPP

* At the time of printing, the Council had not yet nominated the Member.



Freistaat Thüringen



Malte Krückels
Member

„Europe does not only mean solidarity between states and societies, but also solidarity with individuals in need. Such solidarity cannot be limited to Europe alone, for all people enjoy fundamental human rights. This is why we the European Union must be committed to solving global problems—including the betterment of the situation of refugees.“

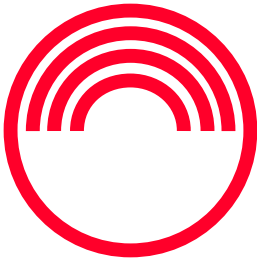
State Secretary for Media and Representative of Thuringia to the Federal Government
Member of commission: ENVE und SEDEC
Political Group: PES



Markus Gleichmann
Alternate Member


„European values are of human and humanistic kind. An accepted and common Europe from bottom up can only grow from the regions and thus defend itself against nationalism.“

Member of the State Parliament of Thuringia
Political Group: PES



Bernd Lange
Member

„The European Union is a success story. Counties, municipalities, citizens, and companies directly benefit from the EU. The European Structural and Investment Funds have significantly contributed to the implementation of projects which would have been much more difficult without European support. To further improve the functioning of the Union, its work and its decisions must be brought closer to the citizens while at the same time raising awareness of the Union's successes and benefits. Both can only be achieved through a comprehensive involvement of local authorities.“


Head of the district of Görlitz
Member of the COTER and ECON commissions
Political Group: EPP
 /landkreis.gr



Thomas Habermann
Alternate Member

„The CoR gives local authorities the possibility to actively participate in the European legislative process. This is crucial given that a large part of the European rules is implemented at the municipal level. We must work together with the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission to ensure that local authorities can easily implement legislation without substantial effort, thus enhancing citizens' acceptance of the measures. This requires a strengthened role of the CoR within the fabric of the European institutions!

I call on the EU institutions to fully take the needs of the municipal level into account, especially in the field of economic policy. We should strive for equivalent living conditions in all territories in Europe.“

Head of the district of Rhön-Grabsfeld
Political Group: EPP
www.rhoen-grabsfeld.de
www.thomas-habermann.de
landrat@rhoen-grabsfeld.de
 /rhoengrabsfeld



Marcel Philipp
Member


„Our cities are becoming ever more colorful, international and, in the spirit of the “Pulse of Europe” movement, also more European. My hometown Aachen in the border triangle is also a perfect example of the importance of the unification process for citizens by removing borders of all kinds. This urban and regional view is what we bring to Brussels: Europe’s unity in diversity reflects the everyday life of people who want European politics to consolidate peace and to have a more concrete reference to its concerns and prospects.“

Lord-Mayor of the City of Aachen
Member of the ENVE and SEDEC commissions
Political Group: EPP
Marcel.Philipp@mail.aachen.de



Dr. Peter Kurz
Alternate Member

„The EU crisis is above all a crisis of intergovernmental control. The CoR has not only gained reputation as the “guardian of the principle of subsidiarity”, but is also an advocate of “real” European politics, which is more than a permanent compromise of national interests. It is in particular the towns and municipalities represented by the CoR that – as closest level to citizens – are able to transmit the importance of the European integration process. The corona pandemic has made the important role of cities even clearer. They play a crucial role in communicating and implementing the measures that have been decided. The CoR thereby is an important platform for the exchange of knowledge between local authorities.“

Lord-Mayor of the City of Mannheim
Political Group: PES
ob.kurz@mannheim.de
 /peter.kurz1



DStGB

Deutscher Städte-
und Gemeindebund



Dr. Eckhard Ruthemeyer
Member

„The CoR gives cities and municipalities the opportunity to play an active role in shaping European policy and strengthens the partnership between Europe and its municipalities on a level playing field. I am proud to be a member of the CoR since 2018 and to be able to work for strong cities and municipalities in a strong Europe.

In the aftermath of the COVID 19 pandemic, the local level will have to absorb many of the effects of the crisis. This makes it all the more important for Europe and local authorities to work hand in hand, because only if we work together, our health, our economy and our social life can recover.“

Mayor of the City of Soest
Member of the CIVEX and NAT commissions
Political Group: EPP
e.ruthemeyer@soest.de



Heijo Höfer
Alternate Member

„I was allowed to spend my entire life in peace, freedom and with steadily growing economic prosperity. My children enjoyed a good and comprehensive education, also outside their home country Germany.

Through town twinning, my family and I gained many friends in France, Spain and Poland. My work as an alternate member of the CoR took me to many European countries, where I had the opportunity to get to know people and learn about their lives.

The European Union has made possible and facilitated all of this for me and for us. I am very glad that it exists.“

Member of the town council of the district town of Altenkirchen
(Westerwald)
Political Group: PES

German Members with Special Functions in the CoR



Muhterem Aras

*Coordinator in the ECON Commission
for The Greens*

Muhterem Aras is President of the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg. In the conference of the Presidents of the German State Parliaments, she is in charge of European Affairs.

Since January 2020, she is a full member of the Committee of the Regions and member in ENVE and ECON commissions. For The Greens, she is political coordinator in the ECON commission. She will focus on ensuring that the economy in the European Union is sustainable and climate-friendly in accordance with the principles of the Green Deal.



Birgit J. Honé

Chair of the German PES Group

Birgit Honé is Minister for Federal and European Affairs and Regional Development of the State of Lower Saxony. She has been a member of the CoR since 2013 and is active in the ENVE (Environment, Climate Change and Energy) and COTER (Cohesion Policy and EU Budget) commission.

In the ENVE commission, Birgit Honé took over the rapporteurship for an opinion on clean hydrogen in 2019, which was adopted by the CoR in July 2020.

She is chair of the German PES group. The PES group is a multi-party coalition bringing together social-democratic, socialist, and workers' and progress party representatives of EU municipalities and regions. From Germany, representatives of the SPD and Die Linke are present.

The German PES group meets regularly before plenary meetings of the CoR for the exchange of information and political coordination of upcoming plenary agenda items, as well as for the preparation and follow-up of the Bureau meeting preceding the plenary session and the PES group meeting.



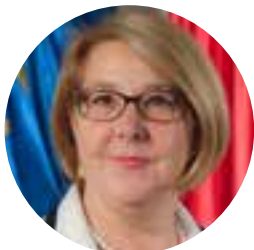
Marcel Philipp

Member of the Bureau of the CoR

Marcel Philipp is the Lord-Mayor of the city of Aachen and a member of the Presidium of the Association of German Cities. Marcel Philipp has represented the Association of German Cities on the Committee of the Regions since 2015 and is a member of the CoR Bureau.

Aachen has a great European heritage as it was the preferred medieval Imperial residence of Emperor Charlemagne, the place where no less than 31 Holy Roman Emperors were crowned as well as a place of European peace-making with the annual award of the Charlemagne prize to personalities of outstanding service to the unification of Europe. In addition, Aachen nowadays is a modern city and technology hub in the border triangle between Belgium and the Netherlands, so that European issues are self-evident for the head of the local government.

Marcel Philipp combines his European thinking in the Committee of the Regions with the special challenges of his home city and is particularly committed to cross-border cooperation with the partners of the Netherlands and Belgium.



Isolde Ries

CoR Vice-President and member of the CoR Bureau (since July 2020); coordinator of the ECON commission for the PES Group and member of the PES Group Bureau

Isolde Ries, First Vice-President of the Saarland regional parliament, was elected PES coordinator in the ECON commission and thereby member of the PES group Bureau in October 2019 - also in recognition of her commitment as CoR rapporteur on the future of the steel industry. As coordinator, she is the face and voice of the Socialist Group in the CoR on economic policy issues. She prepares the positioning of the group and is also responsible for ensuring coordination with the S&D group in the European Parliament, the trade unions and progressive interest groups.

Isolde Ries is highly specialized in the concerns of the steel industry with its challenges in terms of climate protection, energy and foreign trade problems and the creation of a suitable level playing field on the path towards lower-CO₂ or CO₂-neutral production methods.

Her other thematic priorities include the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the EU's economic governance and the promotion of public investments, the regional dimension of EU foreign trade policy and questions related to the EU's single market, including the currently very topical digital single market.

Isolde Ries has also been Vice-President of the EU Committee of the Regions since July 2020 and a member of the CoR Bureau.



Dr. Mark Speich

Chair of the Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX); Chair of the German Delegation

Dr. Mark Speich is State Secretary for Federal, European and International Affairs of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. He has been a member of the CoR since 2018. In 2019, he was rapporteur on "Socio-economic structural change in the coal regions of Europe".

With the beginning of the new mandate period of the CoR in February 2020, he took over the chair of the German delegation to the CoR for a period of two and a half years. He is thus responsible for coordinating the work of the German delegation. In taking over the chair of the delegation, he also became a member of the CoR Bureau. In particular, the Bureau is responsible for defining the principles governing the organisation of the CoR.

He was also elected Chair of the Commission for Citizenship, Government, Institutional Affairs and External Relations (CIVEX). He presides over the meetings of the Commission and represents it externally.



Bernd Claus Voß

Co-President of the Greens

Bernd Voß is a member of the Schleswig-Holstein state parliament (Schleswig-Holsteinischer Landtag) and spokesperson on European policy for the Bündnis 90 - Die Grünen parliamentary group and was chair of the Committee of European Affairs in Kiel from 2009-2012. He was a member of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Union from 2002 to 2006. He is a member of the CoR since 2020.

For the first time in the history of the Committee of the Regions, a Green Group was created, which currently has 20 members; Bernd Voß was elected co-chairman of the new Group. He is a member of the NAT and ENVE commissions. He is also a member of the CoR's "Subsidiarity Steering Group" and was appointed to the newly established "Going Local" Committee of the CoR on the "Green Deal".

In addition to leading the work of the political group, Bernd Voß places particular emphasis on the challenge of rapid implementation of the "Green Deal" as a growth strategy of the EU, as well as on cross-border cooperation, which is of particular importance in Schleswig-Holstein, and on European minority policy.



Mark Weinmeister

Vice-President and Member of the Bureau of the EPP Group in the CoR

State Secretary Mark Weinmeister was until July 2017 responsible for the coordination of the of the EPP-Group in the NAT commission. This means that the political position of the EPP-Group in the NAT was to a great extent defined by him. This function meant an even stronger possibility for representing the interests of the German Länder in the CoR. In this context the coordinator helped to assign the rapporteurs on opinions on behalf of the Group, as well as deciding on the voting recommendations. Furthermore with the coordinators of the other political groups decisions were made on the procurement of studies and on external commission meetings, seminars and excursions.

After the regular handover of the coordination of the EPP Group State Secretary Mark Weinmeister was from September 2017 to January 2020 second Vice-chairman of the NAT commission. The chairperson chairs the meeting if the chairperson is unable to attend. Since February 2015 State Secretary Mark Weinmeister has been Chairman of the German EPP-Group in the CoR. He chairs the meetings of the group before the respective plenary meetings, determines the agenda and can coordinate projects that can be further developed in the national delegation, in the plenary or in the EPP-Group. In addition, since February 2020, State Secretary Weinmeister has been one of the eight vice-chairmen of the EPP Group in the CoR and is therefore a member of the Bureau of the EPP-Group. The role of the EPP-Bureau is to represent the Group both inside and outside the CoR, to assist the Group Chairman in his work and, in urgent cases, to take decisions on behalf of the Group in representation of the Group Chairman. In addition, the EPP Bureau monitors the implementation of its decisions and those of the Group President.



Gerry Woop

*Alternate member of the Bureau
of the European Committee of the
Regions*

Gerry Woop, Secretary of State for Europe, has represented Berlin in the Committee of the Regions since March 2017. Since then, he has been a member of the COTER and CIVEX commissions, and since February 2020 of the SEDEC commission.

As a member of the Left Party he belongs to the German PES Group and PES Group within the Committee of the Regions.

With the beginning of the new term of office in February 2020, Gerry Woop was appointed as an alternate member of the Committee of the Regions' Bureau.



List of Opinions of German Rapporteurs

List of opinions of the German delegation during the 6 and 7 mandate periods of the CoR from 2015 to mid-2020 (including members, who have left the CoR in the meantime)

- o **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)**
Rapporteur: **Markus Töns** (Member of the State Parliament of North-Rhine Westphalia, DE/PES)
- o **Better protecting the marine environment**
Rapporteur: **Dr. Hermann Kuhn** (Member of the Bremen State Parliament, DE/PES)
- o **Local and regional support for Fair Trade in Europe**
Rapporteur: **Barbara Duden** (Member of the Hamburg State Parliament, DE/PES)
- o **The decision-making process on genetically modified food and feed**
Rapporteur: **Mark Weinmeister** (State Secretary for European Affairs for the State of Hessen, DE/EPP)
- o **Digital Single Market**
Rapporteur: **Helma Kuhn-Theis** (Member of Weiskirchen Municipal Council, DE/EPP)
- o **The local and regional dimension of the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA)**
Rapporteur: **Helmuth Markov** (Minister for Justice, Europe and Consumer Protection, Brandenburg regional government)
- o **Concrete steps for implementing the EU Urban Agenda**
Rapporteur: **Hella Dunger-Löper** (State Secretary and plenipotentiary of the Land Berlin to the Federation, DE/PES)
- o **Action Plan: Financing Sustainable Growth**
Rapporteur: **Tilo Gundlack** (Member of State Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, DE/PES)
- o **Implementation report on public procurement**
Rapporteur: **Thomas Habermann** (Head of Rhön-Grabfeld district council, DE/EPP)
- o **Steel: Preserving sustainable jobs and growth in Europe**
Rapporteur: **Isolde Ries** (First Vice-President of the State Parliament of Saarland, DE/PES)
- o **State Aid and Services of General Economic Interest**
Rapporteur: **Markus Töns** (Member of the State Parliament of North-Rhine Westphalia, DE/PES)
- o **The European Pillar of Social Rights**
Rapporteur: **Heinz-Joachim Höfer** (Mayor of Altenkirchen, DE/PES)
- o **Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy**
Rapporteur: **Anne Quart** (State Secretary for Europe and Consumer Protection, of the State of Brandenburg, DE/PES)
- o **European Deposit Insurance Scheme (EDIS)**
Rapporteur: **Hans-Jörg Duppré** (Head of the Südwestpfalz District Council, DE/EPP)
- o **An EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy**
Rapporteur: **Dr. Babette Winter** (State Secretary for Europe and Culture of the State of Thuringia, DE/PES)
- o **The future of Cohesion Policy beyond 2020**
Rapporteur: **Dr. Michael Schneider** (State Secretary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Saxony-Anhalt, DE/EPP)
- o **The Local and Regional Dimension of the Bioeconomy and the Role of Cities and Regions**
Rapporteur: **Katrin Budde** (Member of the State Parliament of Saxony-Anhalt, DE/PES)
- o **Common Provisions Regulation**
Rapporteur: **Dr. Michael Schneider** (State Secretary and Plenipotentiary of the Land of Saxony-Anhalt to the Federation, DE/EPP) (in cooperation with Catiuscia Marini President of the Umbria Region, IT/PES)
- o **Coordination of Social Security Systems**
Rapporteur: **Ulrike Hiller** (State Councillor for Federal and European Affairs, Plenipotentiary of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen to the Federation, DE/PES)
- o **A European Strategy for Industry: the Role and Perspective of Regional and Local Authorities**
Rapporteur: **Heinz Lehmann** (Member of the State Parliament of Saxony, DE/EPP)
- o **Cultural Heritage as a Strategic Resource for more Cohesive and Sustainable Regions in the EU**
Rapporteur: **Dr. Babette Winter** (State Secretary for Europe and Culture of the State of Thuringia, DE/PES)
- o **Quality of Water intended for Human Consumption**
Rapporteur: **Mark Weinmeister** (State Secretary for European Affairs of the State of Hessen, DE/EPP)
- o **Eastern Partnership deliverables for 2020: The Contribution of Local and Regional Authorities**
Rapporteur: **Sören Herbst** (Member of Magdeburg City Council, DE/EPP)
- o **Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions in the European Union**
Rapporteur: **Isolde Ries** (First Vice-President of the State Parliament of Saarland)
- o **Erasmus Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport**
Rapporteur: **Ulrike Hiller** (State Councillor for Federal and European Affairs, Plenipotentiary of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen to the Federation, DE/PES)
- o **Socioeconomic Structural Change in Europe's Coal Regions**
Rapporteur: **Dr. Mark Speich** (State Secretary for Federal, European and International Affairs of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, DE/EPP)
- o **Towards a Roadmap for Clean Hydrogen – the Contribution of Local and Regional Authorities to a Climate-Neutral Europe**
Rapporteur: **Birgit J. Honé** (Minister for Federal and European Affairs and Regional Development of the State of Lower Saxony, DE/PES)

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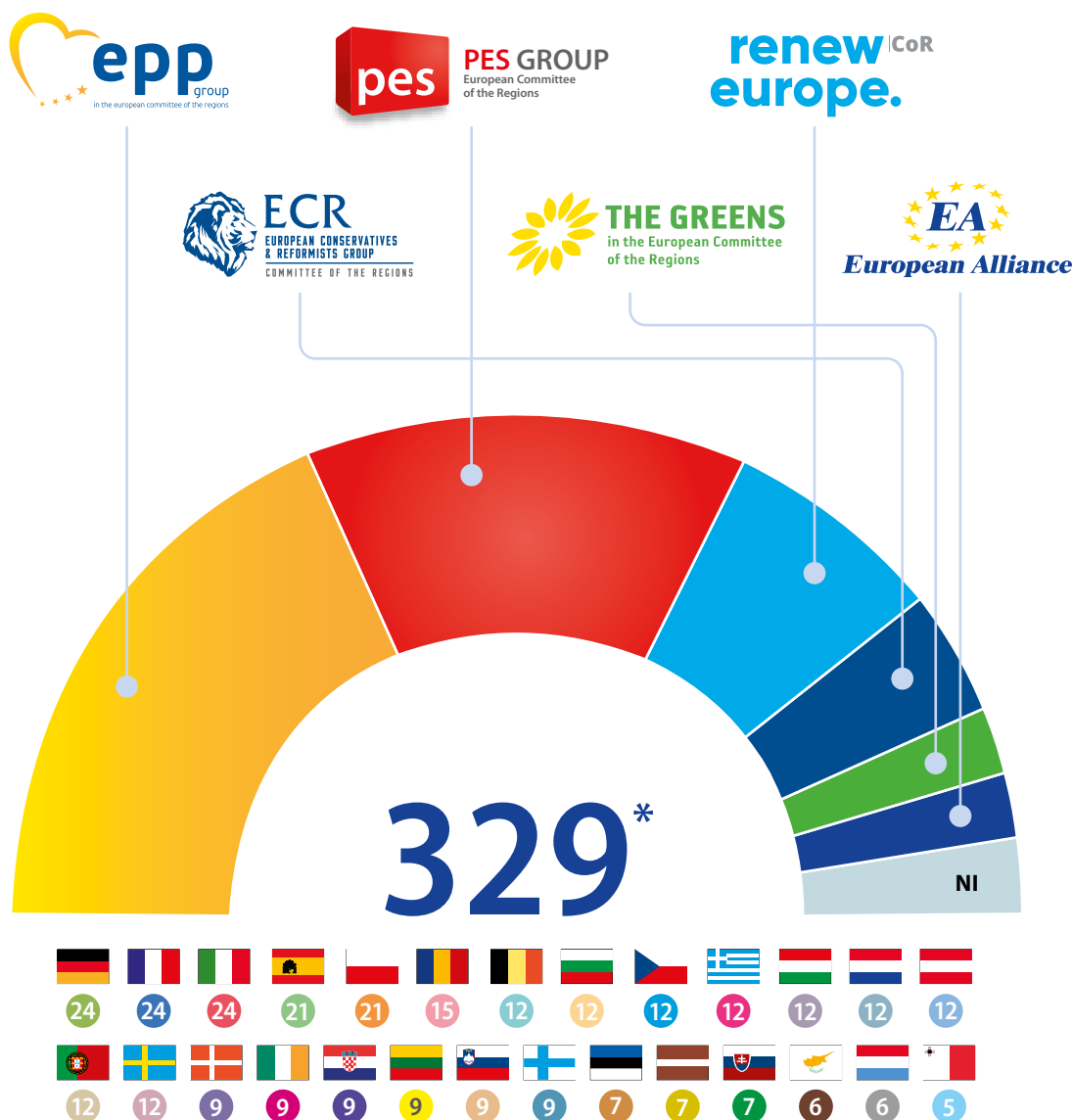
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European Committee
of the Regions

What is the European Committee of the Regions (CoR)?

Members of the European Committee of the Regions



President

Apostolos Tzitzikostas
(Governor of the Region of
Central Macedonia)

Term of office: 2 and 1/2 years

- leads the CoR's work
- chairs its plenary sessions
- acts as CoR's official representative

First Vice-President

Vasco Alves Cordeiro
(President of the Regional Government
of the Azores)

Term of office: 2 and 1/2 years

- leads the CoR's work in tandem with the President

Plenary

CoR Members gather in Plenary **5 to 6 times**/year for 2-3 days in Brussels to vote, adopt opinions and debate policies that affect all of Europe.

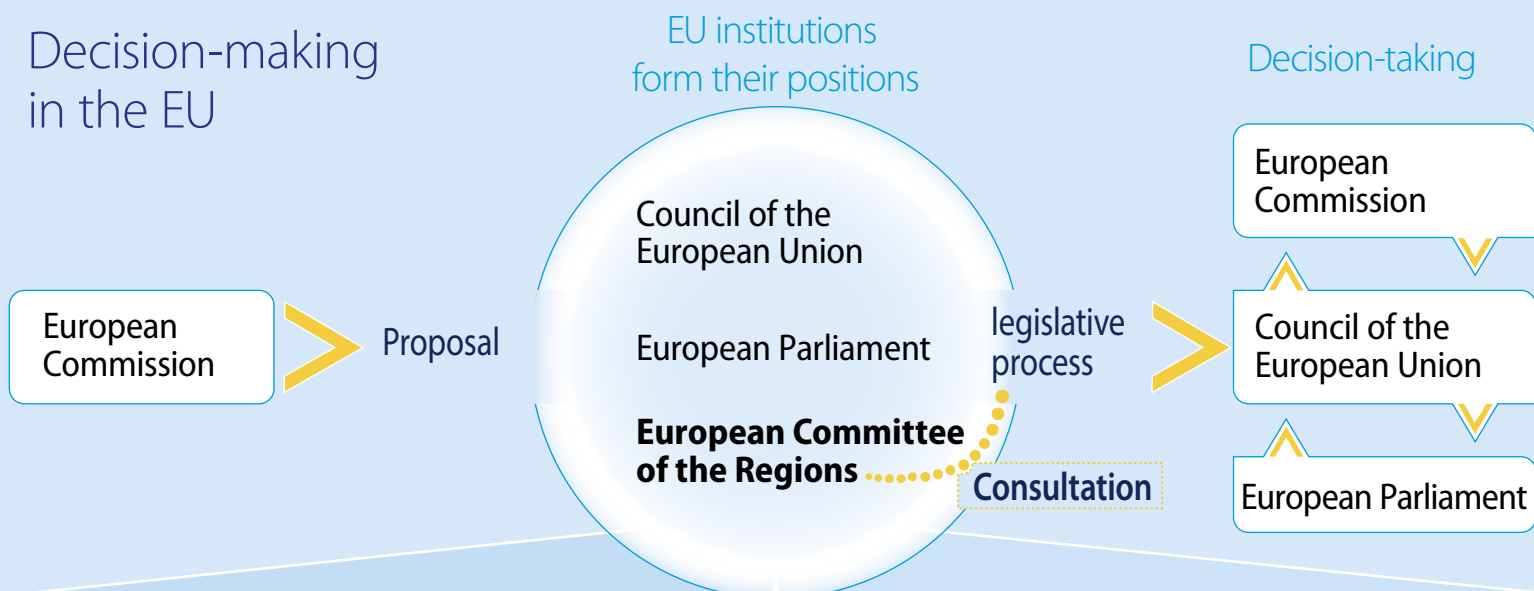
*Total – 302 state of play March 2020

The European Committee of the Regions

The European Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of 329 local and regional representatives (and 329 alternates) from all 27 Member States. Created in 1994, its mission is to **involve regional and local authorities in the EU's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies.**

The European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities.

Decision-making in the EU



Obligatory consultation of the CoR



CoR Commissions

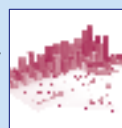
6 Commissions (groups of Members) prepare draft opinions, reports and resolutions to be submitted to the Plenary Assembly.

Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER)



Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE)

Economic Policy (ECON)



Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX)

Natural Resources (NAT)



Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC)

How CoR opinions are created

1 European Commission proposal of a legal act or EP or Council request or CoR own initiative

2 Rapporteur prepares draft opinion and consults stakeholders

3 Discussion and adoption of draft opinion by CoR Commission

From nomination of the rapporteur to adoption of the opinion: 2-9 months

4 CoR rapporteur meets EP rapporteur(s), Council Presidency, EC services

5 Adoption of the opinion by the CoR Plenary Session

Publication and information of the EU institutions

Engagement

The CoR represents one million local and regional politicians from all over Europe

1000.000

In 2019 the CoR invited 200 Young Elected Politicians (YEP's) to CoR meetings like the Summit, Plenaries or the EU Week of Regions and Cities

253 YEPs

In 2019 the CoR held

87 events



**European Committee
of the Regions**



Created in 1994, after the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty, the European Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of 329 regional and local representatives from all 27 Member States, representing over 446 million Europeans.

Its mission is to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the EU's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies. The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union if its rights are infringed or it believes that EU law infringes the subsidiarity principle or fails to respect regional or local powers.

Edited by Directorate for Communication of the European Committee of the Regions

August 2020

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