



**European Committee
of the Regions**



**Conference
on the Future
of Europe**

Strasbourg, 9 May 2021

Open letter to local and regional politicians

Let's engage with the Conference on the Future of Europe and beyond!

The European Union has launched the "Conference on the Future of Europe". Its aim is an open debate with citizens on the challenges we face and on how to plan our future together. On Europe Day, we invite regional and local politicians to give input to the Conference, including by joining the European Committee of the Regions' network of Regional and Local EU Councillors. You are the closest link to European citizens.

The European Union is much more than institutions and national governments. The democratic, inclusive and successful Union we want needs to be built on the foundation stones of Europe's regions, cities and local authorities. This is why we address you, the million politicians elected at regional and local level: "Please get active and make your voice heard to make the Conference a success! To do so, we invite you to nominate one of your colleagues in your Council as an EU Councillor to work with us and the citizens, and to get involved via local dialogues."

Why should I get involved?

All Europeans live in a place where they are represented by local or regional politicians. We have the opportunity to ensure the future of the EU is built with our people and our places, not just in Brussels and national capitals. Imagine if in every regional or local assembly just one politician is prepared to promote the work of the EU, organise debates with citizens and give them their say through a contribution to the conference.

What can we concretely deliver?

The European Committee of the Regions is the EU's voice of local and regional politicians. Together we can:

- present common views from a regional and local perspective in the Conference;
- strengthen the cooperation of our politicians – through political families, policy groups and associations; bring to the table successful participative exercises involving citizens in regions and cities and ensure there is feedback to our citizens on the actions the EU proposes;
- deliver our new vision for the EU at the next Summit of Regions and Cities in Marseille next Spring.

How can I play my part?

By organising EU-related dialogues or citizens participation exercises, you can become part of this process.

By responding to the European Committee of the Regions' [policy work](#), you can influence EU initiatives.

By debating the future of the EU in your assembly or chamber, you can put your region or city on the map.

By being part of the network of Regional and Local EU Councillors, you can encourage others to follow!

What does the initiative offer?

We offer a politicians' app, regular [updates](#), information material and a direct [contact point](#). We can help you to network and support you in organising citizens' dialogues.

Where can I find out more?

This is just one part of the activities – the full picture is on the [EU's multilingual digital platform](#)

As we emerge from the pandemic, citizens put their trust in local and regional authorities even more than ever. If we all act alone, each of us is just one in a million. If we all act together, we can shape the EU's future.

We look forward to working with you,

Signed by:

Apostolos Tzitzikostas, President of the European Committee of the Regions, Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia, Greece

Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the European Commission, Commissioner for Democracy and Demography

Guy Verhofstadt, Co-Chair of the Executive Committee of the Conference on the Future of Europe

Ana Paula Zacarias, Portuguese Secretary of State for European Affairs

Jacqueline Gourault, Minister for Territorial Cohesion and Relations with Local Government

Renaud Muselier, President of the French Regions, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region

Frédéric Bierry, President of the European Collectivity of Alsace

François Baroin, President of the Association of Mayors of France, Mayor of Troyes

Jeanne Barseghian, Mayor of Strasbourg and 1st Vice-President of the Eurometropole of Strasbourg

André Viola, President of the French delegation to the European Committee of the Regions, Member of the Aude Departmental Council

And also from the European Committee of the Regions:

Vasco Alves Cordeiro, First Vice-President of the CoR and Member of the Regional Parliament of the Azores

Olgierd Geblewicz, President of the EPP Group in the European Committee of the Regions, President of the Western Pomerania Region

Christophe Rouillon, President of the PES Group in the European Committee of the Regions, Mayor of Coulaines

François Decoster, President of the Renew Europe Group in the European Committee of the Regions, Mayor of Saint-Omer

Władysław Ortyl, President of the ECR Group in the European Committee of the Regions, President of the Podkarpackie Region

Kieran McCarthy, President of the EA Group in the European Committee of the Regions, Member of Cork City Council

Ms Satu Haapanen, Co-Chair of the Greens Group in the European Committee of the Regions, Member of Oulu City Council