



**European Committee
of the Regions**



si2021.eu

The European Committee of the Regions and the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword: President of the European Committee of the Regions, Mr Tzitzikostas	3
Introduction: Head to Slovenian delegation at the CoR, Mr Ivan Žagar	3
Foreword: Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr Janez Janša	4
Priorities of the Slovenian Presidency, a local and regional perspective	6
Communication Priorities of the CoR	6
Members of the Slovenian delegation to the European Committee of the Regions	7
Representative associations of local communities in Slovenia	12
Association of Municipalities of Slovenia (ZOS)	12
Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia (SOS)	13
Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia (ZMOS)	13
What is the European Committee of the Regions?	14



FOREWORD: PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS, MR TZITZIKOSTAS

Slovenia takes over the EU Presidency just as Europe begins to cautiously open its borders, its economy and continues to press ahead with one of the largest vaccination and investment programmes seen in recent history. The need to quickly and effectively deliver the EU's budget and recovery and resilience funds in our regions, cities and villages is fundamental to protect people and avoid exasperating regional inequalities.

It is imperative that Europe delivers a just, green and balanced recovery for every region and municipality. This will require not only investment, but unprecedented cooperation and solidarity between all levels of government: EU, national, regional and local.

I am sure our Committee can continue to count on the commitment and on the enthusiasm always showed by our Slovenian members to reach these ambitious goals. Their consistent contribution to our works and their forward looking attitude will be key to carry on the successful cooperation between the European Committee of the Regions and the Slovenian Presidency of the EU, which has already started with a number of joint activities. In particular, I am grateful to the Slovenian Presidency for the invitation to the Bled Strategic Forum and to the Slovenian Prime Minister for accepting the invitation to join our October Plenary session.

The EU's legal commitment to being climate neutral by 2050 at the latest will happen by investing and working locally. Europe's one million local and regional leaders understand the importance of driving the energy transition, and for years have regularly shown more commitment and ambition than other levels of government, but they need to be armed with the right tools and investment especially in these times of recovery.

The Conference on the Future of Europe must be the opportunity to be candid and honest about Europe today, to listen to people and build a stronger Europe that is closer to people. This process must recognise that the »House of European Democracy« has solid foundations - the regional and local authorities, strong walls - the member states, and a protective roof - the European Union.

It is time our House is consolidated by reinforcing the trust of our people in a democracy that delivers. In order to thrive, the EU must function properly and needs to be trusted and loved by its people. Only then a House can become a Home for its inhabitants. It needs all its parts to function together to emerge stronger and be resilient to the challenges that await us.



INTRODUCTION: HEAD TO SLOVENIAN DELEGATION AT THE COR, MR IVAN ŽAGAR

In the pyramid formed by the European, national, and regional/local levels, it is the latter that will first face and respond to the new challenges of the European space, as the COVID-19 pandemic crisis has recently shown. By representing local and regional interests and policies, the Committee of the Regions brings to the European level the daily lives of European citizens, with all their problems and needs, as



**European Committee
of the Regions**

well as their new ideas, which are fundamental to development. Members of the Slovenian delegation are also actively involved in these processes. Through their work, they bring messages to the Slovenian space, which largely shares common European challenges to the local environment.

Slovenia is facing a time of great changes, shaped by both the pandemic and the climate, digital and demographic transitions, to which we must adapt and find the right answers together. In addition to these priorities, we will look at others, such as the Health Union, cyber security, the issues of the Western Balkans, etc., which are also important to regional and local communities.

In addition, the Committee of the Regions, in organising the High-Level Forum for Regional Recovery and Reconstruction, is focusing on the key role of cities and regions in implementing recovery plans, as well as on the strong partnership in ensuring synergies between cohesion policy and the RRF. It should be noted that the proper – decentralised – application of the principle of partnership and multi-level governance is key to the development of many cities, regions, municipalities and villages, both in regard to the planning and implementation of cohesion and in the recovery and reconstruction programme. The green transition, digital transformation and lasting and sustainable growth must help to maintain the economic, social, and territorial dimension of cohesion policy.

Cohesion policy and the recovery plan must include effective responses to the negative phenomena we are facing in individual areas (economic migration, brain drain, maintaining rural populations, lack of health, social, digital, transport, and communal infrastructure) and must contribute to an adequate quality of life in all EU regions and local communities.

The voices of European cities, regions, municipalities, and villages must be properly heard and taken into account in the debate on the future of Europe at the Conference on the Future of Europe. Only in this way can Europe be brought closer to its people and ensure that its policies address the real needs of its citizens.

FOREWORD: PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA, MR JANEZ JANŠA

A strategically autonomous Europe of values for strong, intelligent, and environmentally friendly communities of active citizens

In July 2021, for the second time since becoming an independent state 30 years ago, Slovenia took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Thirteen years ago, Slovenia's Council Presidency was probably the last not marked by a serious crisis. Today circumstances are very different as Europe, along with the rest of the world, is facing a crisis of health – one that was hard to imagine until recently – as well as economic and social crises. The fallout of crises is always first felt locally and regionally because local communities and regions are most exposed to the direct impact of a crisis.

However, the European Union has this time responded appropriately to the scale of the crisis caused by the COVID-19 epidemic. The agreement on financial assistance reached last year, under the NextGenerationEU Recovery Plan and its centrepiece, the Recovery and Resilience Facility, is a turning point and shows what the European Union can achieve with its institutions and Member States when we stand united and work together. We hope and believe that this heralds a new era for the European Union – an EU that will respond to global, regional, and internal challenges, consistently and persistently, as well as much more strategically and systematically than before.

The priorities of the Slovenian Presidency of the Council cover four main areas. The first priority focuses on strengthening the Union's resilience to crises, its strategic autonomy, and the recovery of the European economy. In addition to being better prepared for pandemics, building a European Health Union, and providing capacity for the availability of vaccines, medicines, and medical equipment, we will also focus on strengthening cyber resilience. To encourage economic recovery, we will work towards the swift approval of national recovery and resilience plans.

In its National Recovery and Resilience Plan, Slovenia pursues the main objective of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) – to promote the Union's economic, social, and territorial cohesion – which we intend to achieve through balanced reforms and investments based on digital and green transition targets. Funding will be channelled into four key areas: 1. the green transition, 2. digital transformation, 3. smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth; and 4. health, social security, and housing.

The second priority of the Slovenian Presidency will be to pay full attention to the Conference on the Future of Europe. We will also discuss organising the 16th Bled Strategic Forum, one of the most important international conferences in the Central European region. European leaders will address the main strategic challenges for Europe with citizens and other stakeholders and discuss current issues as well as the European values that underpin mutual cooperation and an understanding of common challenges.

A union of the European way of life, the rule of law, and equal criteria for all form the Slovenian Presidency's third set of priorities. We will strive to establish synergies between EU rule of law mechanisms. We will work in a cohesive and constructive manner towards objectivity, impartiality, and equal treatment of all Member States, which will contribute to strengthening mutual awareness and trust between Member States and EU institutions.

Finally, during the Presidency we will focus on a credible and secure EU, one able to ensure security and stability in its neighbourhood. The implementation of the strategy for a fully functioning and resilient Schengen area, progress on the Migration and Asylum Pact, and a credible continuation of the enlargement process will be important. We will promote regional inclusion in key EU policies, with special emphasis on the Western Balkans, and Slovenia will also host an informal EU-Western Balkans summit in October.

In all the above, the elected representatives of European municipalities, cities, and regions who work in the European Committee of the Regions represent, through their consultative role, the most direct link between European institutions and citizens across the Union. We look forward to increased cooperation through to the end of the year, and, in particular, the two opinions prepared by the European Committee of the Regions at the Slovenian Presidency's request; the September visit of the European Committee of the Regions to Slovenia, and the conferences and events which will see the participation of relevant ministries or services. Allow me to thank the Slovenian national delegation to the European Committee of the Regions, without which our excellent cooperation would not have been possible.

We will be openly involved in the Presidency's responsible role in the dialogue and seek consensus with all stakeholders, including the Committee of the Regions. We believe that cities and regions must be thoroughly involved in helping to shape national recovery across Member States. Working with local and regional authorities, we can make progress in manufacturing medicines and vaccines. We look forward to better representation for elected local and regional representatives at the Conference on the Future of Europe, because the voices of European regions and cities must be present and properly heard in the debates that will take place. In addition to the role of local and regional populations, the debate on the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality will also be crucial. We want to achieve an understanding of what our common values are, so that we can implement and disseminate them in a more unified way.

In thirteen years much has changed in both the Union and the world, but some things have remained the same. I have summed up the agenda of our first presidency as »the future of Europe in the broadest sense« – and it remains valid today. The future is getting closer and closer, and it is up to us to transform the present in the best possible way, in all our diversity, by joint effort, good will, and diligence..



European Committee
of the Regions

PRIORITIES OF THE SLOVENIAN PRESIDENCY, A LOCAL AND REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Slovenia has designed its six-month presidency of the Council of the European Union around four priority areas. Under the slogan »Together. Resilient. Europe.«, we will strive to facilitate the EU's recovery and reinforce its resilience, reflect on the future of Europe, strengthen the rule of law and European values, and increase security and stability in the European neighbourhood.



COMMUNICATION PRIORITIES OF THE CoR

As the body advising the EU institutions on the design and implementation of EU policies, the CoR and its members give voice and visibility to the one million locally elected politicians, who represent the most-trusted level of government. In so doing, the CoR will continue to build its communication activities on partnership and cooperation involving its members, associations representing regional and local parliaments, governments, and authorities on the one hand and the EU institutions and their networks on the other in order to "bring Europe closer to its people".

CoR communication highlights the political priorities and delivers them in an integrated way, mainly through a set of coherent and inclusive campaigns. These focus on taking local and regional needs and concerns into account in order to increase legitimacy, ownership and added value, both for EU's policies and their effectiveness on the ground to serve the well-being of the citizens.

In the second half of 2021, key communication activities of the CoR will be centred around the following dates and events:

- September-December: local, cross-border, transnational, and European events dedicated to the Conference on the Future of Europe including the active contribution of the CoR delegation to the Conference plenary, high-level debates during the plenary session of the CoR, on urban and rural aspects, and on the future of European democracy;
- 11-14 October: 19th European Week of Region and Cities on jointly organised – mostly digitally - with the European Commission's Regional and Urban Policy DG and more than 300 partners and expected 10 000 participants;



- 12 October: Publication of the 2nd Regional and Local Barometer Report of the CoR on the state of regions and cities of the EU;
- 8-9 November: 12th European Conference on Public Communication (EuroPCom) on “Changing communication – communication change” with about 1 000 experts in public communication expected (online).

MEMBERS OF THE SLOVENIAN DELEGATION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS



»The European Union is a union of its citizens. Their direct representatives are directly elected mayors. Mayors are fellow citizens, compatriots, and fellow EU citizens. That is why we know best the needs of EU citizens in all areas of life. In this context, the Committee of the Regions is an extremely important EU body because it is the forum where the requirements and the needs of EU citizens are met. This is the path that will bring the EU closer to its people. However, this path must be as unburdened as possible by bureaucratic obstacles, and instead be paved according to the principle of subsidiarity and decentralisation of the implementation of EU policies, also at the level of the Member States.«

DR. ALEKSANDER JEVŠEK, member of the CoR

Mayor of the Municipality of Murska Sobota

Political group: **PEP**

Member: **CIVEX, NAT, Enlargement Day, SPO Serbia**

Email: aleksander.jevsek@gmail.com

mestna.obcina@murska-sobota.si

Telephone: +386 41 609 690

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aleksander.jevsek>

Instagram: [@aleksanderjevsek](https://www.instagram.com/aleksanderjevsek)



»Global challenges, such as climate change and the COVID-19 epidemic, have once again demonstrated that effective action at the local level is essential for the success of global action, with rural and urban areas and regions playing an extremely important role. The European Committee of the Regions is an important player – on the one hand, as a representative of local authorities at EU level and, on the other, as an extension of the EU closer to local units or people. I believe that the priorities set by the European Committee of the Regions will ensure that the challenges continue to be met successfully, and the resilience of our cities, countries, and the planet strengthened.«

MAG. GREGOR MACEDONI, member of the CoR

Mayor of the Municipality of Novo Mesto

Political group: **EPP**

Member: **ECON, COTER, Ambassadors of the Covenant of Mayors**

Telephone: +386 2 748 29 10

Email: gregor.macedoni@novomesto.si

Website: www.novomesto.si

Facebook: [@mestnaobcinanovomesto](https://www.facebook.com/mestnaobcinanovomesto)
[@Gregor-Macedoni-676516192461457](https://www.facebook.com/Gregor-Macedoni-676516192461457) (@gregormacedoni)

Instagram: [@mo_novomesto](https://www.instagram.com/mo_novomesto)
[@gregormacedoni](https://www.instagram.com/gregormacedoni/?hl=en)



European Committee
of the Regions



NUŠKA GAJŠEK, member of the CoR

Mayor of the Municipality of Ptuj

Political group: **PES**

Member: **SEDEC, COTER**

»Local communities work most closely with people on the ground and have that information to consider when formulating policies to ensure more coherent development. This is the right way to successfully address those areas that significantly affect the quality of life of our people. That is why it is so important that we have the opportunity to pass this information on to the European level of policy-making.«

Email: nuska.gajsek@ptuj.si

Telephone: +386 2 748 29 10

Website: <https://ptuj.si/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mestna-ob%C4%8Dina-Ptuj-1495852147302134>



JASNA GABRIČ, member of the CoR

Mayor of the Municipality of Trbovlje

Political group: **Renew Europe**

Member: **CIVEX, ENVE, Member of the Committee of the Regions' delegation to the Conference on the Future of Europe, Co-Chair of the CoR-North Macedonia Joint Consultative Committee, Conference of Presidents, Enlargement Day**

»The Committee of the Regions is made up of local authority representatives, that is mayors, deputy mayors, city councillors, presidents of regions, and representatives of similar regional and local institutions. Considering that most legislation adopted at the European level manifests or is implemented at the local level, the Committee is of paramount importance. The opinions it prepares on various topics, laws, or regulations in the making, which are then adopted by the European Parliament, have a significant impact and present concrete facts on how any legislation will affect people's lives, how we assess its implementation, what improvements we propose, etc. We have amply demonstrated in recent years that we are the representatives of municipalities and regions that are on the frontline in crisis situations, are the closest to the people and also

first to help and solve situations in the field together with our teams, be it addressing the issue of migrants and their border crossings, the epidemic, the financial crisis in the post-2010 period, or the natural disasters plaguing Europe.«

Email: jasna.gabric@trbovlje.si

Telephone: +386 40 915 000

Website: www.trbovlje.si

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/obcinatrbovlje/>



UROŠ BREŽAN, member of the CoR

Mayor of the Municipality of Tolmin

Political group: **Zeleni**

Member: **NAT, SEDEC, Enlargement Day, SPO Serbia, Western Balkans Working Group**

»The Committee of the Regions, with representatives of regional and local authorities, is an ideal platform for exchanging good and bad practices, as well as learning that enables rapid action at local level with the aim of improving the quality of life of our citizens and creating a resilient and sustainable society. Its opinions on the European Commission's proposals add a local and regional dimension to European policies.«

Email: uros.brezan@tolmin.si

Telephone: +386 5 381 95 03

Website: <https://www.tolmin.si>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uros.brezan>
<https://www.facebook.com/tolmin.obcina>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/urosbrezan>



»The Committee of the Regions is an excellent meeting point for exchanging views and development practices in Europe. In addition to the green and digital transformation of society, how to bring Europe closer to its people will be a serious challenge in the future. The reasons, values, and benefits of integration will need to be explained in a simplified way and presented in a way that is understandable to the vast majority of Europeans. It is worth the effort for the European Union.«

ROBERT SMRDELJ, member of the CoR

Mayor of the Municipality of Pivka

Political group: **EPP**

Member: **ECON, NAT**

Email: robert.smrdelj@pivka.si

Telephone: +386 5 72 10 100

Website: www.pivka.si



»The Committee of the Regions is a body that unites the voices of European cities, regions, municipalities, and villages in a pyramid made up of the European, national, and regional-local levels through its representatives in the European decision-making process.

A voice of European citizens!

The debate on the future of Europe must hear its voice and take it into account. Only in this way can Europe be brought closer to its people, and only in this way can we ensure that we live in a space that corresponds to the real needs of its citizens.«

DR. IVAN ŽAGAR, member of the CoR

Mayor of the Municipality of Slovenska Bistrica

Political group: **EPP**

Member: **ENVE, COTER (First Vice-President of COTER), CoR Bureau – Vice President, Enlargement Day, SPO North Macedonia**

Email: ivan.zagar@slov-bistrica.si

Telephone: +386 2 843 28 12

Website: www.slovenska-bistrica.si

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ivan.zagar.902>



»The Committee of the Regions has one of the most important roles in the EU, as all EU policies and activities are implemented through regions and municipalities.

Cities, villages, and communities form the core of society, and only their being well informed, understanding, and being actively involved can lead to changes towards sustainable development.

Only in this way will we be able to successfully confront the challenges of the future and build a beautiful common future.«

DR. VLASTA KRMELJ, alternate member of the CoR

Mayor of the Municipality of Selnica ob Dravi

Political group: **EPP**

Email: zupanja@selnica.si

Telephone: +386 2 673 0201, +386 31 334 376

Website: www.selnica.si



»The Committee of the Regions is important not only for bringing the European Union closer to its citizens, but above all for conveying the opinions and views of all citizens to Brussels. If EU politics is shaped by a more broadly representative public opinion, this contributes to a more effective implementation of the decisions taken and so to greater citizen satisfaction and, last but not least, to greater cohesion of our common European family. The enhanced role of local and regional authorities will undoubtedly make the path to a cohesive, resilient, and sustainable Europe easier and shorter.«

BREDA ARNŠEK, alternate member of the CoR

Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Celje

Political group: **NI**

Email: breda.arnsek@celje.si

Telephone: +386 31 759 492

Website: <http://moc.celje.si/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1125379469>



European Committee
of the Regions



»The Committee of the Regions is a bridge between the experience on the ground that we representatives have drawn from our many years of direct contact with the people and the institutions that coordinate common EU policies. The COVID-19 crisis has made it very clear how important proactive and coordinated action in local communities is for countries. The fundamental EU principle of subsidiarity is even more relevant today. If we want more resilient regional and local communities, they will need to be entrusted with more responsibilities, but they will also need financial support.«

DR. VLADIMIR PREBILIČ, alternate member of the CoR

Mayor of the Municipality of Kočevje
Political group: **PES**

Email: obcina@kocevje.si, vladimir.prebiloc@kocevje.si
Telephone: +386 1 89 38 220
Website: www.kocevje.si
Facebook page of the Municipality of Kočevje:
<https://www.facebook.com/kocevje>
Instagram page of the Municipality of Kočevje:
https://www.instagram.com/obcina_kocevje/
YouTube channel of the Municipality of Kočevje:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxYO1IAokLsSuV-cOxyx-Yw>
Dr Vladimir Prebilič's Facebook profile:
<https://www.facebook.com/vladimir.prebiloc>



»The Committee of the Regions represents a voice in the European Union that comes directly from the people, i.e. elected local authority representatives. Therefore, it represents a very high degree of democracy, representativeness, and legitimacy. The goal of bringing the European Union closer to the people can only be achieved through the active role of the Committee of the Regions in budgetary planning. This means that policies and decisions taken by the Committee of the Regions must also be taken into account when allocating actual financial resources. Words about a European Union that is close to its people are not enough. Concrete and visible action is needed to improve people's well-being at local and regional level.«

DR. TOMAŽ ROŽEN, alternate member of the CoR

Mayor of the Municipality of Ravne na Koroškem
Political group: **EPP**

Email: tomaz.rozen@gmail.com, tomaz.rozen@ravne.si
Telephone: +386 31 300 255
Website: www.ravne.si
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tomaz.rozen/>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/tomaz72>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tomazrozen/>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/tomaz-rozen-525b9a59>



»By representing the extremely diverse realities of European municipalities, cities and villages, the Committee of the Regions is a forum for involving different voices in the consultation and legislative processes. I am pleased to have the opportunity to represent Slovenia and the European Greens in the Committee of the Regions, where I primarily deal with social policy, education, and employment issues in Europe, as well as common issues of research policy, culture, and sport. The diversity of local community votes in the Committee of the Regions also brings better documents and results!«

TINE RADINJA, alternate member of the CoR

Mayor of the Municipality of Škofja Loka
Political group: **Greens**

Email: Tine.radinja@skofjaloka.si
Telephone: +386 4 5155 317
Website: www.skofjaloka.si
Facebook: [@zupanTineRadinja](https://www.facebook.com/zupanTineRadinja)
Instagram: [@tineradinja](https://www.instagram.com/tineradinja)



»Our advantage is the inseparable connection and interdependence of rural and urban areas, so we strive to enable all beneficiaries in the cohesion region to develop equally. Relying on a unified approach, we address the issue of urban development for better living conditions, (de)centralisation, and brain drain at both regional and national levels. As the leading city in the region, the municipality of Maribor has a great responsibility and at the same time even greater potential for developmental breakthrough.«

ALEKSANDER SAŠA ARSENOVIČ, alternate
member of the CoR

Mayor of the City Municipality of Maribor
Political group: **ReNew Europe**

Email: mestna.obcina@maribor.si
Telephone: +386 2 2201 201
Website: <https://www.maribor.si/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MOMaribor>
Instagram: @momaribor



»Local and regional authorities are the backbone of European democracy and know citizens' specific needs best. In addition to both ensuring a high quality of life in villages, cities, and regions, and creating resilient local and regional communities, one of our key missions is to bring the EU closer to its citizens where they live. More than ever we need ambitious plans and, crucially, their effective implementation with the help of European funds. In this way, citizens will see the EU as an effective community to help them on their path of development.«

MAG. DAMIJAN JAKLIN, alternate member of the CoR

Mayor of the Municipality of Velika Polana
Political group: **NI**

Email: zupan@velika-polana.si
Telephone: +386 41 757 408
Website: www.velika-polana.si
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VisitVelikaPolana/>
LinkedIn: Damijan Jaklin





European Committee
of the Regions

REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN SLOVENIA

Association of Municipalities of Slovenia (ZOS)

The Association of Municipalities of Slovenia (ZOS), based in Ljubljana, is an interest association representing Slovenian municipalities. ZOS is an umbrella association for small and medium-sized municipalities, and it acts in the legal, economic, and political interests of municipalities. It represents the interests of Slovenian municipalities at national and international levels. It achieves its goals with the help of the secretariat and expert committees by organising expert consultations, seminars, and workshops, by formulating proposals, comments, amendments, or initiatives regarding regulations that interfere with the functioning of local self-government. Guided by its current regulations and statutes, ZOS liaises and actively cooperates with other communities, federations, or associations; with professional and scientific organisations, and with institutions within the country and abroad to provide quality, up-to-date, and continuous services to ZOS members.

In addition to precisely defining tasks and setting goals, ZOS seeks to strengthen local self-government in Slovenia and to consistently respect the European Charter of Local Self-Government. We support public administration that is close to people or citizens, as we do friendly public administration; we work to ensure that municipalities and regions develop in a balanced and sustainable way, that the countryside is preserved, that industrial and urban centres are renovated, that local communities work more closely with domestic and foreign economic operators, and that quality of life is improved both in rural and industrial/urban centres. ZOS is also engaged in intensive efforts to decentralise public administration and introduce an intermediate administrative level between the state and municipalities.

Association of Municipalities of Slovenia

Dunajska 156, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Telephone: +386 1 230 63 32,

Email: info@zdruzenjeobcin.si,

www.zdruzenjeobcin.si

President: **Robert Smrdelj, Mayor of the Municipality of Pivka**

Vice Presidents: **mag. Marko Diaci, Mayor of the Municipality of Šentjur, Uroš Brežan, Mayor of the Municipality of Tolmin**



Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia

The Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia is the largest representative association of local communities in Slovenia, with 179 member municipalities (out of 212).

Mayors of member municipalities come from across the Slovenian political spectrum. They are united in the belief that to solve many of the challenges faced by municipalities, it is necessary to work together, exchange experiences, spread knowledge and skills, and join forces in the awareness that municipalities are strong, and the decisions they make are beneficial to everyone.

Given equal representation of different groups of municipalities, the Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia is made up of three sections, one representing urban municipalities, one representing municipalities having the status of administrative units, and one representing other municipalities. Each section elects a president who performs the role of president for a third of the term, based on a rotation system.

The Association's core mission is to represent the interests of member municipalities, to establish mutual cooperation, and to disseminate good practices, knowledge, behaviour, and experience. As a body representing the interests of municipalities, the Association takes unified and beneficial action in relation to state bodies and institutions that impact on the functioning of municipalities. Working together with its members, the Association drafts municipality position papers and proposals on legislative proposals, represents local communities in the process of concluding collective agreements for employees in municipal administrations and public services, organises discussions on current issues important for local communities, organises training for member municipalities, prepares joint projects and tender procedures, provides them with legal advice, and represents the membership in domestic and international organisations.

Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia

Partizanska 1, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia

www.skupnostobcin.si

info@skupnostobcin.si

Telephone: +386 2 234 15 00 Faks: +386 2 234 15 03



Section presidents for the 2018-2022 term:

Peter Misja, Mayor of the Municipality of Podčetrtek

Jasna Gabrič, Mayor of the Municipality of Trbovlje

dr. Aleksander Jevšek, Mayor of the Municipality of Murska Sobota

Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia

The Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia (AUMS) is an association representing all eleven urban municipality areas, where more than a third of Slovenia's population lives. Since its establishment in 2010, the main task of the Association has been to enforce Article 141 of Slovenia's Constitution, which defines the special competencies of urban municipalities, from which their special interests derive. The Association strives to unify its members' operation, to strengthen the financial and other autonomy of urban municipalities, and to increase the importance of urban development in the country.

In recent years, the Association has established itself in this area as it successfully co-creates and implements an integrated territorial investment mechanism for the sustainable development of urban municipalities in the framework implementing the European Cohesion Policy (2014-2020), which provides EUR 139 million of European and state funds for urban regeneration projects.

The international activities of the Association, which has had representatives in the European Committee of the Regions and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe since 2019, are also being strengthened. The Association connects with related institutions abroad and participates in the process of renewing the implementation of the EU Urban Agenda.

Contact details

Verdijeva ulica 10, 6000 Koper, Slovenija

Telephone: +386 5 6646 231

Email: zmos@koper.si

Website: www.zmos.si



President: **Matjaž Rakovec**, Mayor of the Municipality of Kranj

Vice President: **Peter Dermol**, Mayor of the Municipality of Velenje



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

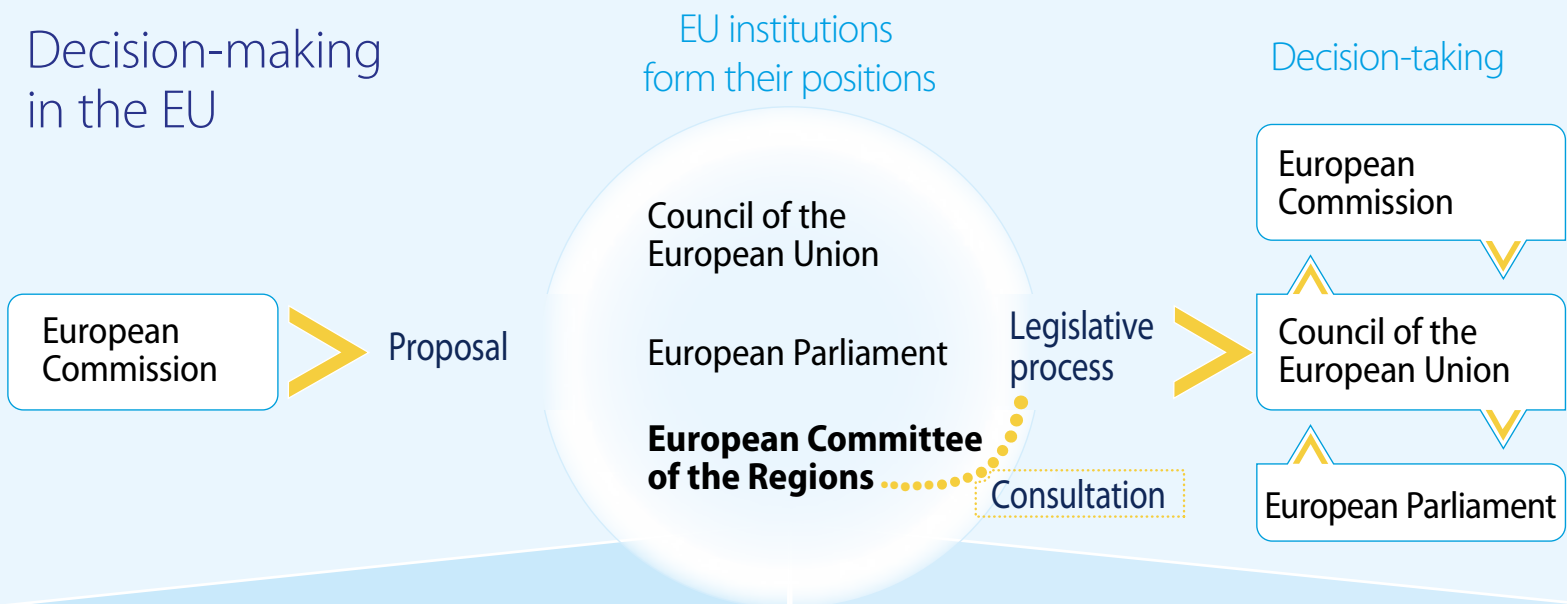
CoR Members gather in Plenary 5 to 6 times/year for 2-3 days in Brussels to vote, adopt opinions and debate policies that affect all of Europe.

*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.



How CoR opinions are created



Engagement

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

1000.000

In 2019 the CoR invited 253 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 following the signing 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 441 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 are obliged to 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 the Directorate for Communication of the European Committee of the Regions

September 2021

Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 101 | 1040 Bruxelles/Brussel | BELGIQUE/BELGIË | Tel. +3222822211
www.cor.europa.eu | [@EU_CoR](https://twitter.com/EU_CoR) | [/european.committee.of.the.regions](https://facebook.com/european.committee.of.the.regions) | [/european-committee-of-the-regions](https://linkedin.com/company/european-committee-of-the-regions)

