



European Committee
of the Regions

Conclusions

10th Subsidiarity Conference

Future of Europe: Daring more
EU democracy - Creating EU added value

11 November 2022 València, Spain



GENERALITAT
VALENCIANA

European Committee of the Regions

The Future of Europe: Daring more EU democracy – Creating EU added value

Conclusions

of the 10th CoR Subsidiarity Conference, 11 November 2022, Valencia, Spain

- Considering that EU citizens call for strengthening **European democratic legitimacy and involving all governance levels in EU decision-making**;
- Considering that the **principles of subsidiarity and proportionality** are enshrined in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union;
- Considering the recommendations of the **Task Force on subsidiarity, proportionality and doing less more efficiently**¹. and their follow-up;
- Considering the proposals of the **Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFE)**²:
 - *"Active subsidiarity and multilevel governance are key principles and fundamental features for EU functioning and democratic accountability"*,
 - *"Systematic use of a subsidiarity definition agreed by all EU institutions could help to clarify whether decisions have to be taken at European, national and regional level"*;
 - *"The mechanism allowing national parliaments to assess whether new legislative proposals at the European level do not intrude on their legal competences should be reviewed to grant the possibility to suggest a legislative initiative to the European level and be extended to all regional parliaments with legislative powers"*;
 - *"The CoR should have an enhanced role in the institutional architecture if matters with a territorial impact are concerned"*,

the European Committee of the Regions and the elected local and regional representatives gathered in Valencia for the **10th Conference on subsidiarity** call for using the momentum created by the CoFE, to move forward and to respond to citizens' expectations by embracing the **principle of active subsidiarity** and by reinforcing the role of local and regional authorities in the EU's institutional framework.

Based on the political legitimacy of CoR members and their experience, notably in implementing large parts of EU legislation, the CoR is committed to:

- assessing proposals for EU legislation with regard to the respect of the principles of **subsidiarity and proportionality** and **their territorial impact** including rural-proofing, through its networks and on the basis of the subsidiarity assessment grid it developed;

¹ [Report of the Task Force on subsidiarity, proportionality and doing less more efficiently, 10 July 2018](#)

² [Conference on the Future of Europe: Report on the Final Outcome, May 2022](#)

- promoting the recognition of the **active subsidiarity** concept in the European Commission's Better Regulation Agenda, notably by assessing the European added value of EU legislation and contributing to improving it throughout its lifecycle from a local and regional perspective;
- collecting feedback elements on the implementation of EU legislation through the **RegHub network** as input to revision of existing legislation,
- participating actively in the **Fit4Future Platform** with three CoR representatives in the Government group, and coordinating the RegHub network as a specific subgroup of the platform;
- contributing to shaping the EU agenda and the development of policies based on its **permanent dialogue and consultation** with local and regional authorities, citizens and stakeholders wherever they live in the EU;
- developing the local and regional dimension of **foresight activities** of the European institutions, in order to contribute to adequate European responses to future challenges.

This commitment is also part of the CoR's contribution to addressing citizens' expectations for reforms of the European Union and for a European Union that delivers on the ground.

To this end, in the context of the current treaties, the participants highlight the importance of:

- reinforcing **interinstitutional cooperation** and ensuring the recognition of the role and contribution of local and regional authorities in a future revision of the interinstitutional agreement on better law-making, as well as in the bilateral cooperation agreements with the European Commission and the European Parliament. This recognition should encompass the CoR's involvement in the trilogues on EU legislation with a territorial dimension;
- promoting across EU policies multi-level governance, a **place-based approach** to policies and the **partnership principle**, as already successfully experienced in EU cohesion policy;
- mainstream **active subsidiarity** also throughout the relevant EU's governance processes, such as the European Semester;
- using the extensive experience of the CoR from the Conference on the Future of Europe including the local, regional and cross-border dialogues with citizens, the network of regional and local councillors and its delegation of regional and local representatives, in order to contribute to the work of the **Citizens' Panels** which the Commission intends to establish.

Finally, in the longer term, within the context of a **revision of the EU Treaties** recommended by the COFE to prepare an ambitious reform of the functioning of the EU, the participants call for:

- the review of article 5 (3) TEU of protocols No 1 and 2, granting the CoR a more active role in the **ex ante phase of EU policy making**, as well as **the revision of the early warning mechanism** to reinforce and facilitate the contribution of the regional Parliaments with legislative powers in EU decision making;
- an enhanced role for the CoR in the EU's institutional architecture with a **binding legislative function in key territorial policies** in order to respect the pivotal role of sub-national levels of governance in European democracy and in the design and implementation of the EU legislation.



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