



European Council
The President

Brussels,

Dear Mr Markkula,

Dear Markku,

I would like to thank you and the political leaders of the European Committee of the Regions for the meeting on 10 October 2016, which came a week before national leaders gathered in Brussels for the European Council, and soon after the 27 EU national leaders met informally in Bratislava.

It was a good opportunity for us to openly discuss the serious questions asked of the European Union by our citizens. More than ever, it is now time to act honestly and to show political leadership in order to rebuild trust in the European project.

This effort must not come only from Brussels. It needs input from central, but also local and regional governments. In this context, I would like to propose that an opinion be drafted by the European Committee of the Regions on the theme of: "Reflecting on Europe: the voice of regional and local authorities to rebuild trust in the European Union".

The purpose of the referral would be to receive a real perception of the reality from the European grassroots level. I would very much welcome your input not only for the 60th Anniversary of Rome Treaties, but also along and beyond the current process.

You can count on my support, and I look forward to meeting you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Donald Tusk

Mr Markku Markkula
President of the European Committee of the Regions