Reflecting on Europe from a regional and local perspective

We take the commitment to make your voice heard!

eulocal@cor.europa.eu  #EUlocal  www.cor.europa.eu/reflecting-eu
What is 'Reflecting on Europe'?

A CoR bottom-up initiative offering a space for local and regional authorities and for citizens to present their thoughts and ideas about the past-present-future of Europe.

It is based on CoR Members’ engagement with their political assemblies and citizens.
What is the objective of Reflecting on Europe?

The CoR is committed to listening and reporting back the reality from the ground to “Brussels” on concerns and proposals for solutions on what the EU should be and to take action.
Reflecting on Europe is a three dimensions bottom up process:

1. Citizens’ reflections
2. CoR own political reflections
3. EU inter-institutional political reflections
Reflecting on Europe is a three dimensions bottom up process:

1. Citizens’ reflection

The CoR has launched in 2016 and will keep organising through 2017-18:

- town hall debates with citizens’ via regional and local authorities based on CoR Members’ initiative and commitment;

- interaction with stakeholders and collection of citizens’ input via a web-app + CoR webpage (via online consultations);

- collect of citizens’ concerns and elaboration of citizens’ debates into views and recommendations;

- cross-checking with Eurobarometer.
Reflecting on Europe is a three dimensions bottom up process:

2. CoR own political reflections

Actions to feed-in the Opinion (Tusk’s referral):

- debates within CoR (plenary sessions, commission meetings, State of the regions and cities; European Week Cities and Regions, etc);

- CoR’s Resolution on the Commission’s White Paper (May 2017)

- debates in regional and local assemblies on policy areas within local and regional competencies (such as investment, cohesion, budget, education, environment, research, etc.);

- consultation with over 500 relevant regional and local stakeholders including national associations;

- debate and feed-back from European associations, European Think Thanks and Universities.
Reflecting on Europe is a three dimensions bottom up process:

3. EU inter-institutional political reflections

The CoR own process “Reflecting on Europe” will interact with:
1. EU Council “Rome Declaration” (Bratislava/Rome roadmap);
2. European Parliament works: Resolutions, reports;
3. EC’s “White Paper” + its subsequent five reflection papers;

Upcoming calendar:
- EC’s State of the Union – CoR’s reaction (Sept. 17)
- CoR’s State of the EU Regions and Cities (Oct. 17)
- European Council of December 2017 – CoR relevance
- Preparation to the European elections in 2019 from a regional and local perspective
Reflecting on Europe – Rome declaration

Excerpt from the Rome Declaration

In these times of change, and aware of the concerns of our citizens, we commit to the Rome Agenda, and pledge to work towards:

1. A safe and secure Europe: a Union where all citizens feel safe and can move freely, where our external borders are secured, with an efficient, responsible and sustainable migration policy, respecting international norms; a Europe determined to fight terrorism and organised crime.

2. A prosperous and sustainable Europe: a Union which creates growth and jobs; a Union where a strong, connected and developing Single Market, embracing technological transformation, and a stable and further strengthened single currency open avenues for growth, cohesion, competitiveness, innovation and exchange, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises; a Union promoting sustained and sustainable growth, through investment, structural reforms and working towards completing the Economic and Monetary Union; a Union where economies converge; a Union where energy is secure and affordable and the environment clean and safe.

3. A social Europe: a Union which, based on sustainable growth, promotes economic and social progress as well as cohesion and convergence, while upholding the integrity of the internal market; a Union taking into account the diversity of national systems and the key role of social partners; a Union which promotes equality between women and men as well as rights and equal opportunities for all; a Union which fights unemployment, discrimination, social exclusion and poverty; a Union where young people receive the best education and training and can study and find jobs across the continent; a Union which preserves our cultural heritage and promotes cultural diversity.

4. A stronger Europe on the global scene: a Union further developing existing partnerships, building new ones and promoting stability and prosperity in its immediate neighbourhood to the east and south, but also in the Middle East and across Africa globally; a Union ready to take more responsibilities and to assist in creating a more competitive and integrated defence industry; a Union committed to strengthening its common security and defence, also in cooperation and complementarity with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, taking into account national circumstances and legal commitments; a Union engaged in the United Nations and standing for a rules-based multilateral system, proud of its values and protective of its people, promoting free and fair trade and a positive global climate policy.

We will pursue these objectives, firm in the belief that Europe’s future lies in our own hands and that the European Union is the best instrument to achieve our objectives. We pledge to listen and respond to the concerns expressed by our citizens and will engage with our national parliaments. We will work together at the level that makes a real difference, be it the European Union, national, regional, or local, and in a spirit of trust and loyal cooperation, both among Members States and between them and the EU institutions, in line with the principle of subsidiarity. We will allow for the necessary room for manoeuvre at the various levels to strengthen Europe’s innovation and growth potential. We want the Union to be big on big issues and small on small ones. We will promote a democratic, effective and transparent decision-making process and better delivery.

We as Leaders, working together within the European Council and among our institutions, will ensure that today’s agenda is implemented, so as to become tomorrow’s reality. We have united for the better. Europe is our common future.
Reflecting on Europe – White paper

Foreword

On 25 March 2017, 27 leaders of the European Union’s Member States will stand united in peace and friendship in Rome.

That alone is an achievement that many would have thought unthinkable when the six founding Member States agreed on the Treaties of Rome 60 years ago.

As we mark this anniversary, our thoughts are with those before us whose dream for Europe has become a reality. Now is the time to reflect with pride on our achievements and to remind ourselves of the values that bind us together.

But Rome must also be the start of a new chapter. There are important challenges ahead of us, for our security, for the well-being of our people, for the role that Europe will need to play in an increasingly multipolar world. A united Europe at 27 needs to shape its own destiny and carve out a vision for its own future.

This White Paper is the European Commission’s contribution to this new chapter of the European project. We want to launch a process in which Europe determines its own path. We want to map out the challenges and opportunities ahead of us and present how we can collectively choose to respond.

After a broad debate across our continent in the months to come, including the European Parliament, national Parliaments, local and regional authorities, and civil society at large, I will take these ideas forward and give my personal views on the future of Europe in my State of the Union speech in September 2017.

This should help the European Council draw first conclusions by the end of the year and decide on a course of action to be rolled out in time for the European Parliament elections in June 2019.

As we decide which way to go, we should remember that Europe has always been at its best when we are united, bold and confident that we can shape our future together.

The European Union has changed our lives for the better. We must ensure it keeps doing so for all of those that will follow us.

Jean-Claude Juncker
1 March 2017
Contact Details

eulocal@cor.europa.eu  #EUlocal  www.cor.europa.eu/reflecting-eu