



European Committee
of the Regions



Annual Impact Report

ACHIEVEMENTS 2025

March 2026

Introduction by the Secretary-General of the European Committee of the Regions

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) remains at the heart of the process bringing local voices into EU decision-making. The 2025 Annual Impact Report reflects this mission, offering a clear overview of our work and tangible results achieved in shaping the EU's policies.

This year, the CoR's expertise and evidence-based opinions contributed to shaping key EU legislative proposals, particularly in areas such as the Multiannual Financial Framework, Cohesion Policy and climate action. These contributions underscore our commitment to ensuring that Europe's regions and cities have a strong voice in shaping the future of the Union.

2025 was a year of renewal and progress. With a new generation of members, we strengthened our commitment to inclusion and representation, ensuring that diversity remains a cornerstone of our work. Thanks to the political work of our members, the Committee brought EU legislation closer to regions and citizens. With 42 opinions adopted and 7 resolutions, our impact extended beyond consultation and was felt across all three of our priorities for 2025–2030: Cohesion, Resilience, and Proximity.

Our advocacy for a strong, partnership-based Cohesion Policy shaped the Council conclusions and the European Commission's post-2027 MFF proposals, reaffirming the need to stand up for every region, city and village. Through the Cohesion

Alliance, high-profile campaigns and the 23rd European Week of Regions and Cities, which generated record-breaking media and social media engagement, we mobilised regions, cities and stakeholders to defend territorial investment and partnership rights. We led the way on EU resilience, by influencing key policies on climate, affordable energy, sustainable mobility and digital transformation and by bringing the local perspective to global fora, such as COP30 and the first EU Water Resilience Forum. We stood with Ukraine, supporting local leaders through the TIPS4UA programme and the European Alliance for the Reconstruction. Proximity guided our efforts to strengthen democratic values, gender equality and youth engagement, with initiatives such as the Rule of Law work, the Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award, the EU Local Councillors Network and the Young Elected Politicians programme, showing how empowering people builds trust and makes Europe stronger.

At the same time, we are investing in the digitalisation of our core tools and in cybersecurity, transforming the CoR into an innovation laboratory. We see the CoR administration as an innovative frontrunner and a testing ground for practices that

can inspire and benefit the wider Union's administration, ensuring that lessons learned here can drive modernisation across EU institutions.

Our most important asset remains our staff. Their motivation and well-being are crucial to our success. That is why we are offering new career opportunities, enhancing support services and introducing collaborative working methods. In 2025, we attracted new talent with a record number of recruitments while maintaining a high level of staff satisfaction, as confirmed in our latest staff survey.

The achievements of 2025 pave the way for our future action. Past achievements should inspire us as we move forward, recognising that continuous effort, curiosity and consistency are the keys to ensuring a lasting impact. Together, we will build on these achievements and continue shaping a stronger, more inclusive and innovative Union.

Petr Blížkovský,
Secretary-General



Annual Impact Report
2025

Cohesion (including MFF)



CoR as leader in defending ambitious MFF and strong Cohesion Policy

The CoR was the first to warn against the centralisation of EU funds in the next MFF. Maintaining pressure on the Commission through two resolutions and a strong communication strategy allowed the CoR to set the tone in July 2025, when the MFF proposal was adopted.



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How it will be followed up

The MFF steering group, chaired by the CoR President, will lead and coordinate the work of the CoR on the next long-term budget. All rapporteurs of the 19 MFF-related opinions are members of the group.

The 23rd edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities championed Cohesion Policy

The #EURegionsWeek brings together regional and local authorities, staff from the institutions, and MEPs around topics related to cohesion and key concerns. They share views, experiences and good practices.



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How it will be followed up

Discussion and debate among LRAs begin with the #EURegionsWeek applications. In 2025, a pilot using Panoramic AI extracted key fragments, which we plan to expand on the 2026 edition.

First ever #CohesionAlliance public action involving CoR members and MEPs

The protest in front of the European Parliament was the first of this kind and represented a success both in communication and policy terms:

- It was widely covered by European media.
- Several MEPs referred to the initiative as an unprecedented protest that co-legislators cannot ignore.



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How it will be followed up

The CoR will continue to lead the mobilisation of the #CohesionAlliance for a strong Cohesion Policy after 2027.

CoR's contribution to the Commission's forthcoming EU Affordable Housing Plan

The own-initiative opinion was recognised as an early institutional contribution to the European Commission's forthcoming EU Affordable Housing Plan. The adoption of the report was supported by several communication products and initiatives.

The role of cities and regions in the EU Affordable Housing Plan



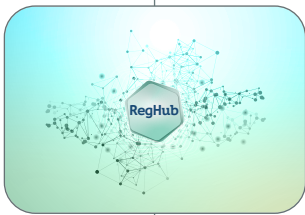
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How it will be followed up

A new rapporteur will be appointed after the publication of the EU Affordable Housing Plan, whose work will be build on that one already done by the previous rapporteur.

Public Procurement Dir. And RegHub

The European Commission's evaluation clearly underscores that cities and regions are central in the functioning and future design of the EU's public procurement system. The Commission's evaluation also took on board the results of CoR's 2025 consultation and study, which both benefited from essential RegHub input.



How it will be followed up

In 2026, the CoR will issue an outlook opinion on the evaluation of the public procurement directives followed by a legislative opinion on the European Commission's announced revision proposal. Both will build on the evidence gathered in 2025.

CoR as leader in defending place-based innovation in the new MFF

The CoR proposals in its opinion on the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10/ Horizon Europe) led to a preservation of the existing funding streams and instruments for local participants in the European Commission communications, leading to an improved competitiveness and resilience of local players.



How it will be followed up

The excellent relationships with commissioners Zaharieva and Séjourné, and the specific proposals made by the CoR rapporteurs on the legislative texts to be discussed by Council and Parliament, will ensure a positive inter-institutional collaboration and follow-up in the months and years to come.

Zero long-term unemployment

The CoR's call for the European Commission to fund similar programmes in the EU came to fruition with the winning bids signing their contracts to be funded by ESF+ in September 2025.



How it will be followed up

The CoR will continue to monitor the progress of ZLTU programmes and will host an event to evaluate their impact, especially in regions in development traps.

New European Bauhaus (NEB) 'Boost for small municipalities' Pilot Project

The CoR's proposal for a NEB funding scheme for small municipalities evolved into the "Boost for Small Municipalities" European Parliament Pilot Project, launched at the CoR in 2025.



How it will be followed up

The Boost Project is expected to become a permanent EU funding instrument, with follow-up discussions planned with the European Parliament and the European Commission on future collaboration, including the Bauhaus centenary event.

Resilience (including support for Ukraine)



CoR President in the Local Leaders Forum, an important pre-COP event

In the framework of COP30, the CoR President participated in the Local Leaders Forum in Rio de Janeiro, this year's main global stage for subnational leaders. This further elevated the profile of the CoR within the global climate debate. By representing European LRAs at this high-level forum, the president reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of subnational governments to climate ambition and ensured that the perspectives and priorities of EU local actors were reflected.



© European Union / David Martín Díaz

How it will be followed up

The CoR will continue to engage in global climate and environment processes, including in next year's climate COP31 in Antalya (Türkiye) and biodiversity COP17 in Yerevan (Armenia). It will continue to engage with the EU negotiators, global networks of LRAs and UN agencies, including UNEP, UN-Habitat and UNFCCC. The CoR will work on a dedicated opinion gathering the position on both conferences.

The European Ocean Pact

The CoR identified, in the new strategy on Oceans a key document to ensure that local communities, in particular coastal areas, have a clear pathway for marine environment protection, blue economy development and security elements. The European Commission incorporated at least 11 proposals from the CoR opinion on the European Ocean Pact into the final strategic documents.



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How it will be followed up

As requested by the CoR and the European Parliament, the Pact will include an Ocean Act, a regulation establishing specific indicators for the different Ocean related goals. Specific targets relevant to LRAs, such as their participation in to governance are to be included based on CoR proposals.

Cities and regions' insufficient role in recovery fund widely recognised

The insufficient involvement of local and regional authorities in the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) was officially recognised by the European Parliament in its Resolution on the Implementation of the RRF, and MEPs acknowledged the adverse consequences of this top-down governance.



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How it will be followed up

In the midst of intense debates surrounding the next EU budget, and with the RRF viewed by some as a model, this acknowledgement is a key step in the fight to ensure appropriate involvement of cities and regions in future instruments.

Automotive Regions Alliance

Further advancing territorial perspectives to support automotive regions in their ongoing transition with the adoption of a CoR resolution and contributions to the 'Strategic Dialogue for the European Automotive Industry' through the work of the CoR's Automotive Regions Alliance.



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How it will be followed up

The CoR will be preparing an opinion on the European Commission's December 2025 automotive package, providing the opportunity to highlight the expected territorial impacts of the proposed measures and stressing the need for a place-based approach.

European Mobility Data Space

CoR recommendations on the European Mobility Data Space (EMDS) shaped EU actions, reflected in the launch of the deployEMDS pilots, the clarification of governance through National Access Points, the preparation of a Mobility and Logistics European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC), and the European Commission's Final Report – Study in support of EMDS confirming a federated, FAIR-by-design architecture, echoing the CoR's demand for interoperability combined with regional flexibility.



How it will be followed up

The CoR will continue to follow EMDS implementation through its participation in relevant Commission expert groups and stakeholder platforms, promoting the involvement of cities and regions in pilots, governance arrangements and future legislative or funding initiatives linked to mobility data spaces.

First ever joint ENVI-ENVE meeting

The first joint EP ENVI – CoR ENVE meeting took place in October strengthening interinstitutional cooperation and common political objectives, aligning CoR and Parliament efforts on climate adaptation and resilience. The experience of EU territories on the ground is key to in preventing, adapting to, and responding to climate-related disasters, and provides indispensable insights for policymaking and is key.



How it will be followed up

ENVI and ENVE will tentatively meet in October 2026 to deepen cooperation in our common remits.

1st Water Resilience Forum

The 1st European Water Resilience Forum was hosted in December by the CoR in partnership with the European Commission, EESC and JRC, with Commissioners Ribera and Roswall present. This Forum was organised, following the adoption of the European Water Resilience Strategy, to bring together policymakers, scientists, industry leaders, and civil society to chart the path toward a water-resilient EU by 2050.



How it will be followed up

The Commission will launch the Water Resilience Stakeholder Platform, an expert group that will bring together a range of stakeholders to help implement strategic actions from the Strategy. The call for interest opens early 2026, with the CoR expected to co-manage this Platform.

Forum on Intermunicipal Partnerships between the EU and Ukraine – contribution to the 2025 Ukraine Recovery Conference

The Forum emphasised the need to scale up intermunicipal partnerships to empower local authorities to drive reconstruction, reforms, and Ukraine's EU accession, while fostering stronger, mutually beneficial ties with European regions.

One partnership was signed at the forum, and 15 more during the Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC) in Rome.



How it will be followed up

The CoR CIVEX commission is working to establish a structured dialogue with the Ukraine Donor Conference, continue supporting capacity building through the TIPS4UA programme and engage with the newly established European Partnership Hub. The European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine will develop a win-win narrative to guide future Partnerships and contribute to the next URC in Poland.

Proximity



CoR strong messages on Rule of Law triggered high interest

CoR opinion on the implementation of the Rule of Law in the EU put forward a systematic approach to what local and regional authorities can contribute to the EU Rule of Law process. These strong messages triggered a high interest among EU institutions and other stakeholders and were presented in several forums: EP and EESC hearings, European Commission meeting and CEPS expert workshop.



© European Union- Christophe Lacroix

How it will be followed up

The CoR will continue to promote the crucial role of local and regional authorities in defending the rule of law and fundamental rights, as well as in broad efforts to protect democracy. The CoR will provide a concrete contribution through its forthcoming opinion on the European Democracy Shield.

Mayor Pawel Adamowicz Award: growth of the impact

This Flagship Award in partnership with Gdansk and ICORN (International Cities of Refuge Network) honours local democracy heroes. The fourth edition saw a rise in nominations, and the profile of the laureate – the Mayor of Kyiv, Vitaliy Klitschko – triggered a huge media outreach in 15 countries. The increased involvement of the European Parliament, with LIBE committee Chair, Javier Zarzalejos and other leaders joining the Jury of the Award ceremony.



© European Union- John Thys

How it will be followed up

The Award will pursue its mission of protecting local democracy, solidarity and freedom, facing violence, intolerance and war, in Europe and beyond.

Local and regional authorities in multilateral fora and UN processes

The CoR's efforts led to formal recognition of LRAs in UN processes. The Sevilla Commitment adopted at the United Nations Fourth Financing for Development Conference in July 2025 underscores empowering local and regional governments through strengthened subnational finance and capacity-building, as key actors on sustainable development. The CoR First Vice-President participation in the EU Delegation emphasised this importance



© European Union / Hélène Driesen

How it will be followed up

The CoR will not only follow up through dedicated opinions related to the external aspects of the MFF – Global Europe and on Fragility, but continue building closer links with the UN system and with peers from partner countries.

The EU Local Councillors Network (EULC)

First EU joint corporate initiative (CoR-EC) mobilising over 3.000 local elected politicians in communicating Europe on the ground, acting as multipliers. In 2025 the network enhanced CoR/ EU visibility via national, regional outreach events (i.e. ANCI, Bologna, Salon de Maires- Paris, November 2025).



© European Union / ANCI

How it will be followed up

2026 strategy based on activating members and promoting the network's opportunities. Local events with CoR members will be encouraged, as well as cooperation with national and regional associations of local authorities, synergies with REPs, EPLOs, EDICs, exploring new comm initiatives.

The YEPs programme

The YEP programme continued to be one of the best outreach tools for the CoR. Not only have YEPs represented the CoR in 4 Youth Policy Dialogues with European Commissioners, the 2025 cohort continued to be an integral multiplier for the CoR through very high social media activity.



How it will be followed up

Further opportunities for YEPs to represent and multiply the messages of the CoR will be explored, especially in view of meaningful youth engagement and the great potential of the YEP cohorts as social media multipliers.

Decentralised cooperation increasingly recognised as a key tool for the EU international partnerships

The standing co-rapporteurs of the European Parliament DEVE Committee on Global Gateway and the chair of the DEVE Committee voiced strong support for the CoR Opinion on the Global Gateway when speaking at the Cities and Regions Forum for International Partnerships. MEP Bentele included a dedicated paragraph on the need for a stronger role for LRAs in all aspects of the Global Gateway in her report.



How it will be followed up

Following the unanimous adoption of the Global Gateway opinion and the resounding success of the Forum on international partnerships, the CoR will continue to engage with the EP, the European Commission and the UN to further promote the localisation of international partnerships.

CoR and LRAs mobilised towards 2024 EU elections

The CoR's action plan on the EU elections delivered on the mobilisation of citizens, and brought local and regional priorities into EU election discussions. Its positive impact was recognised in the EP Report on Stocktaking of the 2024 European Elections, adopted by Parliament in September 2025.



How it will be followed up

The CoR will closely cooperate with the institutional partners to deliver on local and regional priorities throughout the 2024–2029 cycle, and will use the 2024 practice to build its strategy and contribution towards the 2029 Elections.

Building foresight capacity for LRAs

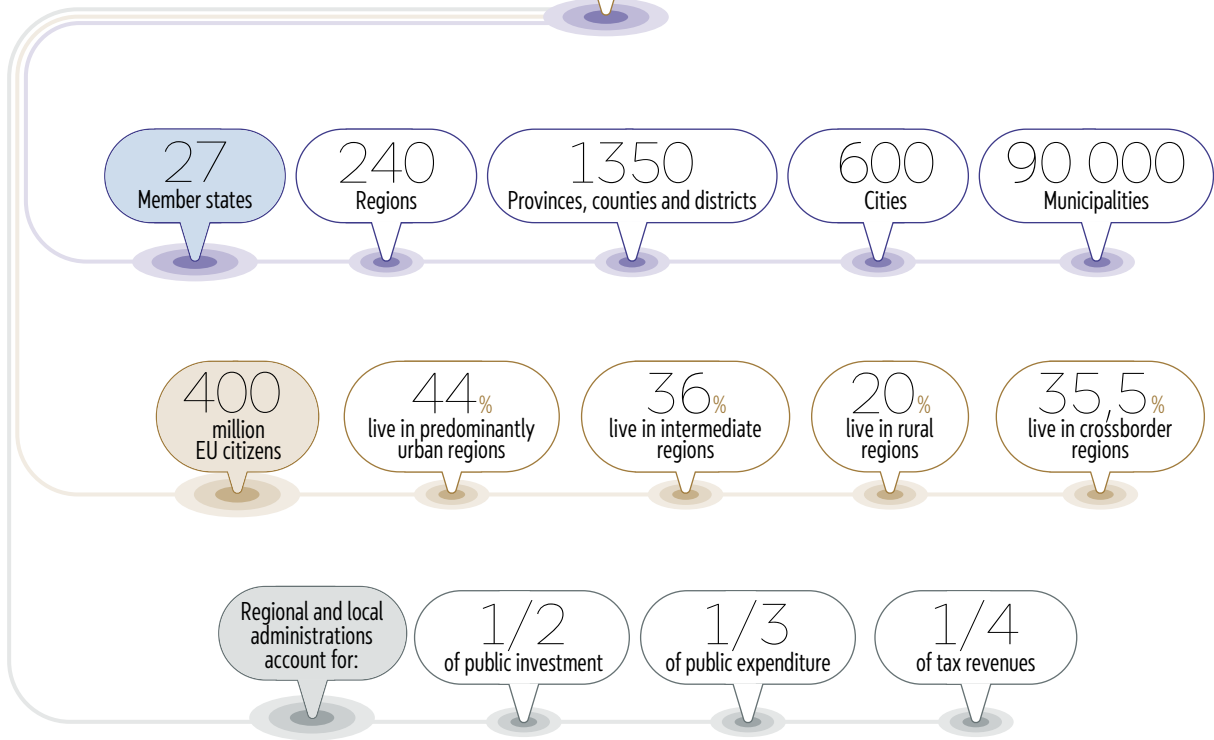
Helping LRAs anticipate emerging challenges is essential for building resilience, supported by strengthened foresight capacity. The CoR supported this by hosting the ESPAS Practitioners' Day, organising foresight workshops during the European Week of Regions and Cities and in cooperation with the JRC and EPRS, participating in the Advisory Board of the Strategic Foresight Partnership Interreg project, and systematically integrating foresight into its studies.



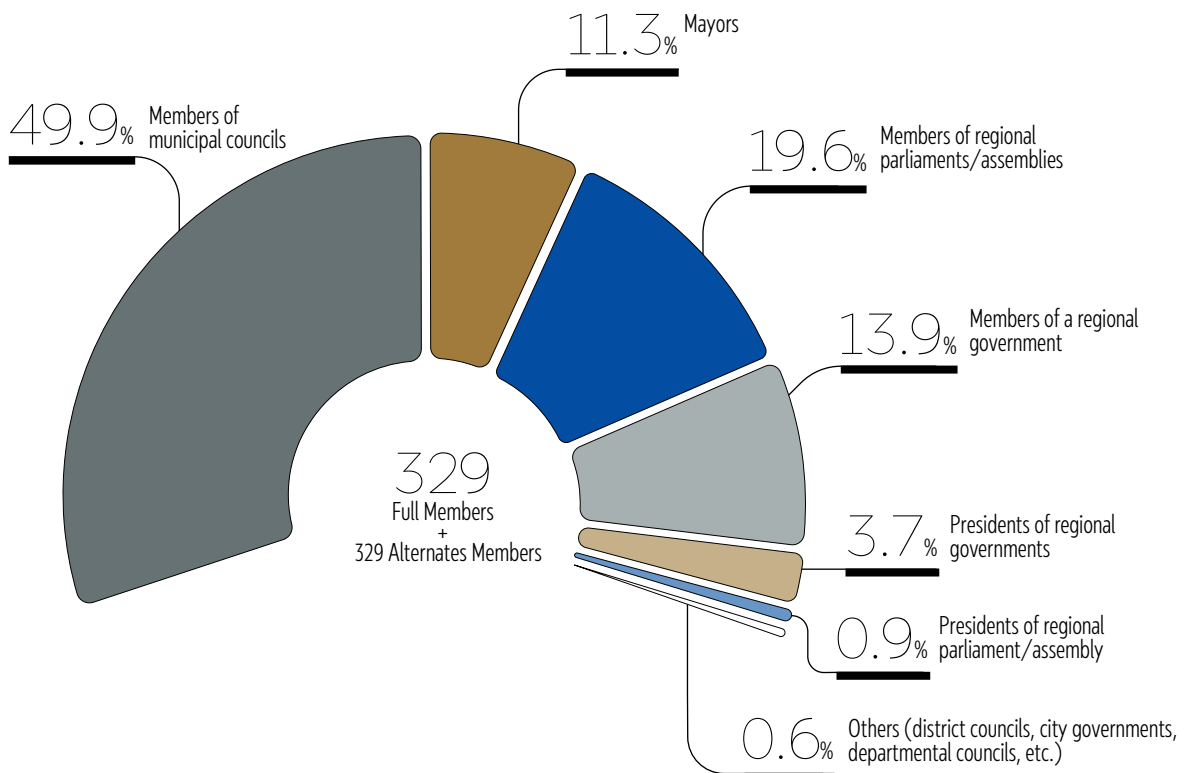
How it will be followed up

The CoR will continue to strengthen its foresight activities to support capacity-building in LRAs. It will remain an active partner of ESPAS to connect LRAs with the European level, continue to organise workshops for members and staff, and systematically integrate a foresight component into all its studies.

The regions and cities of the European Union

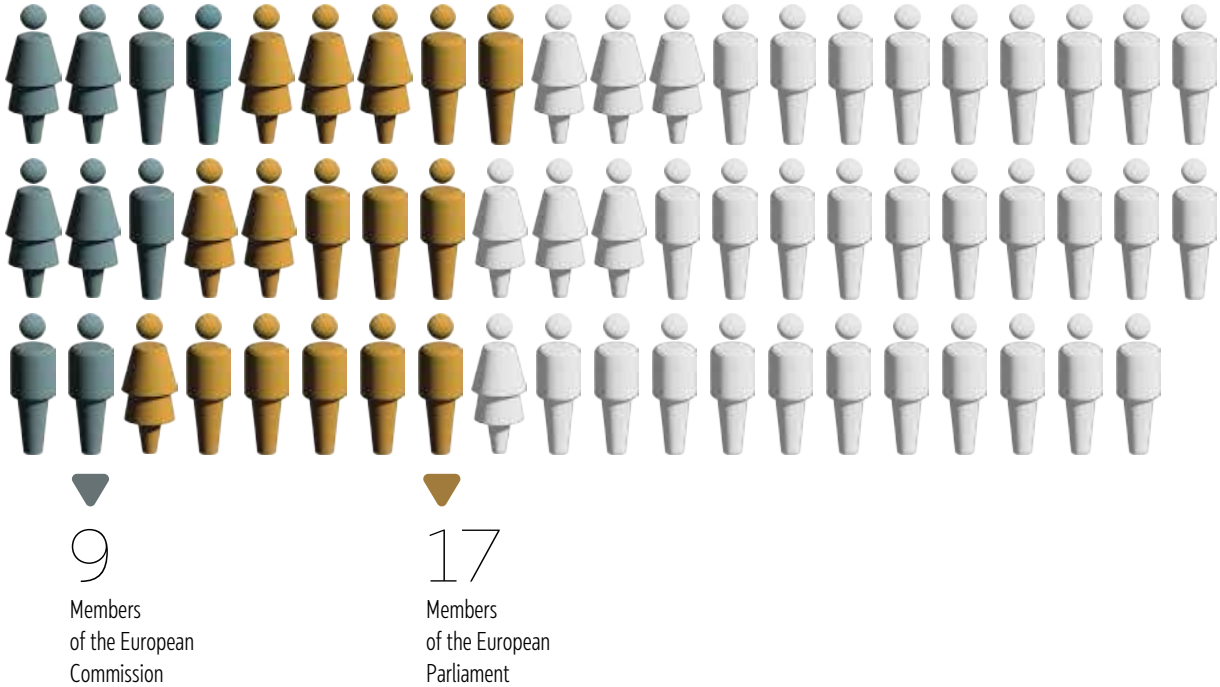


CoR Members by political role

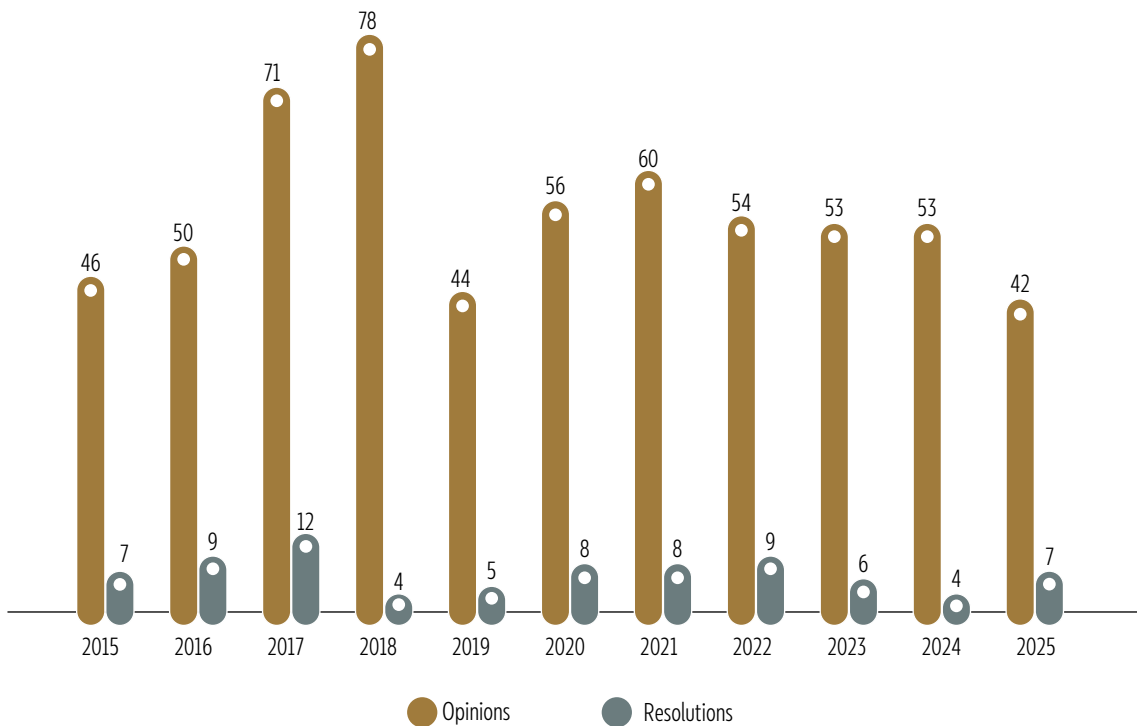


Narrating the impact of the CoR Plenary Assembly in 2025

62 high-level guest speakers participated in CoR plenary session in 2025, in total.



Decade-long trend in CoR opinions and resolutions





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