European Committee
of the Regions

Annual Impact Report 2025

FULL REPORT

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European Committee of the Regions

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Brussels, 17 January 2026

Item 11 b | For decision with a debate

Annual Impact Report 2025

Submitted by the Secretary-General

The Bureau is asked to:

- take stock of the impact of CoR opinions.
- approve the 2025 Annual Impact Report and recommend to the Plenary Assembly to adopt it/

Item 11 b **Annual Impact Report 2025**

Short description:

The Annual Impact Report 2025 provides a thematic overview of the work and main achievements of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) within the European decision-making process. This analysis is based on the major achievements on key themes identified and debated by each CoR commission.

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1. Summary

As a consultative body to the European institutions, the main role of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is to represent the European Union's local and regional authorities in the EU decision-making process. The impact of CoR opinions is assessed in terms of:

- achievements in the EU legislative process and in general European debates (impact on preparatory or final legal texts);
- visibility for local and regional authorities in the setting of the EU's agenda;
- tangible changes in the EU's working methods, in particular through alliance building and interinstitutional cooperation, or in people's day-to-day lives, brought about through EU legislation or EU actions promoted or initiated by the CoR.

In 2025, the CoR adopted 42 opinions and 7 resolutions.

It is also important to assess how CoR members interact with the representatives of the legislative institutions, namely the European Parliament, the Council of the EU (and its rotating Presidency), and the European Commission. Therefore, in 2025 more detailed figures were collected for each main EU institution than in previous years.

As in previous years, the report describes the progress made in each of the three political priorities for the CoR's 2025-2030 term of office and provides examples demonstrating that the CoR has maintained its crucial role as the local and regional voice at EU level.

With regard to the **cohesion** priority, the following key impact areas have been highlighted:

- The CoR's key messages on cohesion policy were taken up in the Council conclusions (28 March 2025), particularly regarding the need to guarantee the 'active involvement' of local and regional authorities in future cohesion policy.
- The clear policy messages sent to all EU institutions and partners ahead of the publication of the post-2027 MFF proposals were partially picked up in the European Commission proposals in July 2025 and strongly echoed in the responses of other stakeholders to those proposals.
- The CoR contributed to the European Commission's revised budget proposal by strongly opposing centralisation and advocating multilevel governance. Through formal opinions, political pressure, and strategic messaging, the CoR influenced both the Commission and the European Parliament to safeguard cohesion policy and territorial equity. The CoR's activities and the cohesion/MFF communication campaign increased the political pressure on the co-legislators and ultimately helped push the European Parliament's leading groups to write a letter to President von der Leyen calling for a revision of the MFF proposal. The letter echoed the main demands repeatedly voiced by the CoR. Moreover, the EP's draft interim report on the MFF reflects the CoR's positions to a very large extent.
- The 23rd edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities (EURegionsWeek) gave the CoR's political leadership a platform to present a unified message in support of a strong EU cohesion policy, supported by the State of Regions and Cities address delivered by Kata Tüttő, the CoR president, the 2025 EU Annual Report and the Flash Eurobarometer survey. During the week, the Cohesion Alliance ran a highly visible and impactful campaign to protest against the proposed cuts to the multiannual financial framework (MFF) after 2027. The resolution on the future MFF, the demonstration outside the European Parliament, and the consistent messaging since the opening press conference attracted widespread attention in EU media and on social platforms, resulting in significant political recognition and high-level engagement, with strong statements from MEPs and the president of the European Parliament, reinforcing the alliance's commitment to defending

cohesion policy funding. With 6 500 people attending the event, this was one of the most significant and engaging weeks of the year for the CoR. The annual report was referred to in the EU Agenda for Cities published on 3 December 2025.

- Key CoR messages on housing were incorporated into the EPSCO Council conclusions adopted on 1 December 2025[1], the EP resolution on the current housing crisis and the draft report of the EP special committee on the housing crisis (HOUS).
- Interreg's EU added value was recognised by the Council, and the Commission's post-2027 legislative proposal set out a distinct governance structure reflecting the cross-border nature of Interreg cooperation.
- Commission Executive Vice-President Stéphane Séjourné identified the CoR and its RegHub network as key partners in the consultation process on the evaluation of the 2014 Public Procurement Directive, and the Commission's 2025 evaluation report made reference to contributions from the CoR and RegHub.
- A number of elements from the CoR's opinion on the forthcoming Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10)/Horizon Europe[2], published at the end of 2024, were reflected in the legislative proposals for the EU Regulation and Council Decision published on 16 July 2025.
- The 23 May and 30 September COMPET Council conclusions reflected elements of the CoR's calls for better territorially-based research and innovation policies.
- The European Commission, answering the call made in the CoR opinion on *Zero long-term unemployment*[3], launched a pilot project that took the form of contracts signed with programmes earmarked for EU funding from ESF+.
- The CoR's proposal for a New European Bauhaus (NEB) funding scheme for small municipalities evolved into tangible EU action supporting small municipalities.
- The Commission's report on the European Year of Skills formally recognised the CoR's substantial contribution to local and regional engagement and highlighted its key role in advancing territorial participation in Europe's skills agenda.
- The CoR fostered structured dialogue between EU institutions and LRAs, consolidating their shared responsibility for cohesion policy through initiatives such as the flagship European Week of Regions and Cities, with its 'EURegionsWeek close to you' events, and 33 EU local dialogues organised by CoR members and alternate members in 2025.

With regard to the **resilience** priority, the key impact areas included the following:

- The CoR president participated in the Local Leaders Forum in Rio de Janeiro, an important pre-COP event. 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 players were reflected. The CoR also convened the first European Subnational Pre-COP, uniting EU subnational voices ahead of COP30.
- The European Commission made extensive use of the CoR outlook opinion on the European Ocean Pact when drawing up the new ocean strategy: at least 11 proposals from the CoR were translated into the final strategic documents. The legislative follow-up to the strategy requested by the CoR and the European Parliament, i.e. the development of an Ocean Act, will result in a specific regulation to be adopted in 2026-2027.

1 Cf. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/epsco/2025/12/01/ (overview of 1 December EPSCO conclusions) and https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15709-2025-INIT/en/pdf (conclusions on housing).

2 SEDEC-VII/043 – Recommendations for the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10) – rapporteur: Anne Besnier (FR/PES).

3 SEDEC-VII/037 – Zero long-term unemployment: the local and regional perspective – rapporteur: Yonnec Polet (BE/PES).

- The CoR gained high-level visibility through its participation in the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), held in Nice in June, as part of the official EU delegation.
- Proposals on permitting, funding and staff upskilling from the CoR opinion *State of the Energy Union: Getting prepared for a smooth implementation of the energy transition in line with the Fit for 55 targets* were successfully incorporated into the 2025 Annual Progress Reports on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement.
- The European Parliament Resolution on the Implementation of the RRF is very well aligned with the key points made in CoR opinions on the RRF and is supportive of CoR demands, including recognising that local and regional authorities are not sufficiently involved in the Recovery and Resilience Facility.
- The Committee further advanced territorial perspectives on how to support automotive regions in their ongoing transition with the adoption of a resolution on *Strengthening the territorial dimension in the implementation of the Industrial Action Plan for the European Automotive Sector*[4], and contributed to the Strategic Dialogue for the European Automotive Industry through the work of its Automotive Regions Alliance.
- CoR recommendations on the European Mobility Data Space (EMDS)[5] helped shape subsequent EU actions, as reflected in the launch of the deployEMDS pilots, the clarification of governance through National Access Points, the establishment of a Mobility and Logistics European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC), and the European Commission's Final Report – Study in support of the creation of the common EMDS confirming a federated, FAIR-by-design architecture, echoing the CoR's call for interoperability combined with regional flexibility.
- The Polish Council Presidency invited the CoR to present its opinion on the *Challenges and opportunities of artificial intelligence in the public sector: defining the role of regional and local authorities*[6] and its study on *AI and GenAI adoption by local and regional administrations* at the TELECOM working party of the Council of the European Union.
- The first joint EP ENVI – CoR ENVE meeting took place in October, strengthening interinstitutional cooperation and common political objectives, and aligning CoR and Parliament efforts on climate adaptation and resilience.
- With water resilience being a CoR strategic priority, work in this area culminated with the organisation of the first European Water Resilience Forum, hosted in December by the CoR in partnership with the Commission, the EESC and the Joint Research Centre (JRC), attended by Commissioners Ribera and Roswall. This landmark event highlighted the CoR's key role in driving a shared European agenda for water resilience.
- Reflecting CoR opinions and the recommendations of the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine, European Parliament resolutions emphasised the importance of taking a decentralised approach to reconstruction and the need for local and regional authorities to be involved in planning, decision-making and implementation of the Ukraine Plan.
- Thanks to proactive CoR engagement with the German, Italian and Ukrainian governments, the local and regional dimension was a key element at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome in July 2025. Over 400 LRA representatives were invited.
- Following its launch as a pilot programme in March 2025, the Training and Internship Programme Support for Ukrainian Municipalities (TIPS4UA) provided training and internships to 44 local government leaders and officials from Ukraine. The importance of this CoR flagship initiative was widely acknowledged at the Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC2025).

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4 RESOL-VIII/002 - Urgent resolution on strengthening the territorial dimension in the implementation of the industrial action plan for the European automotive sector.

5 COTER-VII/036 – Creation of a common European mobility data space – rapporteur: Zdeněk Hřib (CZ/Green+Pro).

6 ECON-VII/038 – Challenges and opportunities of artificial intelligence in the public sector: defining the role of regional and local authorities – rapporteur: Alberto Cirio (IT/EPP).

With regard to the **proximity** priority, the key impact areas included the following:

- The CoR's opinion on the rule of law attracted a high level of interest, resulting in broad engagement with EU institutions and relevant stakeholders: the CoR's views have been promoted at European Parliament and EESC hearings, and a Commission meeting and expert workshop, increasing recognition of the role of local and regional authorities in safeguarding the rule of law on the ground.
- The increased involvement of the European Parliament in the Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award, promoting democratic values such as freedom of thought, diversity, solidarity, and fighting xenophobia and hate speech, was demonstrated by the participation of the LIBE committee chair, Javier Zarzalejos, in the jury for the award and the attendance of the LIBE committee vice-chair, Alessandro Zan, at the award ceremony in February. The fourth round of the award saw a rise in nominations, and the profile of the laureate – the Mayor of Kyiv, Vitaliy Klitschko – triggered huge media interest in 15 countries.
- The CoR's engagement in multilateral and UN processes also helped to connect the global agenda to local realities through decentralised cooperation – this was apparent from the inclusion of the CoR's first vice-president in the EU delegation to the Fourth Financing for Development Conference in Seville. The CoR's work on the localisation of the EU Global Gateway strategy, including publishing an opinion devoted to the topic and co-organising a forum gathering 350 local representatives from all over the world, also resulted in the inclusion of a dedicated paragraph in the European Parliament report on Global Gateway.
- The EU Local Councillors Network is a unique EU-branded initiative under a common management between the Commission and the CoR, which brings together more than 3 000 local and regional elected representatives from all EU Member States to bring Europe closer to its citizens by actively promoting EU values. In 2025, the network achieved remarkable results: 1 700 local and regional authorities engaged, 1 200 communication initiatives drove dialogue across communities, and 350 councillors took part in study visits to Brussels, strengthening the link between local voices and EU decision-making. Councillors not only informed the public and organised public debates but also shaped discussions in local councils and provided direct feedback to EU institutions – making this network a cornerstone of participatory democracy.
- The Young Elected Politicians (YEP) programme strengthened its role as a key platform for engaging young leaders across the EU and its neighbourhood. Building on previous successes, the programme welcomed a geographically, politically, and gender-balanced cohort of 150 new YEPs, ensuring diversity and representation. YEPs actively contributed to CoR statutory sessions, milestone events, and high-profile external opportunities, amplifying the voices of regions and cities at European level. Tailored training sessions and seminars equipped selected participants with advanced skills to help them serve as effective ambassadors of the CoR and the EU. These achievements paved the way for deeper integration of YEP activities into all outreach initiatives, reinforcing the programme's impact on participatory governance. A total of 78 YEPs participated in CoR and external events, as well as other outreach activities, as speakers or active participants.
- EuroPCom 2025, Europe's largest public communication conference, took place on 3-4 July with the theme 'Beyond words – a story of trust', exploring trust in institutions, technology and communities. It gathered 40 renowned speakers from Europe and beyond and attracted 2 150 participants, half of them communication professionals. One defining feature was its pioneering embrace of AI-driven technology in outward communication, featuring tools for disinformation analysis, personalised content platforms, and avatar-based promotion. The Echoes of EuroPCom initiative, launched in October 2025, will continue the dialogue toward the 2026 edition.
- EU Elections and new institutional cycle: The CoR's 2024 European elections outreach campaign supported the mobilisation of citizens, and its positive impact was recognised in the September 2025 EP Report on stocktaking of the European elections 2024. The CoR brought local and regional priorities such as cohesion policy into EU election discussions and party manifestos. The CoR engaged in institutional debates and was a recognised player in the campaign, linking LRA and EU issues. The cooperation with the European Parliament was particularly successful, with a specific

memorandum of understanding signed and implemented. At the start of the new institutional cycle, cohesion policy and public engagement saw increased emphasis in EU strategic documents, thanks to the CoR's ongoing influence.

In 2025, media and social media communication activities generated a consistent impact, maximising the CoR's visibility and credibility. The CoR communication priorities adapted to the overarching priorities for the five-year term of office, as adopted by the Bureau on 1 July 2025, with three key performance indicators:

- **Press and media:** Media mentions KPI reached **15 202** media mentions in the first half of 2025 – the **highest level of coverage ever measured in a six-month period** – and **28 281 media mentions in 2025** as a whole This represents an **increase** of more than **60%** compared to 2024, when over **17 600** mentions were achieved, confirming a marked strengthening of media outreach under the current strategy. This growth is attributed to effective communication campaigns and improved coverage quality. On top of the broad coverage recorded in regional and local media, 2025 was marked by widespread high-quality coverage in main national and European outlets.
- **Social media:** the new mandate represents a generational transition in the CoR membership, with **85% of members** engaging in various platforms alongside the president, first vice-president and many commission chairs. Since the start of 2025, the CoR registered an **18.5% increase in followers** on its social media channels, bringing the total to **261 307** (up from 220 233). In terms of engagement, 2 314 individual posts (1 831 in 2024) generated **83 178 organic engagements – nearly twice as many as in each of the past two years – and an unprecedented 1.21 million organic views**, thanks to content diversification, and a focus on reels and collaborations.
- **Website and streaming:** The CoR website recorded **2.4 million page views**, representing a **41% increase** over last year. News and press releases generated 200 000 views (8.3%), while Opinion Factsheets received 130 000 views (5.4%). Three DDoS cybersecurity incidents caused minimal service disruption, and website migration to Commission servers will continue through mid-2026. Live streams and videos on demand had more than 45 000 views in 2025.

As part of its Annual Strategic Planning Cycle (ASPC), the CoR has also continued to boost its strategic planning and cross-commission cooperation. Following the adoption of its priorities for 2025-2030 in May 2025, the CoR sought to influence the Commission Work Programme 2026 and has also been proactively implementing its renewed cooperation agreements with the European Commission and the European Parliament. In particular, the EP CCC chair took part in the CoR CoP in December 2025.
The CoR enhanced its foresight capacity, notably by hosting its first ESPAS Practitioners' Day and the third edition of its foresight workshop at EU Regions Week, organising and participating in foresight workshops and training sessions in partnership with the JRC, the European Parliament Research Service (EPRS) and LRAs, participating in the Advisory Board of the Strategic Foresight Partnership Interreg project, and helping to ensure that all studies it commissions include a foresight component.

The work of the CoR's impact oversight coordinator, currently the president of the Renew Europe group, evolved to become the coordinator for the Annual Impact Report; in 2025 this work made a measurable contribution to further boosting the CoR's transition to an impact culture.

2. Foreword by the CoR's coordinator for the Annual Impact Report

This has been a landmark year for the European Committee of the Regions. Building on our 30th anniversary legacy and entering a new institutional cycle, we have strengthened the voice of Europe's regions and cities and demonstrated the real impact of our work on EU policymaking.

As annual impact coordinator, my role is to ensure that the CoR's work is visible, measurable, and transformative. The impact-oversight work carried out during the seventh term of office was remarkably rich in ideas from both political leaders and staff, playing a key role in advancing the CoR's shift from an output-focused approach to an impact-driven culture. To maintain this momentum in a structured, targeted, and manageable way, the position of Annual Impact Report coordinator was established in this term. This role fosters an 'impact culture' that prioritises results, evidence, and continuous improvement, connecting political leadership and administration to turn priorities into tangible outcomes.

This report illustrates how our impact culture has delivered across three political priorities: **cohesion, resilience, and proximity**. On **cohesion**, the CoR defended multilevel governance and territorial equity, influencing EU investment decisions and policy debates on housing and the multiannual financial framework. The **uptake of our key messages on cohesion policy** in the Council conclusions reinforced the active involvement of local and regional authorities. Through formal opinions, political pressure, and strategic messaging, the CoR influenced both the Commission and the European Parliament, contributing to **the call for a revision of the MFF proposal**.

On **resilience**, we advanced climate action and local delivery by convening the first European Subnational Pre-COP, which **resulted in formal recognition of local and regional authorities in COP30 negotiations.** This led to concrete climate commitments at local level, including pilot projects on water resilience and energy transition, launched in partnership with the Commission and other EU institutions and now being implemented in several regions with measurable outcomes.

On **proximity**, we increased democratic engagement and solidarity. The cornerstone of our work on proximity has been the **EU Local Councillors Network**, a unique EU-branded initiative bringing together over 3 000 elected representatives to connect Europe's citizens with local and regional decision-making. In 2025, it involved 1 700 authorities, launched 1 200 communication initiatives, and hosted 350 councillors on study visits to Brussels. Through public debates, local council discussions, and direct feedback to EU institutions, the network has become a key platform for participatory democracy and public engagement.

Looking ahead, new referrals on the multiannual financial framework offer an opportunity to shape EU legislation, while lessons from the European Court of Auditors' audit will help us refine our methods and results. The impact culture we have cultivated is now embedded in our institutional DNA, guiding every action and strengthening our contribution to a stronger, fairer, and more resilient Europe.

I am grateful to all CoR members and staff for their dedication and passion. Together, we continue to demonstrate that Europe's regions and cities are central to building a Europe that works for everyone.

François Decoster, coordinator for the Annual Impact Report

3. Introduction

Prepared in accordance with Rule 61 of the CoR Rules of Procedure, the Annual Impact Report 2025 provides a comprehensive, evidence-based account of the Committee's contributions to the European Union's decision-making processes over the preceding year. Building on its Administrative Strategic Planning Cycle (ASPC)[7], the CoR seeks to enhance its institutional impact through its opinions, capacity and alliance building, and communication.

2025 represents a pivotal moment for the European Union, with the start of a new institutional cycle coinciding with the emergence of complex, multifaceted challenges. Following changes in the institutional landscape, the CoR has entered its eighth term of office, beginning – as is customary – with the establishment of its five-year political priorities. The 2025 edition presents a thematic and analytical overview of the Committee's principal achievements, with a particular emphasis on the three political priorities for the 2025-2030 term: cohesion, resilience, and proximity.

Within this context, the CoR has consistently fulfilled its mandate as the institutional representative of local and regional authorities, ensuring that their perspectives are duly integrated into the formulation and execution of EU policies. The Committee has continued to champion the principles of multilevel governance and partnership as foundational elements of European integration.

This report systematically evaluates the uptake and influence of CoR opinions within the EU legislative and policy framework. It highlights the Committee's tangible impact, as demonstrated by its role in shaping Council conclusions and Parliament reports, fostering strategic alliances such as the Cohesion Alliance, the Alliance for the Reconstruction of Ukraine and the Automotive Regions Alliance, and advancing flagship initiatives, notably the European Week of Regions and Cities.

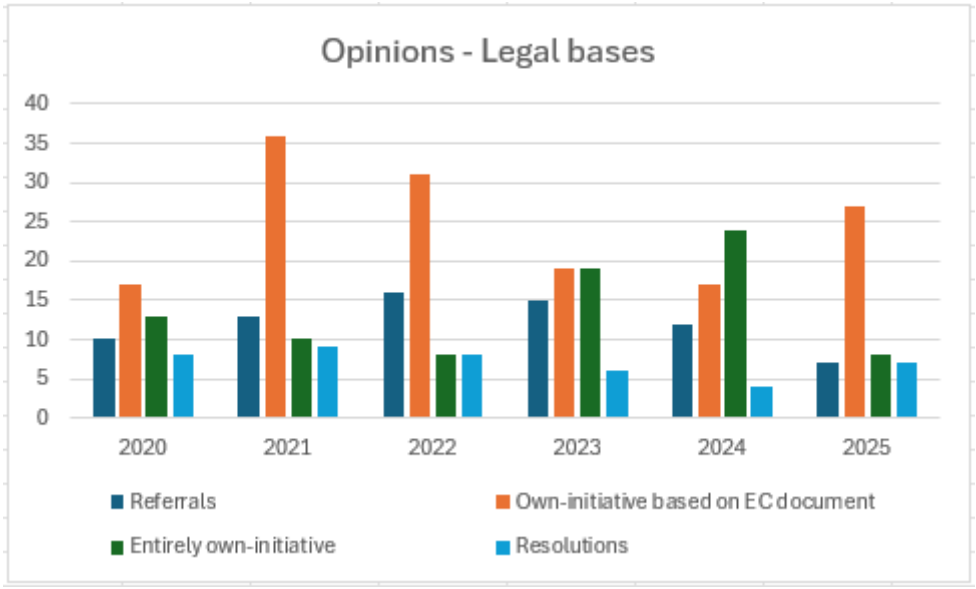
Furthermore, the 2025 Annual Impact Report underscores the importance of interinstitutional cooperation, the active participation of local and regional authorities in major EU strategies, and the CoR's enduring commitment to strengthening the democratic legitimacy of the Union.

In line with the approach adopted in previous editions, this report is results-oriented and transparent, and grounded in robust data, stakeholder feedback, and best practice examples. It provides a clear account of how the CoR's work has shaped EU policies and contributed to the well-being of people across Europe. The report also reflects on lessons learned and outlines the outlook for the coming year, reaffirming the Committee's dedication to fostering a more cohesive, resilient, and democratic European Union.

In 2025, the CoR adopted a total of 49 opinions and resolutions – a figure markedly lower than the average consultative output of the preceding three years.

	Opinions- Legal bases				
	Referrals	Own-initiative based on EC document	Entirely own-initiative	Resolutions	Total
2020	10	17	13	8	56
2021	13	36	10	9	68
2022	16	31	8	8	63
2023	15	19	19	6	59
2024	12	17	24	4	57
2025	7	27	8	7	49

7 See Appendix 1



This reduction is attributable to the change in the Committee's mandate and the start of a new term of office, as well as to the publication of major Commission legislative initiatives in the second half of 2025, on which the CoR will publish opinions in the course of 2026. The CoR has also expanded its application of the Better Regulation toolbox, in order to advocate effectively for policy grounded in robust evidence[8].

Interinstitutional cooperation intensified during this inaugural year of the new term of office, particularly in the second half of the year, which was marked by 19 referrals related to the multiannual financial framework (MFF); the opinions on those referrals will be adopted in 2026. This development has brought the Committee an additional opportunity to influence the EU legislative process, laying the groundwork for greater impact in subsequent years.

8 All quantitative KPIs are presented in the CoR's Annual Activity Report.

4. Impact report with respect to the Committee's three priorities for the 2025-2030 term of office

4.1 Cohesion

4.1.1 Cohesion policy (including ETC, just transition, and housing)

Main impact:

- Key CoR messages on cohesion policy were taken up in the Council conclusions (28 March 2025), particularly regarding the need to guarantee the 'active involvement' of local and regional authorities in future cohesion policy.
- Clear policy messages went out to all EU institutions and partners ahead of the publication of the post-2027 proposal for National and Regional Partnership Plans on 16 July, and renewed political momentum was built in support of a cohesion policy with full partnership rights with Cohesion Alliance partners, as echoed by the EP REGI committee.
- Key CoR messages on housing were incorporated into the EPSCO Council conclusions adopted on 1 December 2025[9], the EP resolution on the current housing crisis and the draft report of the EP special committee on the housing crisis (HOUS).
- Interreg's EU added value was recognised by the Council, and the Commission's post-2027 legislative proposal set out a distinct governance structure reflecting the cross-border nature of Interreg cooperation.

The CoR had a significant influence on the Council conclusions adopted on 28 March on the future of cohesion policy. Reflecting the long-standing position of the CoR, ministers responsible for cohesion committed to ensuring that all EU policies support the objective of economic, social and territorial cohesion, while confirming that competitiveness and cohesion are interconnected. The Council conclusions clearly echoed the CoR's opinions on the future of cohesion policy[10] and on the ninth Cohesion Report[11] and the report of the High Level Group on the Future of Cohesion Policy[12] by committing to upholding the key principles of cohesion policy (such as multilevel governance and partnership) and reasserting the pivotal role of regional and local authorities to deliver the policy, while ensuring that the policy covers all regions in the future.

At the request of the Polish Presidency of the Council, the CoR also drew up an opinion on *Cohesion policy as a key engine in achieving EU goals and reforms: how to further build on its performance-based approach while respecting decentralisation, partnership and multilevel governance*[13] in which, looking towards post-2027 cohesion policy reform, it made in-depth recommendations on how to reconcile a potential performance orientation for the policy with multilevel governance and the role of regions in that regard. The opinion was integrated into the activities of the Presidency and presented by rapporteur Isabelle Boudineau (FR/PES) and the CoR president at an informal meeting of ministers responsible for cohesion policy in Warsaw in May 2025.

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9 Cf. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/epsco/2025/12/01/ (overview of the 1 December EPSCO conclusions) and https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15709-2025-INIT/en/pdf (conclusions on housing).

10 COTER VII/030 - The future of cohesion policy post-2027 – rapporteurs: Emil Boc (RO/EPP) and Vasco Alves Cordeiro (PT/PES).

11 Ninth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion.

12 Forging a sustainable future together. Cohesion for a competitive and inclusive Europe : report of the High-Level Group on the Future of Cohesion Policy, February 2024.

13 COTER VIII/002 - Cohesion policy as a key engine in achieving EU goals and reforms: how to further build on its performance-based approach while respecting decentralisation, partnership and multilevel governance – rapporteur: Isabelle Boudineau (FR/PES).

Following the proposal of the European Commission on the future of cohesion policy on 16 July, the CoR worked with the main EU territorial associations within the Cohesion Alliance to produce a joint call for action to safeguard a stronger cohesion policy with regions at the centre. The joint call for action was presented at a high-level debate on 16 October as part of the European Week of Regions and Cities. It both generated significant media impact and created new momentum across like-minded associations to revise the European Commission proposal with a view to ensuring that future cohesion policy includes full partnership rights for local and regional authorities and is not nationalised or centralised. The event was preceded by a gathering outside the European Parliament led by the CoR president, involving Cohesion Alliance partners, political representatives from regions and cities and members of the European Parliament, calling for a future cohesion policy with full partnership rights, and opposing plans to nationalise and centralise it.

The REGI-COTER meeting organised in the margins of the European Week of Regions and Cities led to a frank and open debate between MEPs and CoR members and Commission Executive Vice-President Raffaele Fitto about the proposals for National and Regional Partnership Plans, which led to a statement from the European Commission on the very same day rebutting the idea that the Commission could revise its MFF proposals in the future. Key CoR demands – notably with regard to the role of LRAs in the design and management of funds, full compliance with the partnership principle and multilevel governance – were reflected in the joint letter that the group chairs, co-rapporteurs and shadow rapporteurs of four major political groups in the European Parliament sent to the Commission president on 30 October 2025, asking for an amended NRPP fund proposal to be presented as a basis for negotiations.

The own-initiative opinion on *The role of cities and regions in the EU Affordable Housing Plan*[14] was recognised as an early institutional contribution to the European Commission's forthcoming EU Affordable Housing Plan, with the rapporteur meeting the European Commissioner in charge of housing and energy on 14 May 2025, and also presenting the opinion to the European Parliament's special committee on the housing crisis in the EU (HOUS) on the same day. Earlier in the year, the CoR secretary-general was invited to provide an overview at the DGTC-DGUM[15] meeting organised by the Polish Presidency on 24-25 April 2025.

The CoR was also invited to present its positions at high-level events organised by the EIB in June and the Danish Presidency in September 2025, and at public hearings organised by EESC policy sections. This engagement helped to ensure that the EPSCO Council conclusions adopted on 1 December 2025[16] recognised the key role of local and regional authorities and incorporated several of the CoR's key messages, including those on active subsidiarity, the territorial diversity of the housing crisis and the need for a place-based approach, as well as the importance of ensuring balanced territorial access to future financing opportunities and retaining the benefits of EU-supported investment and measures over the long-term. Moreover, similar messages were echoed in the European Council conclusions of 23-24 October[17]. The CoR's key messages were also reflected in the European Parliament's resolution[18] as well as in the draft report of the HOUS committee[19] and the subsequent amendments process.

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14 COTER-VII/003 – The role of cities and regions in the EU Affordable Housing Plan – rapporteur: Jaume Collboni Cuadrado (ES/PES).

15 Directors-General for Territorial Cohesion and Directors-General for Urban Matters.

16 Cf. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/epsco/2025/12/01/ (overview of 1 December EPSCO conclusions) and https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15709-2025-INIT/en/pdf (conclusions on housing).

17 European Council meeting (23 October 2025) – Conclusions, EUCO 18/25.

18 European Parliament resolution of 10 September 2025 on the role of cohesion policy investment in resolving the current housing crisis (2024/2120(INI)).

19 Draft report on the housing crisis in the European Union with the aim of proposing solutions for decent, sustainable and affordable housing (2025/2070(INI)).

The CoR's opinion *The future of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) post 2027*[20] was reflected in the Council conclusions of 28 March 2025, which highlighted the EU added value of ETC and asked for it to be continued and potentially stepped up. The Council meeting of March 2025 was the first time that the CoR president had been given the floor during the official discussions among ministers within a Council meeting. The European Commission's package for the post-2027 MFF took up the CoR's call for Interreg to be continued with a clearly defined budget envelope and a planning and implementation mechanism that reflects the inherent multi-national nature of Interreg programmes.

The Regulation on a Border Regions' instrument for development and growth (BRIDGEforEU) which was approved in May 2025 and entered into force in June, strongly reflects key messages from the CoR opinions *European Cross-Border Mechanism 2.0*, adopted in October 2023[21], *and Mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context – The Cross-Border Facilitation Tool,* adopted in April 2024[22]. Specifically, the regulation provides a basis for all Member States to create cross-border coordination points if they so wish, at both national and regional level. It also responds to the request to simplify the regulation and the procedures, to clarify the voluntary nature of the regulation, and to make the mechanism applicable to land and maritime border regions.

4.1.2 Multiannual financial framework (including 'do no harm to cohesion' and territorial impact assessment)

Main impact:

- The clear policy messages sent to all EU institutions and partners ahead of the publication of the post-2027 MFF proposals were partially picked up in the European Commission proposals in July 2025 and strongly echoed in the responses of other stakeholders to those proposals.
- The CoR rapporteur contributed to the Annual EU Budget Conference in May 2025.
- The EP co-rapporteurs fully supported the draft opinion, and there was a high level of interaction between CoR members and EP members on the MFF.
- The EPRS undertook to examine upcoming Commission proposals flagged by the CoR as potentially having asymmetric territorial impacts.

The CoR had limited influence on the European Commission's MFF proposals published in July 2025, but succeeded in influencing the reaction to them in various ways.

The follow-up work on the own-initiative opinion *EU budget and place-based policies: proposals for new design and delivery mechanisms in the MFF post-2027*[23]*,* adopted in November 2024, and the *Resolution in view of the next MFF*[24]*,* adopted during the CoR plenary session on 15 May, prompted European Commissioner Piotr Serafin to invite the CoR rapporteur Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis (FR/EA) to speak at the Annual EU Budget Conference 2025, held on 20 and 21 May 2025 with the theme 'From Local Action to Global Influence: The Next Long-Term Union Budget'.

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20 COTER-VII/038 - The future of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) post 2027 – rapporteur: Karsten Uno Petersen (DK/PES).

21 COTER-VII/025 – European Cross-Border Mechanism 2.0 – rapporteur: Magali Altounian (FR/Renew E.).

22 COTER-VII/037 – Mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context – The Cross-Border Facilitation Tool – rapporteur: Magali Altounian (FR/Renew E.).

23 COTER VII/041 – EU budget and place-based policies: proposals for new design and delivery mechanisms in the MFF post-2027 – rapporteur: Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis (FR/EA).

24 RESOL-VIII/005 – Resolution in view of the next MFF.

This was all backed up by outreach work carried out by the COTER chair at events such as one entitled 'EU budget: what does the future hold for multilevel governance?' co-organised by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and members of the European Parliament.

Additionally, in the first half of 2025, the CoR shared with the Commission and the EP a list of upcoming Commission proposals where the CoR recommended that the Commission carefully examine territorial impacts as part of their Impact Assessment; the EPRS Ex-Ante Impact Assessment Unit committed to considering these initiatives when planning their future work.

Taken together, these efforts translated into some tangible results in the 2025 MFF package as regards the preservation of references to regions and principles such as partnership and multilevel governance, as well as the introduction of a more robust flexibility toolbox. However, as indicated in the *Resolution of the European Committee of the Regions on the proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034*[25] adopted at the CoR plenary session on 15 October, and as also underlined by other stakeholders, many elements of the MFF 2028-2034 proposals still need to be improved to match CoR recommendations, as most of the references to regions and main cohesion policy principles are yet to be translated into concrete mechanisms on the future governance of the MFF.

The CoR's work is continuing with the COTER opinion by Sari Rautio (FI/EPP) on the *Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) post 2027, including own resources package*[26] and the 19 associated CoR opinions related to sector-specific policy and proposals scheduled for adoption in 2026. The CoR rapporteur on the MFF has already had several opportunities to discuss the matter with the European Parliament through her contributions at various events such as the high-level panel debate organised by the European Parliament's Directorate-General for Communication on 4 November and the public hearing on *Shaping the Future of Cohesion Policy: Insights on the MFF Post-2027* organised by the REGI committee on 11 November. During the adoption of the draft opinion in the COTER commission on 2 December, the EP co-rapporteurs declared their full support for the draft, highlighting the importance of the role of regional and local authorities, a distinct budget for cohesion policy and for common agricultural policy, a transparent process, and a large enough EU budget. In addition, the EP co-rapporteurs committed to proposing that the CoR rapporteur be invited to upcoming meetings of the EP BUDG and REGI committees on the topic.

4.1.3 Single market – public procurement

Main impact:

- Commission Executive Vice-President Stéphane Séjourné identified the CoR and its RegHub network as key partners in the consultation process on the evaluation of the 2014 Public Procurement Directive.
- The European Commission requested a CoR outlook opinion on the evaluation of the 2014 Public Procurement Directives, acknowledging the CoR's substantive contribution to the evaluation and input as the Commission prepares its forthcoming revision proposal.
- The European Commission 2025 evaluation report referred to CoR and RegHub contributions.

Upon taking office in 2024, the European Commission announced its intention to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the 2014 Public Procurement Directives. This evaluation represents the first step in preparing a legislative revision proposal, which the Commission is expected to publish in the second quarter of 2026.

25 RESOL-VIII/007 – Resolution on the proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034.

26 COTER-VIII/006 – Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) post 2027, including own resources package – rapporteur: Sari Rautio (FI/EPP).

DG GROW, with the political support of Mr Séjourné, identified the CoR and its RegHub network as key partners in the consultation process. This collaboration reflected a shared understanding that local and regional authorities are key implementers of procurement rules across the EU and that their experiences are indispensable for an evidence-based evaluation.

In that context, the CoR launched a dedicated study examining the impact of EU public procurement rules on local and regional authorities. It also gathered first-hand insights from across the EU through a wide-ranging consultation, which included members of the RegHub network. The results of both the CoR's consultation and the study were presented to DG GROW's Public Procurement Member State Expert Group on 10 September 2025, ensuring that the perspective of regions and cities was fed into the Commission's evaluation work.

On 5 May 2025, the European Commission formally requested the CoR to issue an outlook opinion on the *Evaluation of the Public Procurement Directives*[27] This formal request was a strong institutional signal of recognition, acknowledging the CoR's substantive contribution to the evaluation and confirming the Commission's interest in the CoR's input as it prepares its forthcoming revision proposal. The outlook opinion is scheduled for adoption in March 2026.

Subsequently, on 14 October 2025, the Commission published its evaluation report on the 2014 Public Procurement Directives, which made reference to CoR and RegHub contributions. The report explicitly highlights how feedback from local and regional authorities provided essential evidence on the implementation of the current framework. According to the evaluation report, 14 dedicated bilateral meetings were held with regional and local representatives and the CoR's consultation and study were directly cited as a key input.

The evaluation findings clearly underscore that cities and regions are central to the functioning and future design of the EU's public procurement system, taking on board the results of CoR consultations and studies.

In its broader assessment, the 2025 Evaluation Report concludes that the effectiveness and relevance of the EU's public procurement framework depend heavily on the capacity and flexibility of regional and local contracting authorities. It stresses that future legislative revisions should prioritise legal clarity, capacity-building, and professionalisation at local level, and ensure that rules are sufficiently adaptable to local contexts and crisis situations.

Looking ahead, CoR and DG GROW are jointly exploring concrete follow-up actions to build on this close cooperation in the run-up to the Commission's 2026 revision proposal.

4.1.4 European Research Area and the new Framework Programme (FP10)

Main impact:

- The CoR was the **first EU institution to have an official position** on the forthcoming Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10)[28] / Horizon Europe at the end of 2024. The CoR opinion was frequently cited by European and regional press, while many elements of the opinion were reflected in the legislative proposals for the **EU Regulation** and

27 ECON-VIII/007 – Evaluation of the Public Procurement Directives – rapporteur: Roberto Gualtieri (IT/PES).

28 SEDEC-VII/043 – Recommendations for the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10) – rapporteur: Anne Besnier (FR/PES).

Council Decision published on 16 July 2025, such as promoting regional innovation ecosystems and the interlinkages between them and closing the innovation gap at local level.

- The 23 May and 30 September COMPET Council conclusions reflected elements of the CoR's calls for better territorially-based research and innovation policies. The proposed FP10 envelope of **EUR 175.3 billion** shows greater ambition than in the past. Concretely, the Commission proposes to preserve the **Regional Innovation Valleys (RIVs), the EU Missions, the Seal of Excellence**, and other funding streams important for LRAs, for the period post-2028.
- The recent opinion on the European Research Area[29] **and the CoR's participation in the ERA Forum** placed European LRAs firmly on the innovation map and policy agenda for the years to come. The CoR representatives were particularly active regarding the future of **industrial transformation** and **research and technological infrastructure**.
- The CoR's proposal for a **New European Bauhaus** funding scheme for small municipalities evolved and **turned the CoR's idea into tangible EU action supporting small municipalities.**

The **Joint Action Plan (JAP) with DG RTD and JRC** entered its fifth year of existence. It involves both political and administrative cooperation between the CoR and its commissions on the one hand, and the European Commission on the other. A detailed 2024 Yearly Monitoring Report of the JAP, taking stock of the 33+ actions and joint programmes carried out, was issued in May 2025. A preliminary agreement was reached with Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva's services to **renew the JAP** until May 2026.

The CoR rapporteurs[30] and the SEDEC Chair Heike Raab (DE/PES) sent **a joint letter on the future R&I priorities post-2028** to the Polish Presidency, the EP and the European Commission on 25 April 2025. All three institutions responded with individual meetings and formal replies to better understand the CoR position. **The FP10 opinion**[31] and the **joint letter** had a major impact on the spring 2025 Council conclusions (23 May and 30 September). The proposed FP10 envelope of **EUR 175.3 billion** shows greater ambition than in the past. Concretely, the Commission proposes to preserve the **Regional Innovation Valleys (RIVs), the EU Missions, the Seal of Excellence**, and other funding streams important for LRAs, for the period post-2028. Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva took part in the 14 May CoR plenary session and held a bilateral meeting with the SEDEC Chair on 14 October 2025. Likewise, the **CoR position** had a (limited) impact on the 16 July proposals for the future FP10 (Horizon Europe). The director-general of DG RTD, Marc Lemaître, took part in the 28 November SEDEC meeting to discuss these issues with the CoR members.

Media outreach about the FP10 and the joint letter to the EU institutions covered many local and regional stakeholders. The CoR actively **cooperated with regional innovation associations** such as ERRIN, EARTO and EURADA in the context of many of the above-mentioned initiatives.

The CoR continued its active participation in the **ERA Forum** alongside the Commission and Member States. The related opinion on *Building the European Research Area: A local and regional perspective*[32] fed into the debates about the New ERA, research and technological infrastructure, and the new competitiveness policy of the Union. The **ERA opinion and the CoR's participation in the Forum** placed European LRAs firmly on the innovation map and policy agenda for the years to come.

29 SEDEC-VIII/001 – Building the European Research Area: A local and regional perspective – rapporteur: Melanie Kühnemann-Grunow (DE/PES).

30 Anne Besnier (FR/PES), Melanie Kühnemann-Grunow (DE/PES), Markku Markkula (FI/EPP).

31 SEDEC-VII/043 – Recommendations for the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10) – rapporteur: Anne Besnier (FR/PES).

32 SEDEC-VIII/001 – Building the European Research Area: A local and regional perspective – rapporteur: Melanie Kühnemann-Grunow (DE/PES).

The **Knowledge Exchange Platform** **(KEP)** continued its excellent work, using its regular successful events (both in Brussels and in members' regions) to promote the recently adopted startup and scaleup strategy and the Choose Europe initiative.

A new **Preparatory Action (PA) on** 'Innovation for place-based transformation', backed by the EP and the CoR and implemented by JRC Seville, started its activities across Europe in early 2025. The first PA event, held in Sofia (BG) on 5-6 November and attended by 55 EU regions and 14 CoR members, was kindly hosted by a CoR member[33] and the mayor of Sofia Vasil Terziev.

The CoR's proposal from its opinion[34] on creating a New European Bauhaus funding scheme for small municipalities, later taken up as a European Parliament pilot project, has progressed significantly. In February 2025, the CoR and the European Commission's JRC jointly launched the New European Bauhaus Boost for Small Municipalities at the CoR, turning the CoR's initial idea into concrete EU action that directly supports small municipalities. At the 2025 NEB Awards, the CoR president presented the Boost awards to the winners alongside EU leaders. Commission Executive Vice-President Raffaele Fitto underscored the Committee's key role in the NEB and more specifically in the EP pilot project. The Boost project is expected to become a permanent EU funding instrument, with follow-up discussions planned with Marcos Ros Sempere MEP and the JRC on future collaboration, including the Bauhaus centenary event.

4.1.5 European Pillar of Social Rights

Main impact:

- The call made in the opinion on *Zero long-term unemployment*[35] (ZLTU) continues to have an impact: following the launch of the pilot project (at the CoR's premises in April 2024), expressions of interest were collected and evaluated until September 2024. The next stage of the project involved the signing of contracts with programmes earmarked for EU funding from ESF+, a step that was completed by September 2025.
- In its opinion on the *EU Roadmap for Women's Rights*[36], the CoR endorsed the EU Roadmap and Declaration and highlighted the main topics for the EU's new gender equality strategy (due Q1/2026); the key messages from the opinion were discussed with the chair of the EP FEMM committee Lina Galvez Munoz, who undertook to pursue the CoR's positions in the FEMM committee's work. The rapporteur was also invited to speak at the EP FEMM public hearing on the European Citizens' Initiative 'My Voice, My Choice: for safe and accessible abortion' on 2 December 2025.
- The CoR opinion on *Intergenerational fairness: a local and regional approach to building inclusive and sustainable societies*[37] stressed the importance of addressing interconnected issues such as climate justice and social inequalities and ensuring that policies reflect local/regional realities with a long-term perspective, so that both current and future generations can thrive. The CoR rapporteur has had two meetings with the cabinet of Commissioner Glenn Micallef – which is taking the lead on the first ever EU strategy in this area (due Q1 2026) – and also contributed to the EC/JRC scoping process on the topic, to shape the upcoming strategy. The key messages from the opinion were reiterated at a bilateral meeting between SEDEC chair

33 Tsvetelina Simeonova-Zarkin (BG/Renew E.).

34 SEDEC-VII/025 – New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, Sustainable, Together – rapporteur: Kieran McCarthy (IE/EA).

35 SEDEC-VII/037 – Zero long-term unemployment: the local and regional perspective – rapporteur: Yonnec Polet (BE/PES).

36 SEDEC-VIII/005 – Strengthening women's rights and gender equality for women in the EU: A local and regional perspective – rapporteur: Carina Ohlsson (SE/PES).

37 SEDEC-VIII/002 – Intergenerational Fairness: A Local and Regional Approach to Building Inclusive and Sustainable Societies – rapporteur: Tine Radinja (SI/GREENS).

Heike Raab and Commissioner Micallef in October 2025, and were followed up by a second meeting between the rapporteur and the Commissioner's cabinet to discuss how the CoR could support the dissemination of the strategy.

- The *European Platform on Combatting Homelessness* (EPOCH) changed governance structure in 2025 with the new European Commission; however, the CoR rapporteur Mikko Aaltonen is still part of the platform and involved in its ongoing work, and the CoR will continue its institutional engagement.
- The Commission's report on the European Year of Skills formally recognised the CoR's substantial contribution to local and regional engagement and highlighted its key role in advancing territorial participation in Europe's skills agenda.

In response to the recommendation made in the opinion on *Zero long-term unemployment*, the European Commission launched a pilot project aiming to fund and coordinate similar programmes in the EU. After the launch of the Commission's pilot project, nine successful bids were selected from over 70 applications; these programmes will be funded by earmarked resources from ESF+.

The CoR opinion on *Intergenerational fairness: a local and regional approach to building inclusive and sustainable societies* stressed the importance of addressing interconnected issues such as climate justice and social inequalities (precarious employment, access to affordable housing, pensions and taxation, elderly care, youth unemployment) and ensuring that related policies reflect local/regional realities with a long-term perspective so that both current and future generations can thrive. The CoR rapporteur[38] contributed to the EC/JRC scoping process on the topic and has met with the cabinet of Commissioner Micallef – which is taking the lead on the first ever EU strategy in this area – to shape the upcoming strategy, due to be published by the European Commission in Q1/2026. The opinion's key messages were reiterated at the bilateral meeting between the SEDEC chair Heike Raab and Commissioner Micallef in October 2025 and were followed up by a second meeting between the rapporteur and members of the Commissioner's cabinet to discuss how the CoR could support the dissemination of the strategy. Moreover, the CoR was invited to contribute to an EP EPRS foresight paper on the topic. The CoR members listened to the preoccupations of young people in rural areas, at a youth dialogue held in conjunction with the European Youth Forum and its partner organisations at the April SEDEC meeting.

As regards gender equality, the CoR endorsed the EU Roadmap for Women's Rights and its Declaration of principles for a gender-equal society through the SEDEC-led opinion on the topic adopted at the October plenary session.

The EPOCH resumed its activities in 2025. The EPOCH plenary took place on the CoR premises (13 June 2025), and the work programme was adopted during the meeting. The CoR has a representative[39] on the platform, who is involved in developing the work programme. The new work programme will expand synergies with other institutions (such as the OECD), while maintaining the CoR rapporteur's role as a technical expert and consultant for the platform's exchange of best practices and mutual learning events.

The CoR rapporteur[40] on demography was invited to the opening event of the European Parliament's Intergroup on Demography on 20 March 2025).

38 Tine Radinja (SL/Greens).

39 Mikko Aaltonen.

40 Ádám Karácsony (HU/ECR).

The CoR rapporteur for the opinion on the *Union of Skills Strategy*[41] held a bilateral meeting with Commission Executive Vice-President Roxana Mînzatu to discuss the next steps for the initiative, during which Ms Mînzatu agreed to take part in the CoR plenary. In a letter sent following the plenary, the CoR reiterated its request for a permanent seat on the European Skills High-Level Board, with a view to ensuring genuine multilevel governance in the design and implementation of EU skills policies. Further actions are planned to advance this objective and strengthen the CoR's role within the skills governance framework.

The European Commission's DG EMPL European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA), which has prioritised the involvement of regions and cities over the past five years, has expressed its intention to renew enhanced cooperation with the CoR. In parallel, under the CoR-OECD cooperation framework, joint work on skills consolidated the role of subnational governance in the Union of Skills and opened new opportunities for collaboration. The European Commission's report and its accompanying document on the European Year of Skills acknowledges the CoR's strong contribution to local and regional engagement and highlights the Committee's role in several sections. It notes that 'the Commission, in collaboration with the Committee of the Regions, placed a strong emphasis on local approaches to skills development'. On governance, it further states that 'the Year was an interinstitutional effort at EU level by the Commission and its agencies, the European Parliament ... [and] the Committee of the Regions'. It cites the joint CoR / DG EMPL event 'Investing in Skills in Europe's Regions and Cities', the CoR resolution on the European Year of Skills, the CoR study on the Pact for Skills, and the opinion on *Skills and Talent Mobility*[42], highlighting the CoR's key role in advancing territorial participation in Europe's skills agenda.

41 SEDEC-VIII/004 – Union of skills strategy – rapporteur: Emil Boc (RO/EPP).

42 SEDEC-VII/046 – Skills and talent mobility – rapporteur François Decoster (FR/Renew E.).

4.2 Resilience

4.2.1 European and global climate action

Main impact:

- The role of local and regional authorities in global climate governance was recognised in the COP30 Council conclusions, a European Parliament resolution**, and the CoR president's leadership at the Local Leaders Forum**. **The first European Subnational Pre-COP**, convened by the CoR, united EU subnational voices ahead of COP30, reinforcing multilevel climate diplomacy.

- **The CoR renewed its leadership in the Covenant of Mayors, securing two board seats for CoR members and** revitalising the Ambassadors**'** network to support local climate action.

- **The Climate Pact Ambassadors network** expanded its outreach, driving local engagement and highlighting CoR-backed climate initiatives across Europe. The CoR stepped up its involvement in the political bodies of these initiatives, with **official representation on the political board of the Covenant of Mayors (two CoR members)** and in the **Cities Mission Mayors Advisory Group (one CoR member)**.

- **The 'green transition' strand of EURegionsWeek 2025** highlighted CoR political leadership, **uniting EU institutions and 1 500 participants** around cities' and regions' role in the green transition.

- **The CoR's ENVE commission and the Commission's DG CLIMA adopted a Joint Action Plan** geared towards reinforcing cities' and regions' role in EU decarbonisation, clean transition, and climate resilience.

The CoR has been working to continue **advancing European** and **global climate action** by focusing on legislation, advocacy, communication and engagement to drive impactful progress despite the tense geopolitical landscape, which risks overshadowing climate action and environmental ambition.

In this context, the **CoR ENVE commission stepped up its collaboration with DG CLIMA through a new Joint Action Plan**. The plan promotes the development of local and regional climate policies aligned with EU targets, the improvement of access to EU funding for climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience, and the reinforcement of subnational climate diplomacy, both at UNFCCC COPs and through initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors, the Mission on Adaptation, the Cities Mission, and the European Climate Pact. The CoR has stepped up its involvement in the political bodies of these initiatives with **official representation on the political board of the Covenant of Mayors (two CoR members)** and in the **Cities Mission Mayors Advisory Group (one CoR member).**

Further advancing the EU's leadership in multilevel and global climate governance, CoR used the **2025 edition of the EURegionsWeek** to highlight the pivotal role of cities and regions in driving the green transition, through a dedicated **'green transition' strand**. The strand featured **policy sessions and a high-level event organised** in close cooperation with the European Commission's DG CLIMA and DG ENER in the framework of **the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy**, including the presidents of the **European Commission and the European Parliament alongside the CoR president**. The green transition strand attracted around 1 500 registrations, reflecting a strong interest in its activities.

In the same week, the CoR organised a **high-level subnational pre-COP event titled *Cities and regions shaping global climate action ahead of COP30***, gathering representatives from the

European Commission, European Parliament, and global networks within the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency. The discussion launched the LGMA COP30 position paper at EU level and consolidated subnational perspectives for COP30 in Belém, Brazil, reinforcing Europe's commitment to inclusive global climate governance. This exchange consolidated the CoR's political leadership in global climate negotiations. The recognition of local and regional authorities (LRAs) in the Council conclusions on preparations for COP30 and in the European Parliament resolution on COP30 highlights the pivotal role that subnational governments play in achieving the EU's climate and energy objectives, which calls for their inclusion within UNFCCC processes. These high-level political documents have consistently highlighted the need to involve LRAs in climate negotiation processes, acknowledging that their proximity to the general public and practical expertise are indispensable for effective policy delivery.

Building on this, the CoR president's participation in the COP30 Local Leaders Forum in Rio de Janeiro 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 players were reflected in the forum and carried forward to COP30 in Belém. Her mission also included bilateral meetings with key subnational leaders, reinforcing cooperation and alignment with global subnational leaders. During the forum, the EU announced its endorsement of the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP), which is a significant step forward that the CoR will capitalise on to increase its influence in EU climate diplomacy and ensure multilevel governance is embedded in future Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Climate and Energy Plans (NECPs).

The CoR also served as co-lead of the LGMA Working Group on Adaptation, preparing a comprehensive technical paper on the topic for negotiations at COP30. Efforts culminated with an official submission to the UNFCCC preparatory bodies and direct engagement with the COP30 Presidency on this specific topic.

4.2.2 Decentralised implementation of energy and climate policies

Main impact:

- Proposals on permitting, funding and staff upskilling from the CoR opinion *State of the Energy Union: Getting prepared for a smooth implementation of the energy transition in line with the Fit for 55 targets*[43] were successfully incorporated into the 2025 Annual Progress Reports on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement.
- In its opinion *Action Plan for Affordable Energy*[44], the CoR championed new alliances between **LRAs and industry**, promoting fair, efficient, and community-driven solutions for sustainable energy. This action plan turned the CoR's vision into a roadmap for **resilient, affordable and inclusive** energy systems across all EU territories.
- The CoR opinion *Fostering the potential and synergies of the EU Green Deal initiatives for regions and cities*[45] directly influenced the launch and shaping of the **EU Agenda for Cities**, embedding CoR priorities on sustainable urban development and multilevel governance in the new framework.

43 ENVE-VIII/002 – State of the Energy Union: Getting prepared for a smooth implementation of the energy transition in line with the Fit for 55 targets – rapporteur Joško Klisović (HR/PES).

44 ENVE-VIII/005 – Action Plan for Affordable Energy – how to secure affordable, stable and clean energy for all EU cities and regions – rapporteur: Hanna Zdanowska (PL/EPP).

45 ENVE-VII-036 – Fostering the potential and synergies of the EU Green Deal initiatives for regions and cities – rapporteur: Andries Gryffroy (BE/EA).

- The CoR deepened citizen and stakeholder engagement through the **European Climate Pact and the Covenant of Mayors**, and cooperated with the EU Local Councillors Network, empowering LRAs to bridge funding and skills gaps and deliver climate action on the ground.
- The CoR advanced **EU climate adaptation and resilience** work by adopting an opinion on *Climate adaptation in cities and regions: building the European Climate Adaptation Plan*[46], underlining the need to embed climate-risk management across all urban and regional policy fields and accelerate local-level action while strengthening cooperation with the Mission on Adaptation and the European Parliament.
- Following up on the request made in the opinion *A multilevel governance for the Green Deal: Towards the revision of the Governance Regulation*[47], a representative of the CoR administration has become a permanent participant in the European Commission's expert group on Greening the European Semester, which allows for periodic interinstitutional discussion on the connection between the economic governance of the EU and the funding of the Green Deal objectives.

Through legislation and robust engagement in energy platforms, the CoR has continued to reinforce the role of LRAs as key partners in implementing climate and energy legislation and shaping the future of EU climate governance. It also shines a spotlight on the CoR's key role in turning Europe's climate ambition into local projects and action.

The adoption of the opinion *State of the Energy Union: Getting Prepared for a Smooth Implementation of the Energy Transition in Line with Fit for 55 Targets*, supported by the CoR study *Speeding up the clean energy transition at local and regional levels: the impact of the Fit for 55 package*, marked an important milestone for the CoR in terms of supporting the role of LRAs not merely as implementers but as co-designers of the energy transition, advocating formal recognition of this role in EU and national legislation. Expected outcomes include strengthening the CoR's role in shaping the post-2030 climate framework, contributing to the revision of the Governance Regulation, and influencing the implementation of Member States' NECPs.

The opinion *Action Plan for Affordable Energy: How to secure affordable, stable and clean energy for all EU cities and regions*[48] illustrates how the Green Deal and the Clean Industrial Deal are being actively implemented across regions and cities. While preparing the opinion, the CoR deepened its collaboration not only with local and regional stakeholders, but also with major business associations and representatives of the energy industry. This shared understanding of needs has created new opportunities for cooperation – from capacity-building initiatives to streamlined permitting processes – all aimed at accelerating the clean energy transition.

A key achievement in the CoR's recent work has been the launch of the EU Agenda for Cities. The European Commission's call for evidence preceding the communication on the EU Agenda for Cities highlights that the agenda builds on the CoR opinion *Fostering the potential and synergies of the EU Green Deal initiatives for regions and cities*, along with input from the JRC and other Commission initiatives. In line with the opinion, the agenda seeks to streamline EU support for cities to ensure accessibility and better targeting, and to strengthen the EU's ambition for sustainable urban development through better governance and stronger recognition of cities' needs in future EU initiatives. In 2025, the CoR stepped up its contribution to public engagement through its partnership in the **European Climate Pact**, alongside the **Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy**. This partnership helps LRAS by offering them new tools to tackle funding and skills gaps, navigate regulatory complexity

46 ENVE-VIII-006 – Climate adaptation in cities and regions: building the European Climate Adaptation Plan – rapporteur: Matteo Lepore (IT/PES).

47 ENVE-VII/037 – A multilevel governance for the Green Deal: Towards the revision of the Governance Regulation – rapporteur: Joško Klisović (HR/PES).

48 ENVE-VIII/005 – Action Plan for Affordable Energy – how to secure affordable, stable and clean energy for all EU cities and regions – rapporteur: Hanna Zdanowska (PL/EPP).

and embed citizen-driven approaches more firmly into local climate policies and stronger alliances with key EU partners. **The CoR cooperated with the EPRS** on a series of briefings[49] highlighting the local dimension of the Fit for 55 package and assessing the needs of local and regional authorities in implementing new EU energy legislation. A dedicated CoR study on the *Fit for 55* energy provisions gathered input from hundreds of local stakeholders on the Renewable Energy Directive, Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), and Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. The resulting 27 country factsheets now inform major EU initiatives, including the upcoming Citizens' Energy Package and the Grids Package.

The CoR intensified its work on **adaptation and resilience** during a year marked by devastating extreme weather events. Key milestones for 2026 include **the adoption of a CoR opinion contributing to the Commission resilience framework in 2026**, and continued collaboration with the Mission on Adaptation through contributions to its fourth forum under the Polish Presidency and a study visit organised in conjunction with the Mediterranean Forum of the Mission, hosted by the CoR rapporteur[50]. The rapporteur also engaged directly with the Mission on Adaptation, including by taking part in a meeting with the mission manager and mission board.

4.2.3 European Ocean Pact

Main impact:

- The CoR made a substantial contribution to the drafting of the European Ocean Pact, the new holistic EU strategy on the ocean. The European Commission classified the CoR opinion[51] as 'essential' and identified at least 11 points where its communication reflected the CoR's proposals, while the text announces a legislative 'Ocean Act' to follow, as requested by both the CoR and the European Parliament to complement the strategy.
- The CoR was prominent in the EU and international political debate around ocean and coastal areas linked to the UNOC3[52] Conference and, more specifically, in bilateral meetings with the EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, Costas Kadis, the UN-FAO and NGOs, participation in public events and engagement with media and social networks.
- The importance of local and regional authorities being actively involved in the new EU and international multi-layer governance system for ocean and maritime affairs was highlighted at all decision-making levels. This advocacy element was reflected in the Ocean Pact and the final declaration of the UNOC3.
- The establishment of the Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Coalition in Nice in May 2025, which over 1 000 local authorities have joined, gave LRAs greater visibility and a concrete opportunity to play a key role in managing risks related to the impact of climate change on coastal areas.

Contribution to drafting the European Ocean Pact – In April 2025, the CoR adopted an outlook opinion on *The European Oceans Pact* before the publication in June of the European Commission's communication[53] on the pact.

The CoR's opinion has been instrumental in shaping the EU's ocean strategy, ensuring that local perspectives, environmental stewardship and sustainable regional economic development remain

49 Revision of the Renewable Energy Directive; Fit for 55 package – full overview briefing.

50 Matteo Lepore (IT/PES).

51 NAT-VIII/002 – Outlook opinion on the European Oceans Pact – rapporteur: Mätta Ivarsson (SE/ GREEN+PRO).

52 Third United Nation Ocean Conference, Nice, 9-13 June 2025, https://unocnice2025.org/en/.

53 COM(2025) 281 final.

central to the European strategy. The Commission made considerable use of overall content and key messages of the CoR opinion when drawing up the communication, as confirmed by:

i) a comparative analysis carried out by the CoR,
ii) comments by Costas Kadis, the EU Commissioner for fisheries and oceans, during one of the bilateral meetings with the CoR delegation to the UNOC3 in Nice,
iii) the formal position issued by the Commission classifying the CoR's contribution as 'essential' and detailing 11 points where the communication reflected the proposals in the CoR opinion.

More tangibly, the CoR's advocacy for a holistic, multilevel governance framework – emphasising the involvement of local and regional authorities – was directly reflected in the pact's structure, which aligns actions across Union, regional, national, and local levels.

Additionally, from a policy coherence perspective, many of the CoR's recommendations on environmental protection, maritime spatial planning and the blue economy were integrated into the pact. In particular, it incorporates the CoR's call for effective implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the Nature Restoration Regulation, with a commitment to revising the MSFD to accelerate environmental objectives. The CoR's emphasis on the need for a dedicated funding mechanism for a just transition and marine ecosystem restoration also informed the pact's integrated approach to financing and helped shape the newly adopted Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) through the National and Regional Partnership Programme Fund (NRPP Fund), which will support the ocean-related policy framework, including the common fisheries policy, protection for the marine environment, support for the blue economy and other Ocean Pact-related investments.

Moreover, the CoR's insistence on stakeholder engagement, tailored governance and a strategic focus on islands and outermost regions contributed to the Pact's inclusive and regionally sensitive policy design. The Commission's recognition of coastal communities as key stakeholders and the announcement of an Ocean Act by 2027 underscore the real and potential impact of the CoR's input.

In terms of process, the strategic alliance with the European Parliament was instrumental in boosting the impact of the opinion throughout the EU policy formulation process. This was achieved through bilateral dialogue with individual MEPs as well as formal collaboration with Parliament's SEArica intergroup.

High-level visibility of the CoR through participation in the UNOC3 – As a follow-up to the adoption of the opinion, the CoR was actively involved, as part of the official EU delegation, in the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), held in Nice from 9 to 13 June 2025. This engagement marked a significant milestone in the CoR's international outreach, reinforcing its commitment to multilevel governance and sustainable ocean policy.

The CoR delegation, composed of eight members including rapporteurs on the European Ocean Pact, Common Fisheries Policy and Resilient Water Management, made substantive contributions to the EU's positioning and final declaration. Their presence ensured that LRAs were represented in global discussions, advocating tailored approaches sensitive to territorial specificities.

The CoR's impact was multifaceted:

- it facilitated bilateral meetings with key stakeholders such as the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and civil society organisations;
- it amplified visibility by taking part in side events and media engagements; and
- it supported the follow-up to its outlook opinion on the European Ocean Pact.

This participation exemplifies the CoR's capacity to shape both European and international policy debates, reinforcing the importance of LRAs in achieving the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and the broader UNOC3 commitments.

Positioning LRAs in the international ocean governance mechanism: the CoR's participation in the UNOC3 also offered the opportunity to gain high-level visibility in the international arenas of policymakers participating in the conference. In particular, the CoR played a decisive role in shaping the EU's position regarding the final declaration, including references to the role of LRAs in the international governance mechanism.
CoR members actively advocated to including references to LRAs in the declaration, ensuring that it implicitly recognises the importance of multilevel governance and LRAs' participation. The CoR delegates promoted tailored policy approaches and the integration of local perspectives into global ocean strategies. The final declaration negotiated amongst the delegations of all member states participating in the conference, although not totally satisfying from a LRA perspective, marks a significant step forward, committing to continued international dialogue for a new ocean governance framework. The CoR is now well positioned to advocate for giving LRAs a significant role in future negotiations, boosting its impact on both European and global ocean policy.

Visibility of LRAs and networking – In partnership with the City of Nice and the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region in France, the CoR promoted the LRA-based initiative Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Coalition. The coalition, officially launched alongside the UN Ocean Conference in Nice in June 2025, brings together coastal territories, cities and regions to enhance preparedness and response capacity in the face of rising environmental threats. The coalition now unites over 1 000 cities and regions, representing one billion people, to develop shared resilience strategies.

The CoR has been instrumental in enhancing the visibility and uptake of the coalition, particularly amongst LRAs. The coalition is now an active tool that can promote strategic partnerships and networking approaches involving coastal cities and regions and other informal groups. By facilitating networking, capacity-building initiatives and knowledge exchange, the coalition empowers LRAs to address existential risks such as rising sea levels and climate-induced hazards.

In the same vein of networking, the CoR also contributed to coordination with Mediterranean partners through participation in ARLEM.

4.2.4 Investment – Recovery and Resilience Facility

Main impact:

- In its Resolution on the implementation of the RRF[54], the European Parliament recognised that local and regional authorities had not been adequately involved in the Recovery and Resilience Facility and acknowledged the adverse consequences of this top-down governance.

The CoR has sought to play an active role in the implementation and monitoring of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) since its inception, and in this context has undertaken extensive work on the topic. This includes the opinion on the original Regulation (in 2020)[55], subsequent opinions on RRF

54 European Parliament resolution of 18 June 2025 on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility. P10_TA(2025)0128).

55 ECON-VII/009 – Recovery plan for Europe in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: Recovery and Resilience Facility and Technical Support Instrument – Rapporteur: Christophe Rouillon (FR/PES).

implementation (2021)[56], and on the RRF review report (2023)[57], and analytical work including targeted consultations of LRAs carried out together with the CEMR in 2021, 2022 and 2024[58]. This was followed by a new opinion on the RRF mid-term evaluation, adopted at the end of 2024[59].

The impact of the CoR's work can be seen for example in the European Parliament Resolution on the implementation of the RRF. In this resolution, the European Parliament makes reference to the latest CoR opinion, is generally very supportive of the need to better involve LRAs in the RRF and similar future instruments, and takes up several key CoR concerns and demands.

Amongst other things, the European Parliament resolution:

- **regrets the insufficient involvement of LRAs**, leading to worse policy outcomes and limited ownership;
- recalls that the European Parliament supported a binding provision in the RRF regulation to establish a multilevel dialogue to prepare and implement the plans under the RRF;
- calls for the **application of the partnership principle and stronger involvement of LRAs**;
- highlights that meaningful social and **territorial dialogue with a high level of involvement of LRAs is essential for ownership, successful implementation and accountability;**
- stresses that **regions and city councils cannot be mere recipients of decisions, without being given the opportunity to have a say** on reforms and investments that truly transform their territories;
- calls for data on **regional distribution of funding;**
- highlights that prioritising RRF implementation contributed to **delays** with cohesion funds;
- calls on Member States to **avoid concentrating RRF projects in more developed regions** to serve the RRF objective of cohesion;
- emphasises the **importance of fair regional distribution**;
- with regard to the next MFF, calls on the Commission **to take due account of the lessons learned from the RRF** and the recommendations of LRAs (among others).

These strong messages from the EP are very positive from the CoR's standpoint, as they are very well aligned with the key points of CoR opinions on the RRF and supportive of its demands.

This can be seen as being the result of continuous work on this topic over the past five years, built on a solid foundation of analytical work, as outlined above, as well as regular highly constructive exchanges at working level between the CoR and the European Parliament. In particular, the CoR opinion on the mid-term review of the RRF and the consultation of local and regional authorities mentioned above were extensively referenced in the in-depth analysis of the RRF produced for members of the European Parliament[60] in late 2024, ahead of the preparation of the EP report.

Overall, the CoR's work on the RRF has been instrumental in raising the issue of LRAs being insufficiently involved in the RRF, which is now widely recognised.

56 ECON-VII/018 – Implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility – rapporteur: Rob Jonkman (NL/ECR).

57 ECON-VII/026 – Review report on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility – rapporteur: Rob Jonkman (NL/EPP).

58 The results of the CoR-CEMR consultations are available online at the following links: 2021, 2022, 2024.

59 ECON-VII/037 – Mid-term review of the post-COVID European recovery plan (Recovery and Resilience Facility) – rapporteur: Christophe Rouillon (FR/PES).

60 European Parliament Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit, Recovery and Resilience Plans and the involvement of stakeholders, In-depth Analysis. Ref: PE 760.237 – September 2024.

4.2.5 Transport (including the Automotive Regions Alliance)

Main impact:

- The CoR further advanced territorial perspectives on how to support automotive regions in their ongoing transition with the adoption of a resolution on *Strengthening the territorial dimension in the implementation of the Industrial Action Plan for the European Automotive Sector*[61], and contributed to the Strategic Dialogue for the European Automotive Industry through the work of its Automotive Regions Alliance.
- CoR recommendations on the European Mobility Data Space (EMDS)[62] helped shape subsequent EU actions, as reflected in the launch of the deployEMDS pilots, the clarification of governance through National Access Points, the establishment of a Mobility and Logistics European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC), and the European Commission's Final Report – Study in support of the creation of the common EMDS confirming a federated, FAIR-by-design architecture, echoing the CoR's call for interoperability combined with regional flexibility.
- The CoR contributed the local and regional perspective to the interinstitutional debate on the causes and consequences of transport poverty, including in the context of the Social Climate Fund and cohesion policy as an existing delivery framework to support local and regional transport investment, particularly in public transport.

In 2025, the CoR has been actively engaged in further advancing territorial perspectives on how to support automotive regions in their ongoing transition. As part of this work, a high-level meeting with Commissioner Apostolos Tzitzikostas was organised at the CoR, enabling members of the Automotive Regions Alliance (ARA) to present both the challenges faced in their regions and the solutions put in place to mitigate the impact of the transition. Following the publication of the action plan, the CoR, in collaboration with ARA, adopted a resolution calling for a more robust territorial approach to be taken in the form of place-based solutions and for regional voices to be fully considered in the plan's implementation. In addition, ARA contributed to the ongoing study launched as part of the review of the CO_2 Standards Regulation, following its mention in Regulation (EU) 2023/851 as a partner for identifying funding gaps.

Lastly, the Munich Declaration, adopted in September 2025 at the fourth ARA Annual Conference hosted by Bavaria and the CoR, reaffirms the regions' commitment to the transition of the automotive sector towards climate neutrality by 2035 while insisting on a technology-neutral pathway.

The CoR's opinion on the *European Mobility Data Space*, adopted in October 2024, has contributed to the shaping of subsequent EU actions, including the EU-funded deployEMDS project which launched operational pilots across 16 use cases in late 2024, taking up the CoR's call for localised experimentation, the creation of National Access Points addressing governance concerns, and the preparation of a Mobility and Logistics European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC). The Commission's Final Report – Study in support of the creation of the common EMDS, published in May 2025, confirmed a federated, FAIR-by-design model, echoing the CoR's call for interoperability combined with regional flexibility. These developments are important steps in incorporating regional perspectives into EU-level data governance in the transport sector.

On transport poverty, the joint CoR-UITP[63] conference organised in March 2025 brought together representatives of several different services of the European Commission (DG CLIMA, DG REGIO and

61 RESOL-VIII/002 – Urgent resolution on strengthening the territorial dimension in the implementation of the industrial action plan for the European automotive sector.

62 COTER-VII/036 – Creation of a common European mobility data space – rapporteur: Zdeněk Hřib (CZ/Green+Pro).

63 UITP: International Association of Public Transport.

SG-REFORM), reflecting the cross-cutting nature of the subject. The subsequent European Commission Recommendation on addressing transport poverty: ensuring affordable, accessible and fair mobility, published in May 2025, built on the definition set out in the Social Climate Fund Regulation and reiterated the need for Member States to cooperate actively with local and regional authorities in the preparation and implementation of their national Social Climate Plans. As part of the preparation of the CoR's subsequent opinion[64], the rapporteur and other COTER commission members had the opportunity to engage in dialogue with high-level representatives of DG MOVE and DG EMPL, contributing to the debate on the causes and consequences of transport poverty, including in the context of the Social Climate Fund and cohesion policy as an existing delivery framework to support local and regional transport investment, particularly in public transport, and highlighting the rising (political) risks of unequal access to mobility and its consequences for territorial cohesion and competitiveness, as well as the relevance of cohesion policy as the existing delivery framework for place-based investment.

4.2.6 Digital policy – artificial intelligence

Main impact:

- The Polish Council Presidency invited the CoR to present its opinion on the *Challenges and Opportunities of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector: defining the role of Regional and Local Authorities*[65] and its study on AI and GenAI adoption by local and regional administrations[66] at the TELECOM Working Party of the Council of the European Union.
- Following the successful presentation in the Council and in acknowledgement of the CoR's role in the uptake of AI by public authorities, the European Commission's AI Office co-organised a Generative AI Info Day and Digital Participatory Forum with the CoR, boosting the CoR's efforts to facilitate AI adoption among local and regional administrations.

The CoR was quick to identify the adoption of AI technology as an opportunity for local and regional administrations throughout the European Union. As a result, the CoR's December 2024 study on *AI and GenAI adoption by local and regional administrations*[67], which accompanied its opinion on *Challenges and Opportunities of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector: defining the role of Regional and Local Authorities*, was the first of its kind to provide an overview of the state of play of AI adoption in the public sector at local level. It included a survey run among 153 respondents from all 27 Member State administrations and offered the first evidence of the main challenges encountered at local level.

In recognition of the study's novelty and political relevance, the Polish Council Presidency invited the CoR to present conclusions from the opinion and study at the meeting on 28 January 2025 of the Council Working Party on Telecommunications and Information Society (TELECOM). Drawing on the CoR's political and supporting expert work on digital policy, the Member State representatives discussed AI policies in their countries as well as real local-level use cases by public authorities.

The CoR's involvement and engagement to encourage AI adoption by public authorities was also recognised by the European Commission's AI office, which invited the CoR to co-organise the CoR Digital Participatory Forum on 22 May 2025 alongside a European Commission InfoDay. The CoR and its members provided policy input related to the roll-out of AI in cities and regions. The event offered a platform for cities, regions, universities and companies to get up to speed with developments in the EU

64 COTER-VIII/005 – Combatting transport poverty to strengthen European cohesion and competitiveness – rapporteur: Patrik Schwarcz-Kiefer (HU/EPP).

65 ECON-VII/038 – Challenges and opportunities of artificial intelligence in the public sector: defining the role of regional and local authorities – rapporteur: Alberto Cirio (IT/EPP).

66 Study on AI and GenAI adoption by local and regional administrations

67 Study on AI and GenAI adoption by local and regional administrations

and to directly engage in negotiations to create consortia for the Generative AI pilot projects call under the Digital Europe Programme. 180 participants attended in person and online.

4.2.7 The EU's green resilience and interinstitutional partnerships

Main impact:

- The first joint EP ENVI – CoR ENVE meeting, which took place on 13 October 2025, strengthened interinstitutional cooperation and common political objectives, aligning CoR and Parliament efforts on climate adaptation and resilience.
- Water resilience became a CoR strategic priority, supported by the own-political-initiative opinion Turning the tide – a local and regional roadmap for water resilience[68] and the first European Water Resilience Forum co-organised on 8 December 2025 with the European Commission and hosted at the CoR; the CoR's cross-cutting approach brought together all commissions and Better Regulation tools to deliver evidence-based, territorially grounded proposals for improved water management and disaster resilience.
- The CoR plays a leading role in the European Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform, co-chairing the initiative and contributing to the launch of the first Zero Pollution Dashboard for regions and cities on 3 March 2025.
- The CoR opinion *Designing nature credits: a framework to promote biodiversity and ecosystem services*[69] positioned the CoR as a pioneer in shaping the EU debate on nature credits. By outlining principles for transparent, high-integrity biodiversity markets, it has informed ongoing Commission work on a European nature credits framework and underscored the essential role of local and regional authorities in implementing and monitoring nature restoration projects. As a result the CoR has been invited by the European Commission to join its new expert group on nature credits. Participation will be ensured at secretariat level.
- As a direct follow-up to the CoR's participation in the international biodiversity conferences in Montreal in December 2022 and Cali in October/November 2024, the CoR consolidated its role as a key institutional player in biodiversity governance. The CoR also endorsed a cooperation agreement with ICLEI on RegionsWithNature, a platform to display commitments towards achieving the global biodiversity framework.

Throughout 2025, CoR worked to increase the green resilience of the EU's cities and regions by deepening cooperation across EU institutions and all levels of governance, including local and regional authorities. As demonstrated below, the CoR's high-level political engagement, evidence-based policymaking, and strong partnerships mean that it plays a central role in shaping and implementing the EU's environmental agenda.

The EURegionsWeek 2025 opened with the **first joint CoR ENVE commission – EP ENVI committee meeting,** held at the European Parliament. This session strengthened cooperation between the CoR and the European Parliament on climate adaptation and resilience, with the presentation of the CoR opinion on the topic by the CoR rapporteur, and paved the way for closer interinstitutional coordination in future EU initiatives.

Water resilience emerged as a crucial challenge for Europe's cities and regions, cutting across political groups and policy areas; the Committee of the Regions established water resilience as a strategic priority for its 2025-2030 term, elevating the issue to the highest political level. The appointment of the

68 ENVE-VIII/007– Turning the tide – A local and regional roadmap for water resilience – rapporteurs: Kata Tüttő (HU/PES) and Juanma Moreno Bonilla (ES/EPP).

69 ENVE VIII/004 – Designing nature credits: a framework to promote biodiversity and ecosystem services – rapporteur: Rastislav Trnka (SK/EPP).

CoR president and first vice-president as co-rapporteurs for the opinion on Turning the tide – a local and regional roadmap for water resilience reflected this exceptional commitment and ensured strong visibility across EU institutions, leading to the first water resilience forum being hosted at the CoR premises.

The opinion process followed a cross-cutting, inclusive approach. All CoR commissions were invited to contribute to and engage with the opinion, making sure that the truly horizontal nature of water challenges was reflected. **Better Regulation tools, such as the Subsidiarity Expert Group, territorial impact assessment, the Regional Hubs Network, and foresight** activities, were used to ensure that the proposals were evidence-based and territorially grounded. The input from the Subsidiarity Expert Group[70] confirmed that the water resilience strategy is in line with the subsidiarity principle. In the opinion, the CoR stresses that flexible and locally adapted approaches – such as hydrological planning, drought and flood risk management plans, integrated resource management, differentiated water pricing and decentralised water reuse systems – are a prerequisite for effective implementation of the strategy. The territorial impact assessment confirmed the substantial but uneven territorial implications of water resilience measures across EU regions. In the opinion, the CoR stresses the need for differentiated, regionally adapted targets and implementation pathways, taking into account local hydrological, climatic, infrastructural, economic, and governance conditions.

This comprehensive work was complemented by studies such as the CoR study on Managing flood risks: How to build water resilience in local communities and a leaflet which includes Guidance for cities and regions on how to act before, during and after a flood event, with actionable steps to strengthen flood preparedness. The study emphasises that, to become more resilient, it is essential to bridge the gap between the strategy and the reality, and to focus on and facilitate the implementation of the water legislative framework – which remains a major challenge. The recommendations of the study are reflected in the opinion, which calls, for instance, for disaster resilience and vulnerability assessments, including the systematic integration of flood risks, to be embedded in spatial and urban planning and decisions on investments and infrastructure, in close collaboration with cities and regions.

Water resilience was also a key topic for a chapter of the annual State of Regions and Cities report, and an ARLEM plenary meeting on 6 November 2025.

This collective effort culminated in the **co-organisation of the first European Water Resilience Forum** on 8 December, hosted at the CoR premises in partnership with the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee – a landmark event highlighting the CoR's leadership and convening power in driving a shared European agenda for water resilience. To promote the activities of CoR members on water resilience, an exhibition with best practices and videos of projects were presented.

The CoR also strengthened interinstitutional partnerships by hosting key environmental dialogues at its premises. The **presentation of the fourth Environment Implementation Review** on 7 July, co-hosted by Commissioner Jessika Roswall and CoR President Kata Tüttő, brought together EU and regional players to address the persistent gap between policy ambition and implementation. The work of the Green Deal Going Local Group contributed to and was referenced in the JRC report on Delivering the EU Green Deal – Progress towards targets published in 2025.

The **monthly** Green Deal funding alert **newsletter**, shared by email with 2 500 recipients, as well as more broadly on the CoR website and social media, has promoted more than 30 EU initiatives, funding

70 At the end of July, a consultation of the Subsidiarity Expert Group on the European water resilience strategy was launched. Twelve contributions were received from the expert group and shared with the CoR president and first vice-president, co-rapporteurs for the opinion. Additionally, three spontaneous contributions were received from Austria and shared with the rapporteurs.

opportunities and calls for proposals that support sustainable development and the transition to climate neutrality to local and regional authorities.

In parallel, the CoR took a leading role in the **European Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform**, co-chaired by a CoR member and DG Environment. This partnership ensured that regional and local authorities remain at the heart of the EU's zero-pollution ambition. The CoR's advocacy contributed directly to the **launch of the first Zero Pollution Dashboard for regions and cities**, a concrete outcome that enables local governments to benchmark progress, connect to EU funding streams, and strengthen accountability in pollution reduction efforts. The CoR also contributed with its Green Deal Going Local Best Practices, now linked in the dashboard.

Following on from the opinions on Bio-diverse cities and regions beyond 2020 at the UN CBD COP 15 and in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030[71] and the EU Nature Restoration Law[72], the study *The contribution of EU cities and regions to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*, and participation in international biodiversity conferences, the CoR consolidated its role in **biodiversity governance**, signing a cooperation agreement with ICLEI on the RegionsWithNature platform to advance the global biodiversity framework.

Finally, thanks to the CoR administration's active participation in the European Commission's **EU Biodiversity Platform meetings,** the CoR helps shape EU biodiversity policy alongside Member States, ensuring that local and regional perspectives inform the consistent implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Law, the EU Biodiversity Strategy, and related legislation. The CoR also ensures that biodiversity and environmental resilience are integrated into broader EU policy processes through its active participation in the Greening the European Semester expert group.

4.2.8 Solidarity with Ukraine

Main impact:

- Reflecting CoR opinions[73] and the recommendations[74] of the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine, European Parliament resolutions[75] emphasised a decentralised approach to reconstruction and the need for local and regional authorities to be involved in the planning, decision-making and implementation of the Ukraine Plan.
- For the first time, CoR members and Alliance partners were invited to debrief the Council's ad hoc working party on reconstruction and support for Ukraine held on 20 June 2025.
- The CoR organised a matchmaking Forum on Inter-municipal Partnerships between the EU and Ukraine in Brussels on 15 May 2025. One partnership was signed during the forum, and another 15 on the sidelines of the Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC) in Rome on 10-11 July 2025.
- Alongside the Forum on 15 May, the Alliance delivered a joint statement ahead of this year's Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC). Several recommendations were echoed in the URC discussions, particularly under the local and regional dimension of the conference. In July 2025, a European Partnership Hub was launched.

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71 ENVE-VII/002 – Bio-diverse cities and regions beyond 2020 at the UN CBD COP 15 and in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – rapporteur: Roby Biwer (LU/PES).

72 ENVE-VII/030 – EU Nature Restoration Law – rapporteur: Roby Biwer (LU/PES).

73 See, for example, CIVEX-VIII/01 – Enlargement package 2024 – Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia – rapporteur: Aleksandra Dulkiewicz (PL/EPP) – and CIVEX VII/028 - Enlargement package 2023 – Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia – rapporteur: Antje Grotheer.

74 Most recently, Joint statement on empowering local and regional authorities for the reconstruction and future EU accession of Ukraine - Publications Office of the EU.

75 Most recently, European Parliament resolution of 9 September 2025 on the 2023 and 2024 Commission reports on Ukraine.

- After its launch as a pilot programme in March 2025, the Training and Internship Programme Support for Ukrainian Municipalities (TIPS4UA) provided training and internships to 44 local government leaders and officials from Ukraine. The importance of this CoR flagship initiative was widely acknowledged at the URC2025. In agreement with U-LEAD, the key implementing partner, CoR President Kata Tüttő announced that it would continue through 2026 and 2027.

Thanks to persistent CoR advocacy, to initiatives under the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine, and to cooperation with key stakeholders, the decentralised approach became a key element of Ukraine's recovery strategy. The role of local and regional authorities in its EU accession process was strengthened.

The European Parliament resolution of 9 September 2025 on the 2023 and 2024 Commission reports on Ukraine calls for continued decentralisation reform and the strengthening of local self-government. Reflecting previous CoR and Alliance r[76], the EP underlines the importance of . Furthermore, in the context of the third Dialogue on the Ukraine Facility on 23 September 2025, the EP's standing rapporteur on Ukraine drew attention to the need to consult the Ukrainian Associations of LRAs.European Charter of Local Self-Government. Furthermore, in the context of the third Dialogue on the Ukraine Facility on 23 September 2025, the EP's standing rapporteur on Ukraine drew attention to the need to consult the Ukrainian Associations of LRAs.

Thanks to proactive CoR engagement with the German, Italian and Ukrainian governments, the local and regional dimension became a key dimension at the Ukraine Recovery Conferences in Berlin in June 2024 and in Rome in July 2025, to which over 400 LRA representatives were invited. For the second year in a row, the chair of the CoR working group moderated a session – the Coalition for Sustainable Municipalities event, at which the European Partnership Hub was launched. Furthermore, together with U-LEAD, the CoR organised a presentation of the TIPS4UA programme, during which hosts and participants shared their experiences. Initial contacts were also established with Polish counterparts in preparation for the URC2026 in Poland.

Significant strides have been made on involving CoR and Alliance members in the Ukraine Donor Platform[77]. The request was conveyed to the Council's ad hoc working party on reconstruction and support for Ukraine and also in the context of the URC2025. Discussions are ongoing with the Platform secretariat to identify the right format for dialogue with local and regional authorities.

The Summer Camps for Ukrainian Children initiative reaffirmed the CoR's commitment to young Ukrainians. Under the coordination of the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) and its EU partners, camps were held in Sweden, Greece and Malta. The camps hosted by CoR members demonstrated the positive impact on the well-being of Ukrainian children of joint efforts, enriching activities, cultural experiences and hospitality. Recognising the success, the AUC has outlined key takeaways on the initiative's strategic impact.

76 Paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Alliance's recommendations to the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2024 for a decentralised recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine, and point 13 of the CoR opinion on Enlargement package 2023 – Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia.

77 See recommendation for amendment 7 in the opinion on the Ukraine Facility. The point was reiterated in the alliance's recommendations to the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2024 for a decentralised recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine (paragraph 17) and the Joint Statement that the alliance adopted on 15 May 2025, with a view to URC2025.

4.3 Proximity

4.3.1 Local and regional authorities in multilateral forums and UN processes

Main impact:

- The CoR has been directly engaged in key EU diplomatic efforts, including COP30 in Baku, the third United Nations Ocean conference in Nice (9-13 June), the third Ukrainian Summit of Regions and Cities in Kyiv (4-6 June) and the Financing for Development Conference (30 June-1 July).
- The CoR led the organisation of key events, such as the second UN-EU Policy Dialogue on SDG localisation, the first European Public Diplomacy Week, and the ninth Cities and Regions for International Partnerships Forum, in addition to the regular meetings of the CoR bodies promoting a local perspective on EU enlargement (joint consultative committees and working groups), the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP) and the Mediterranean (ARLEM).
- The CoR's efforts resulted in the formal recognition of the importance of LRA efforts in UN processes. The Sevilla Commitment adopted at the United Nations Fourth Financing for Development (FFD4) Conference in July 2025 underscores the importance of empowering local and regional governments as key players in sustainable development, through more robust subnational finance and capacity-building.
- Multiple reports and amendments from the European Parliament directly incorporated or reflected CoR positions on local and regional contributions to multilateral forums and UN processes (see details below).

The second edition of the UN-EU Policy Dialogue on SDG Localisation was a particularly successful milestone. Co-organised by CoR with the European Commission and the UN Local2030 Coalition, it focused on local finance, ahead of the Fourth Financing for Development (FFD4) conference. CoR representatives debated with three members of the European Parliament, eight UN directors, representatives of two Commission DGs, and representatives from three Member States and the EIB on stepping up cooperation on financing localisation, advocating increased access for LRAs to development finance, and identifying concrete policy solutions.

These points were echoed in the FFD4 conclusions – the Sevilla Commitment, which formally recognises the importance of empowering local and regional governments as key players in sustainable development, through more robust subnational finance and capacity-building. CoR First Vice-President Juanma Moreno's participation in the EU delegation testified to the importance of the CoR in this process.

CoR engagement led to the inclusion of local aspects in European Parliament reports and opinions, including the DEVE committee's draft report ahead of FFD4[78], the reports on FFD4[79] and on the implementation and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ahead of the 2025 High-Level Political Forum[80]. The European Parliament draft report on a new EU strategy on international partnerships, the Global Gateway, also makes a specific request to increase the role of local and

78 Amendment 254https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/DEVE-AM-770098_EN.pdf – was adopted by the DEVE Committee– https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-10-2025-0101_EN.html – but the report was rejected in plenary.

79 Paragraph 48 on local finance: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-10-2025-0101_EN.pdf.

80 Paragraph 22 underscores the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and the role of local and regional governments – https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CJ37-PR-768093_EN.pdf; the final text adopted by Parliament further strengthens this language with dedicated references in Articles 9, 52, 81 and 83: Texts adopted - Implementation and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals in view of the 2025 High-Level Political Forum - Wednesday, 9 July 2025.

regional authorities at all levels of the initiative. This directly echoes the draft CoR opinion on *Localisation of the Global Gateway.* This opinion rapporteur had extensive engagement with MEPs during the preparation of his own opinion and the EP report.

The basis for international cooperation solidarity is increasingly threatened by geopolitical tensions. The CoR joined forces with the other EU institutions to organise the first European Public Diplomacy Week (23-27 June 2025), demonstrating the EU's commitment to rules-based multilateralism. The CoR session on subnational diplomacy was the highest level and best attended segment of the week, with CoR President Kata Tüttő and Commissioner for the Mediterranean Dubravka Šuica debating with the Quebec Government, the UN and the Nicosia Initiative on the growing role of city diplomacy and decentralised cooperation. These are practical, proven tools to build partnerships, foster peace and strengthen resilience that can translate multilateral agreements into practice and build bridges in fragile contexts. For example, the proactive and successful participation of CoR delegations in UN global summits (Climate and Biodiversity COPs, SDGs) has made it clear that regions and cities can fundamentally improve the efficiency of global policies, with the CoR's role being explicitly mentioned in the Kunming-Montreal conclusions on Biodiversity. In the EU's neighbourhood policy, cities and regions are exposed to the most pressing challenges: climate change, migration, and economic and social disparities. LRAs have numerous initiatives and best practices to share. Throughout almost 15 years of work, the Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP) and the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) have brought LRAs in Eastern and Mediterranean Partnership countries closer to one another and to their EU counterparts. By forging synergies between the EuroNest Parliamentary Assembly and CORLEAP, local and regional perspectives are being mainstreamed in the Eastern Partnership. ARLEM's contribution was recognised in the Pact for the Mediterranean, adopted by the European Commission and EEAS on 16 October 2025, which provides a role to ARLEM in the implementation and monitoring of the Pact as a 'key institutional channel for regional and local contributions'. Cities from the two shores of the Mediterranean also manage joint projects together. For instance, Milan and Amman are working together to strengthen their urban agrifood systems through peer learning. Last but not least, it is worth noting that ARLEM and CORLEAP managed to successfully convene LRA representatives from regions facing overwhelming level of tensions and conflicts in both the Eastern and Mediterranean neighbourhoods, based on a collective, forward-looking agenda including the implementation of the Pact for the Mediterranean, which confirmed the added value of subnational diplomacy in the current fragmented geopolitical order.

4.3.2 Democratic values, fundamental rights and rule of law

Main impact:

- The CoR opinion on [81] local and regional perspective in the implementation of the Rule of Law in the European Union resulted in broad engagement with EU institutions and relevant stakeholders. Events such as and a meeting of the Commission's Network of national contact points on the rule of law provided opportunities to promote the CoR's views, calling for the role of local and regional authorities in the EU rule of law process to be recognised. European Parliament's hearing on smart conditionality and a meeting of the Commission's Network of national contact points on the rule of law provided opportunities to promote the CoR's views, calling for the role of local and regional authorities in the EU rule of law process to be recognised.
- In its fourth year, the Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award continued to promote democratic values such as freedom of thought, diversity, solidarity, and fighting xenophobia and hate speech, now in

81 Amendment 254 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/DEVE-AM-770098_EN.pdf was adopted by DEVE Committee https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-10-2025-0101_EN.html, see paragraph 48 on local finance. However, the report was rejected in plenary.

conjunction with the European Parliament as well. The increase in the number of nominations and the significantly more extensive media interest indicated the growth of the Award's impact.

Highlighting the rule of law as one of the founding values of the Union and a core factor in Europe's political stability and economic prosperity, the CoR opinion on *The local and regional perspective in the implementation of the Rule of Law in the European Union* put forward a systematic approach to what local and regional authorities can contribute to the EU rule of law process, and provided recommendations on fundamental issues that are relevant to increasing democratic legitimacy and achieving greater added value and effectiveness for EU policies on the ground.

These strong messages generated a high level of interest among EU institutions and other stakeholders, and were presented in a number of European forums, including a hearing on smart conditionality at the European Parliament, a European Economic and Social Committee hearing on the economic dimension of the rule of law, a meeting of the Network of national contact points on the rule of law organised by the European Commission, and an expert workshop on smart conditionality in practice organised by the Centre for European Policy Studies.

In the opinion, the CoR advocates ensuring that conditionality criteria are applied in a proportionate and fair way, so that cities and regions engaged in exemplary democratic governance are not penalised. This has been echoed in the Commission's proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework, providing further safeguards to ensure that Member States continue payments to final beneficiaries that are not responsible for breaches of the rule of law principles.

The increased involvement of the European Parliament in the Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award was shown by the participation of the LIBE committee chair, Javier Zarzalejos, in the jury for the award, and the attendance of the LIBE committee vice-chair, Alessandro Zan, at the award ceremony on 20 February 2025. The fourth round of the award saw a rise in nominations, and the profile of the laureate – the Mayor of Kyiv, Vitaliy Klitschko – triggered huge media interest in 15 countries. Moreover, some media outlets also reported on the Special Recognition laureates, Bassam Aramin and Rami Elhanan – peace activists from Palestine and Israel – when they received their award at the ARLEM meeting on 4 June 2025.

The CoR's work on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights has also been presented and its political messages conveyed at relevant debates and other events organised at EU, national and local level, including:

- The ALDA International School on Understanding Democratic Resilience, attended by Patrick Molinoz (FR/PES) in September 2025.
- An EURegionsWeek workshop on Defending European Democracy across Governance Levels, involving the CoR rapporteur on the rule of law, members of the European Parliament, and the president of the Belgian Senate, organised by the European Parliament in cooperation with the CoR (October 2025).
- 16th Annual Dialogue between the CIVEX commission and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights held on 20 November 2025, dedicated to the role of local and regional authorities in strengthening democracy and fundamental rights in the EU.

4.3.3 European elections 2024

Main impact:

- The CoR's European elections outreach campaign, which included specific local dialogues throughout Europe, go-vote social media campaigns with CoR Members and Young Elected Politicians (YEPs), a dedicated interinstitutional conference, and targeted sessions during the European Week of Regions and Cities, helped to encourage citizens to go and vote. Issues of central importance to local and regional authorities were included in the manifestos and campaigns, such as cohesion policy, the local and regional dimension of thematic policy areas like sustainability and climate change, and the call to strengthen the role of LRAs in the EU. These issues were also reflected in the European Council's Strategic Agenda for 2024-2029 and the European Commission's Strategic Guidelines for the term of office.
- The CoR was part of the institutional debates ahead of and after the elections, for example via its thematic European elections debates in plenaries, its Summit of Regions and Cities, and dedicated European Parliament and European Commission events;
- Cooperation with the European Parliament was strengthened in particular via the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding on the European elections and a new Cooperation Agreement with the European Parliament.
- The **Stocktaking report on the 2024 European Elections adopted by the European Parliament** on 11 September 2025 underlines the importance of strengthening the link between local, regional, national and European issues and welcomes the active positive involvement of local and regional leaders in European topics and debates, particularly in pre-electoral periods and through the work of the CoR and its networks and campaigns. It also underlines the positive role of cohesion policy.

The CoR and cohesion policy were part of European, national, and regional party manifestos, and are also included in the strategic Commission and Council documents setting the direction for the 2024-2029 term. The Commission's Political Guidelines suggested the Commission would work on public engagement by continuing to work with, and strengthening, the joint network of local councillors with the CoR, and includes more references to cities and regions than the previous guidelines. They referred to a strengthened cohesion policy to be developed in partnership with LRAs, as called for by CoR president. Furthermore, the structure of the Commission gives strong clout to Cohesion Policy, having an executive vice-president (former CoR member Raffaele Fitto) responsible for cohesion and reforms, a portfolio which was deemed to be at risk and which the CoR and its LRA alliances had mobilised to defend. The European Council's Strategic Agenda includes the need to enhance the Treaty objectives of economic, social and territorial cohesion, aiming for continuous upward convergence, reducing disparities and increasing our resilience and competitiveness across the Union, reflecting the push given by the CoR and LRAs in the Mons Declaration.

Closing the cycle, the European Parliament's Report on the Stocktaking on the 2024 European elections is also an example of impact in terms of both process and content. The CoR president was invited to the EP Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) Committee's hearing on Stocktaking of the European elections 2024 (19 March), where she also met with the AFCO chair. In return, the EP rapporteur was invited for an exchange of views with the CoP on 13 May, following which the proposals raised were incorporated into the draft report. As a result, the adopted report reflects the importance of the CoR and LRAs in engaging in European topics and debates and the positive role of cohesion policy, and refers to relevant CoR-EP cooperation agreements.

4.3.4 Communication and outreach activities

Main impact areas:

- The European Week of Regions and Cities
- The EU Local Councillors Network (EULC) and the Young Elected Politicians (YEPs)
- Record media coverage in quality and high pace growing social media

The European Week of Regions and Cities

Main impact:

- The 23rd edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities was one of the most significant and engaging weeks of the year for the CoR, with massive audience reach and engagement: 6 500 people attended the event, including 3 200 onsite participants at the CoR and 1 000 participants at the opening session, marking a 28% increase over the previous year. Social media campaigns generated millions of impressions (including 3.57 million via paid campaigns), thousands of mentions, and high engagement rates across platforms like Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and X. The use of live streams, stories, and reels further amplified the event's visibility and interactivity. In terms of communication results, the emphasis was on quality, not just quantity (significantly higher than the previous edition, with success in EU media as well as national media and regional/local media).
- The week brought together participants from 80 countries, including local and regional authorities, EU institutions, politicians, and technical experts. High-level speakers (e.g. the presidents of the European Parliament and Commission) and 140 invited journalists contributed to broad media coverage and policy influence, ensuring messages reached both specialised and general audiences. The programme included 143 sessions, such as the Covenant of Mayors Ceremony attended by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.
- The CoR president's address during the plenary session significantly shaped the narrative of the Annual Report on the State of Regions and Cities. With over 1 000 onsite participants and 1 647 online viewers, it generated 57 000 boosted views on Facebook, 1 409 on LinkedIn, and 476 on the European Broadcasting Service (EBS). Social media drove 30 000 link clicks, and a 500% engagement increase year-on-year, with 554 mentions and 1 783 interactions. Video content attracted a total of 55 300 views, amplified by multilingual campaigns across 10 languages – making this one of the most impactful outreach efforts to date. As a consequence, the annual report was referred to in the EU Agenda for Cities published on 3 December 2025.
- Empowerment and visibility for youth and local leaders: Dedicated sessions and communication actions for Young Elected Politicians (YEPs) and EU Local Councillors fostered their active participation and visibility. Social media masterclasses, interviews and branded content empowered these groups to amplify their voices, resulting in high engagement and outreach, especially among younger and local audiences.

The EURegionsWeek is the most important event on social media for the CoR. A year-long social media campaign, both organic and paid, for EURegionsWeek promoting video stories saw a **7.8% increase** in engagement. The CoR's social media channels recorded an 11% growth in followers, reaching a total of 195 272 followers, supported by targeted campaigns around #SOTEULocal and #EURegionsWeek. Engagement rates were strong, with paid campaigns driving traffic to the Annual report and speech highlights.

During the 23rd European Week of Regions and Cities, the Cohesion Alliance spotlighted its campaign to safeguard Cohesion Policy through a high-profile manifestation at the European Parliament, a flagship debate on a strengthened post-2027 policy, and adoption of a seven-point call for stronger regional partnership and autonomy. The week featured discussions on cohesion, territorial resilience and future growth, amplified by significant media coverage and social engagement. These actions reinforced the

Alliance's role as a key advocate for place-based investment and set the stage for upcoming negotiations on the EU's 2028-2034 budget framework.

The president of the CoR delivered the State of Regions and Cities address in a full European Parliament hemicycle, reaffirming the vital role of local and regional authorities and warning that they must remain central in the 2028-2034 MFF. The speech became a major communication success, generating 57 000 boosted views on Facebook, 55 300 video views, and 30 000 link clicks to the report's landing page. Social media interactions reached 28 600, a 7.8% increase from last year, amplified by multilingual campaigns across 10 languages, driving exceptional stakeholder engagement and media coverage.

Young Elected Politicians (YEPs) and EU Local Councillors played an active role in EURegionsWeek, with unprecedented demand from YEPs to take part. YEPs achieved record participation with 104 attendees and a 90% attendance rate, engaging in workshops, plenary debates and social media masterclasses that boosted their visibility. EU Local Councillors joined info sessions, networking events and collaborative debates, with around 100 participating both as invited guests and at their own expense. Both groups' involvement was widely highlighted through interviews and social media coverage, strengthening local engagement and democratic participation across Europe.

Media coverage extended well beyond EURegionsWeek, continuing with the Green Deal Working Group meeting on 15 October, the REGI-COTER meeting on 16 October and related events as part of the 'Close to you' programme – which extended EURegionsWeek outside the Brussels bubble until the end of November 2025 – members' local dialogues and EU Councillors' meetings (e.g. ANCI in Italy, Salon des maires in France).

The EU Local Councillors Network (EULC) and the Young Elected Politicians (YEPs)

Main impact:

- A unified EU Local Councillors Network was created. The merger of BELC and the CoR Network into a single EU-branded initiative established the first pan-European network of over 3 000 local and regional elected representatives, recognised as a flagship tool in the European Commission's 2024-2029 political guidelines. This strengthens the EU's presence on the ground and positions councillors as key multipliers for EU communication and engagement.
- Enhanced digital infrastructure and outreach by the EU Local Councillors Network: The adoption of Dynamics 365, a multilingual website, and a secure portal has streamlined data management and communication. Combined with targeted outreach campaigns and weekly info flashes that achieve open rates above 51% and click-to-open rates up to 18.7%, these tools significantly improve engagement and operational efficiency.
- The YEP programme continued to be a great outreach mechanism for the CoR. There are currently 881 active YEPs in the programme, with a total of 1 141 YEPs having enrolled in the programme since its inception in 2019. YEPs were involved in events and social media campaigns, contributing as speakers across a range of different events (e.g. plenaries, commission meetings, flagship events), helping to increase the potential of the CoR.

The EU Local Councillors Network is a unique EU-branded initiative under common management between the European Commission and CoR governance, through a Steering Committee and Joint Management Team, ensuring balanced responsibility and strategic coherence. In 2025, communication efforts delivered impressive outcomes: over 1 700 local and regional authorities were involved across Europe. In 2025 almost 900 applications were filed by local and regional elected politicians. During the same period, over 230 Councillors attended study visits in Brussels and over 55 took part in the European Week of Regions and Cities 2025. The 12 thematic webinars organised since the merge were attended by an average of over 100 participants. Overall, EU local Councillors reported about almost

1 400 activities (data as of 2023) carried out at regional and local level. Since July 2025 20 weekly information Info-flashes on EU-related topics, funds and opportunities have been made available to Councillors, with considerable success.

Activation initiatives included onboarding webinars, recognition tools such as certificates and badges, and tailored content via newsletters, Futurium, and social media – boosting interaction and reinforcing the network's prestige. Looking ahead, priorities include consolidating data, streamlining workflows, and further positioning the network as a practical and high-profile instrument for local engagement and EU visibility.

Future efforts will focus on consolidating, activating and promoting the EU Local Councillors network, ensuring that it develops into a fully consolidated, active and visible community. Building on the achievements of the merger so far, the focus will lie on unifying data and workflows, engaging councillors through tailored activities and recognition, and promoting the network as a practical tool. These efforts will not only strengthen internal coherence and member motivation but also enhance the network's visibility and credibility across Europe.

The Young Elected Politicians programme will continue to bring YEPs from across the EU and its neighbourhood as important multipliers and ambassadors for the CoR. As every year, in 2025 the programme accepted a geographically, politically and gender-balanced cohort of 150 new YEPs. YEPs continue to be systematically involved in CoR statutory and milestone events, as well as in external opportunities to represent the young voices of regions and cities.

In 2025, YEPs have contributed not only to the internal work and outreach of the CoR, through active participation in Plenary sessions, commission meetings and flagship events, but also as ambassadors of the CoR, being invited to youth policy dialogues with three European Commissioners. 2025 also marked the highest participation rate of YEPs in EURegionsWeek, with 90% of the invited YEPs showing up. They were one of the most successful forms of outreach for the CoR during EURegionsWeek, generating a huge amount of engagement through social networks (e.g. a single post from a YEP generated 1 784 engagements). The engagement is further underlined by the 66% open rate of the YEP newsletter, and the engagement of YEPs in CoR outreach activities. The programme continued to draw attention from interinstitutional partners, culminating in a three-day training course on citizen engagement, fully provided by the partners (Commission Joint Consultative Committee, Council of Europe, European Parliament, International Federation of European Law, Bertelsmann Stiftung) from 11 to 13 March 2025.

Continuing from 2024 and 2025, tailored training sessions and seminars will be offered to select YEPs to better equip them as ambassadors of the CoR and the EU. Efforts will continue to further integrate YEP activities into all outreach activities.

Record media coverage in quality and high pace growing social media

Main impacts:

- Overall, 2025 stands out as a landmark year for media visibility. Record-breaking results in both the first half and the full year underline a clear upward trajectory, driven by more strategic communication efforts and stronger, higher-quality coverage. Beyond the substantial presence in regional and local outlets, the year was also defined by prominent exposure in major national and European media, reinforcing our position and amplifying our overall impact.
- In terms of social media, the new mandate signals a generational shift, with 85% of members active on multiple platforms alongside the president, first vice-president, and commission chairs. Since early 2025, followers have jumped 18.5% to 258 368. Engagement nearly doubled: 2 163 posts

generated 77 800 interactions and 1.1 million organic video views – driven by diverse content, reels, and strategic collaborations.

- This momentum confirms the CoR's growing influence and ability to connect with audiences at scale.
- On the KPI of web page views, there was a 41% increase compared to 2024 (which had included the Mons Summit). The CoR streamed 282 meeting and events with 178 000 live and recording views, and as a result reached three times as many people as in 2024 (55 000 views), effectively doubling participation in CoR meetings. In addition, hundreds of clips were downloaded of members speaking at meetings and events.

Communication activity since EURegionsWeek last year had been unprecedented in the fight against centralisation of regional funding and had reached a further peak. In addition to EU media (Politico; Euractiv, Euronews etc. on a daily basis), quality coverage included national press/radio as well as regional/local media and social media.

The CoR enhanced its communication and outreach through data-driven strategies, leveraging Panoramic.AI in 2025 to make complex institutional debates accessible via clear, verified summaries linked to official sources. This innovation enabled real-time engagement during major events such as EURegionsWeek and EuroPCom, provided multilingual content for inclusivity, and positioned the CoR as a leader in AI-driven democratic innovation while ensuring strict EUDPR compliance to reinforce transparency and trust. Complementing this, high-performing email campaigns achieved open rates of 51-57% and click-to-open ratios above 13%, particularly within the EU Local Councillors network, while Ipsos surveys and fact sheets, including the Flash Eurobarometer, informed tailored messaging for local and regional politicians.

The year closed with around 26 000 mentions, setting a new annual record and comfortably surpassing previous high points in 2018, 2022, and 2024. Media mentions reached 15 202 in the first half of 2025 – the strongest six-month performance ever recorded. This sharp rise reflects more strategic communication efforts and a noticeable improvement in the quality and consistency of media coverage. Alongside strong visibility in regional and local media, 2025 also stood out for high-profile coverage in major national and European outlets.

5. Conclusions – outlook

The 2025 Annual Impact Report of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) demonstrates the Committee's sustained commitment to advancing the interests of local and regional authorities within the European Union's evolving policy landscape. Throughout the reporting period, the CoR has continued to act as a vital institutional bridge, ensuring that the principles of multilevel governance, subsidiarity and partnership are embedded in the Union's legislative and strategic agenda.

The evidence presented in this report confirms that the CoR's opinions and initiatives have yielded tangible results across the three overarching political priorities for the 2025-2030 term: cohesion, resilience and proximity. The Committee's advocacy has contributed to the recognition of local and regional perspectives in key Council conclusions and European Parliament reports, the shaping of major EU strategies, and the strengthening of interinstitutional cooperation. Notably, the CoR's role in the Cohesion Alliance, the Automotive Regions Alliance, the Alliance for the Reconstruction of Ukraine and the European Week of Regions and Cities, and its engagement in flagship initiatives, has strengthened its position as the voice of regions and cities at European level.

The 2025 report also highlights the Committee's capacity to adapt to new challenges, including the implementation of the green and digital transitions, the reinforcement of democratic values, and the need for greater public engagement. Through evidence-based analysis, stakeholder consultation, and the dissemination of best practices, the CoR has contributed to the development of more effective, inclusive, and territorially sensitive EU policies.

Looking ahead, the CoR remains committed to consolidating its impact by further strengthening its strategic planning, deepening interinstitutional partnerships, and enhancing the visibility and effectiveness of local and regional authorities in the EU decision-making process.

19 referrals related to the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), on which the CoR started its work at the end of 2025, will be an instrumental opportunity to influence the EU legislative process, laying the groundwork for greater impact in subsequent years.

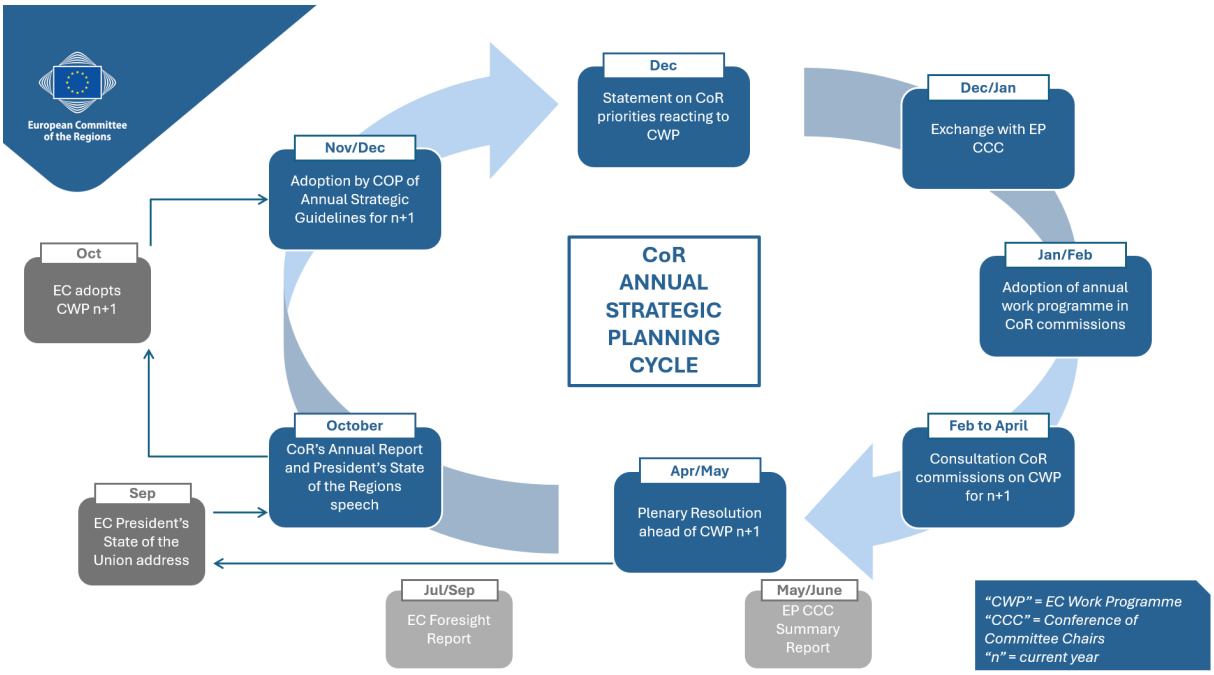
Finally, 2025 saw a comprehensive audit of the CoR's performance by the European Court of Auditors, the findings of which will inform an upcoming ECA report and guide the implementation of recommendations in the following years.

The lessons learned in 2025 will inform the Committee's ongoing efforts to support a more cohesive, resilient, and democratic European Union, ensuring that the voices of regions and cities continue to shape the future of the Union for the benefit of all its citizens.

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1: The CoR's Annual Strategic Planning Cycle (ASPC)

Based on the approach to strategic planning agreed by the Conference of Presidents, the CoR continued to implement the reinforced ASPC in 2025. This planning cycle seeks to improve the coherence and impact of the CoR's political work in implementing the overarching priorities adopted by the CoR for its 2025-2030 term of office. Within these priorities, the CoR seeks to influence the political and institutional agendas of the other European institutions and reacts to their proposed initiatives.



This impact-focused strategy enables the CoR to contribute to key annual milestones of the other EU institutions.

Under the political guidance of the Conference of Presidents, the CoR's annual strategic planning is implemented through the strategic guidelines adopted each year in November/December. These align with the CoR's institutional priorities agreed for the term and provide the thematic orientation for the its political work in the year ahead. The guidelines, which are discussed with the CoR commission chairs, inform the adoption of the work programmes of the CoR's thematic commissions each year. Since 2020, the ASPC has also built on the Committee's Annual Report on the State of Regions and Cities in the European Union.

In 2025, the ASPC was adjusted in light of the CoR's renewal. Following the adoption of the CoR's priorities for 2025-2030 in May 2025, which identified cohesion, resilience and proximity as overarching priorities, the CoP held discussions with the European Commission in July on the CoR's contribution to the Commission's work programme for 2026. Just before the work programme's publication in October, the 2025 Annual Report on the State of Regions and Cities was issued, drawing on these recommendations. Opening the new cycle, with a view to defining strategic priorities and delivery in 2026, the CoP held a debate in December with the commission chairs and with the chair of the European Parliament's Conference of Committee Chairs. On this occasion a CoP statement on the European Commission's Work Programme and the Strategic Guidelines for 2026 were adopted.

In addition to the medium-term dimension of the ASPC, which focuses on the CoR's five-year priorities, in the longer term it also seeks to increase the CoR's capacity for strategic foresight, both internally and in the context of the ongoing interinstitutional work on foresight, including through the CoR's involvement in the European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS) network. In this context, the CoR hosted the ESPAS foresight practitioners' day as part of the annual ESPAS days, and continued to mainstream foresight in its policy work. It continued to initiate and build outreach and networking with regions and cities with experience in foresight, providing them with opportunities to share good practices at subnational level and linking these to the European level. This was evidenced in 2025 by: a workshop on strategic foresight with a focus on cities during the European Week of Regions and Cities; participation in the Advisory Board of the Strategic Foresight Partnership Interreg project involving seven European regions; the launch of foresight talks and training in cooperation with the other institutions; and the inclusion of a foresight dimension in all relevant externally commissioned studies.

The dedicated administrative Task Force 1 on strategic planning supports a strategic planning process in the CoR with a particular focus on cross-cutting issues and the implementation of political priorities. It encourages cross-service teamwork between the various directorates and the political groups, and ensures the effective flow of information, including on interinstitutional developments. It helps to improve coordination of the work of the CoP, the Bureau, the CoR commissions and the plenary assembly.

6.2 Appendix 2: List of opinions adopted in 2025

CIVEX

- CIVEX-VII/033 – The local and regional perspective in the implementation of the rule of law in the European Union - rapporteur: Stephen De Ron (LU/Green+Pro) – COR-2024-03434-00-00-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VIII/001 – Enlargement package 2024 – Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia – rapporteur: Aleksandra Dulkiewicz (PL/EPP) – COR-2025-00262-00-01-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VIII/002 – Enlargement package 2024 – Western Balkans and Türkiye – rapporteur: Jean-Luc Vanraes (BE/Renew E.) – COR-2025-00264-00-03-AC-TRA
- CIVEX -VIII/003 – A simpler and faster Europe – rapporteur: Jelena Drenjanin (SE/EPP) – COR-2025-00975-00-00-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VIII/004 – Enhancing the territorial dimension of the EU-Switzerland relationship – rapporteur: Matteo Luigi Bianchi (IT/ECR) – COR-2025-02023-00-00-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VIII/006 – Local and regional perspectives in the implementation of the ProtectEU European Internal Security Strategy – rapporteur: Anne Rudisuhli (FR/Renew E.)– COR-2025-01968-00-02-PAC-TRA
- CIVEX-VIII/007 – The localisation of the EU's Global Gateway – rapporteur: Jaume Duch Guillot (ES/PES) – COR-2025-02518-00-0O-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VIII/009 – Cities' and regions' contribution to the simplification agenda – rapporteur: Magdalena Czarzyńska-Jachim (PL/EA) – COR-2025-03427-00-00-AC-TRA

COTER

- COTER-VIII/001 – Metropolitan regions and functional urban areas as socioeconomic drivers of sustainable investment in the 2021-2027 cohesion policy framework – rapporteur: Carmine Pacente (IT/Renew E.) – COR-2024-03723-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VIII/002 – Cohesion policy as a key engine in achieving EU goals and reforms: how to further build on its performance-based approach while respecting decentralisation, partnership and multilevel governance – rapporteur: Isabelle Boudineau (FR/PES) – COR-2025-00237-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VIII/003 – The role of cities and regions in the EU affordable housing plan – Jaume Collboni Cuadrado (ES/PES) – COR-2025-00042-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VIII/005 – Combatting transport poverty to strengthen European cohesion and competitiveness – rapporteur: Patrik Schwarcz-Kiefer (HU/EPP) – COR-2025-02437-00-01-AC-TRA

ECON

- ECON-VII/041 – A strong European Defence Industry – rapporteur Fernando López Miras (ES/EPP) – COR-2024-02104-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/042 – Supporting SMEs in regional value chains – fostering the proximity economy – rapporteur: Oszkár Seszták (HU/ECR) – COR-2024-02105-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VIII/001 – The Clean Industrial Deal – rapporteur: William Elofsson (SE/EPP) – COR-2025-01152-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VIII/002 – European Defence Readiness 2030 – rapporteur: Ricardo Rio (PT/EPP) – COR-2025-01590-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VIII/003 – Steel and Metals Action Plan – rapporteur: Guillermo Peláez Álvarez (ES/PES) – COR-2025-02035-00-01-AC-TRA
- ECON-VIII/004 – AI Continent Action Plan – rapporteur: Alberto Cirio (IT/EPP) – COR-2025-02034-00-00-AC-TRA

- ECON-VIII/005 – Revision of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund – rapporteur: Christophe Rouillon (FR/PES) – COR-2025-02149-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VIII/011 – EU Space Act – rapporteur : Nadia Pellefigue (FR/PES) – COR-2025-04079-00-02-AC-TRA

ENVE

- ENVE-VIII/001 – More than funding: local and regional authorities mobilising public and private resources for an effective follow-up on the Clean Transition Dialogues on the ground – rapporteur: Åsa Ågren Wikström (SE/EPP) – COR-2025-00880-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VIII/002 – State of the Energy Union: getting prepared for a smooth implementation of energy transition in line with Fit for 55 targets – rapporteur: Joško Klisović (HR/PES) – COR-2024-04588-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VIII/003 – Climate Action implementation in view of the EU contribution to UNFCCC COP30 – rapporteur: Nadia Pellefigue (FR/PES) – COR-2025-00139-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VIII/004 – Designing nature credits: a framework to promote biodiversity and ecosystem services – rapporteur: Rastislav Trnka (SK/EPP) – COR-2025-00140-00-01-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VIII/005 – Action Plan for Affordable Energy – how to secure affordable, stable and clean energy for all EU cities and regions – rapporteur: Hanna Zdanowska (PL/EPP) – COR-2025-01119-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VIII/006 – Climate adaptation in cities and regions: building the European climate adaptation plan – rapporteur: Matteo Lepore (IT/PES) – COR-2025-01930-00-00-AC-TRA

NAT

- NAT-VII/044 – How post-27 LEADER and CLLD programming could contribute to better implementation of the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas – rapporteur: Thibaut Guignard (FR/EPP) – COR-2024-02569-00-02-AC-TRA
- NAT-VIII/001 – Healthcare workforce: regional challenges and solutions – rapporteur: Birgitta Sacrédeus (SE/EPP)– COR-2025-00235-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VIII/002 – Outlook opinion on the EU Oceans Pact – rapporteur: Mätta Ivarsson (SE/ Green+Pro) – COR-2025-00626-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VIII/003 – Strengthen farmers' position in the agri-food supply chain – rapporteur: Loredana Capone (IT/PES) – COR-2025-00032-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VIII/004 – Enhancing EU regional agricultural competitiveness: A comprehensive strategy integrating equitable trade conditions and phytosanitary security – rapporteur: Carlos Mazón Guixot (ES/EPP) – COR-2024-02564-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VIII/005 – Towards sustainable and resilient tourism in the European union: strategy for balanced and adaptive management – rapporteur: Margarita Prohens Rigo (ES/PPE) – COR-2025-01378-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VIII/006 – Vision for Agriculture and Food – rapporteur: Joke Schauvliege (BE/EPP) – COR-2025-00948-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VIII/007 – Cybersecurity of hospitals and healthcare providers – rapporteur: Daniela Cîmpean (RO/EPP) – COR-2025-00916-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VIII/008 – Market rules and support measures in the wine sector – rapporteur: Roberto Ciambetti (IT/ECR) – COR-2025-01989-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VIII/009 – European Preparedness Union Strategy – rapporteur: María Isabel Urrutia De Los Mozos (ES/EPP) – COR-2025-01934-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VIII/010 – Critical Medicines Act – rapporteur: Erika Von Kalben (DE/Green+Pro) – COR-2025-01935-00-00-AC-TRA

SEDEC

- SEDEC-VIII/001 – Building the European Research Area: A local and regional perspective – rapporteur: Melanie Kühnemann-Grunow (DE/PES) – COR-2025-00365-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VIII/002 – Intergenerational fairness: A Local and Regional Approach to Building Inclusive and Sustainable Societies – rapporteur: Tine Radinja (SI/Green+Pro) – COR-2025-00369-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VIII/003 – An EU anti-poverty strategy – rapporteur: Yonnec Polet (BE/PES) – COR-2025-01106-00-01-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VIII/004 – Union of skills strategy – rapporteur: Emil Boc (RO/EPP) – COR-2025-01105-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VIII/005 – Strengthening women's rights in the EU: a local and regional perspective – rapporteur: Carina Ohlsson (SE/PES). – COR-2025-01108-00-00-AC-TRA

RESOLUTIONS

- RESOL-VIII/001 – Urgent resolution on the EC competitiveness compass – COR-2025-00824-00-00-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VIII/002 – Urgent resolution on strengthening the territorial dimension in the implementation of the industrial action plan for the European automotive sector – COR-2025-00987-00-00-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VIII/003 – Urgent resolution on the arrest of Turkish mayors and the assault on local democracy in Türkiye – COR-2025-01118-00-01-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VIII/004 – Resolution on the priorities of the European Committee of the Regions for 2025-2030 – COR-2025-01330-00-00-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VIII/005 – Resolution in view of the next MFF – COR-2025-01331-00-00-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VIII/006 – Resolution on the mid-term review of cohesion policy 2021-2027 – COR-2025-01580-00-00-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VIII/007 – Multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2028-2034 – COR-2025-03109-00-00-RES-TRA

6.3 Appendix 3: List of opinions referred to in this report

CIVEX

- CIVEX-VII/033 – The local and regional perspective in the implementation of the Rule of Law in the European Union – rapporteur: Stephen De Ron (LU/Green+Pro) – COR-2024-03434-00-00-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VIII/001 – Enlargement package 2024 – Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia – rapporteur: Aleksandra Dulkiewicz (PL/EPP) – COR-2025-00262-00-01-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VIII/002 – Enlargement package 2024 – Western Balkans and Türkiye – rapporteur: Jean-Luc Vanraes (BE/Renew E.) – COR-2025-00264-00-03-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VIII/007 – The localisation of the EU's Global Gateway – rapporteur: Jaume Duch Guillot (ES/PES) – COR-2025-02518-00-00-AC-TRA

COTER

- COTER-VII/025 – European Cross-Border Mechanism 2.0 – rapporteur: Magali Altounian (FR/renew E.) – COR-2022-06083-00-01-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/030 – The future of cohesion policy post-2027 – rapporteurs: Emil Boc (RO/EPP) and Vasco Alves Cordeiro (PT/PES) – COR-2023-02250-00-01-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/036 – Creation of a common European mobility data space – Rapporteur: Zdeněk HŘIB (CZ/Green+Pro) -COR-2024-01012-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/037 – Mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context – The Cross-Border Facilitation Tool – rapporteur: Magali Altounian (FR/Renew E.) – COR-2024-01008-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/038 – The future of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) post 2027 – rapporteur: Karsten Uno Petersen (DK/PES) – COR-2024-01007-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/041 – EU budget and place-based policies: proposals for new design and delivery mechanisms in the MFF post-2027 – rapporteur: Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis (FR/EA) – COR-2024-02161-00-02-AC-TRA
- COTER-VIII/002 – Cohesion policy as a key engine in achieving EU goals and reforms: how to further build on its performance-based approach while respecting decentralisation, partnership and multilevel governance – rapporteur: Isabelle Boudineau (FR/PES) – COR-2025-00237-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VIII/003 – The role of cities and regions in the EU Affordable Housing Plan – Rapporteur: Jaume Collboni Cuadrado (ES/PES) – COR-2025-00042-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VIII/006 – Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) post 2027, including own resources package – Rapporteur: Sari Rautio (FI/EPP) – COR-2025-02839-00-00-PAC-TRA

ECON

- ECON-VII/009 – Recovery plan for Europe in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: Recovery and Resilience Facility and Technical Support Instrument – rapporteur: Christophe Rouillon (FR/PES) – COR-2020-03381-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/018 – Implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility – rapporteur: Rob Jonkman (NL/ECR) – COR-2021-03682-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/026 – Review report on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility – rapporteur: Rob Jonkman (NL/EPP) – COR-2022-04212-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/037 – Mid-term review of the post-COVID European recovery plan (Recovery and Resilience Facility) – rapporteur: Christophe Rouillon (FR/PES) – COR-2024-01372-00-00-AC-TRA

- ECON-VII/038 – Challenges and opportunities of artificial intelligence in the public sector: defining the role of regional and local authorities – rapporteur: Alberto Cirio (IT/EPP) – COR-2024-01594-00-02-AC-TRA
- ECON-VIII/007 – Evaluation of the Public Procurement Directives – rapporteur: Roberto Gualtieri (IT/PES), COR-2025-02298-00-01-PAC-TRA

ENVE

- ENVE-VII/030 – EU Nature Restoration Law – rapporteur : Roby Biwer (LU/PES) – COR-2022-04206-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII-036 – Fostering the potential and synergies of the EU Green Deal initiatives for regions and cities – rapporteur: Andries Gryffroy (BE/EA) – COR-2023-00229-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/037 – A multilevel governance for the Green Deal. Towards the revision of the Governance Regulation – rapporteur: Joško Klisović (HR/PES) – COR-2023-00903-00-01-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VIII/002 – State of the Energy Union: Getting prepared for a smooth implementation of the energy transition in line with the Fit for 55 targets– rapporteur: Joško Klisović (HR/PES) – COR-2024-04588-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VIII-004 – Designing nature credits: a framework to promote biodiversity and ecosystem services – rapporteur: Rastislav Trnka (SK/EPP) – COR-2025-00140-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VIII/005 – Action Plan for Affordable Energy – how to secure affordable, stable and clean energy for all EU cities and regions– rapporteur: Hanna Zdanowska (PL/EPP) – COR-2025-01119-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VIII-006 – Climate adaptation in cities and regions: building the European Climate Adaptation Plan – rapporteur: Matteo Lepore (IT/PES) – COR-2025-01930-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VIII-007– Turning the tide – A local and regional roadmap for water resilience – rapporteurs: Kata Tüttő (HU/PES) and Juanma Moreno Bonilla (ES/EPP) – COR-2025-02276-00-00-PAC-TRA

NAT

- NAT-VIII/002 – Outlook opinion on the European Oceans Pact – rapporteur Mätta Ivarsson (SE/ Green+Pro) – COR-2025-00626-00-00-AC-TRA

SEDEC

- SEDEC-VII/025 – New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, Sustainable, Together – rapporteur: Kieran McCarthy (IE/EA) – COR-2021-05640-00-01-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/037 – Zero long-term unemployment: the local and regional perspective – rapporteur: Yonnec Polet (BE/PES) – COR-2022-05490-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/043 – Recommendations for the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10) – Rapporteur: Anne Besnier (FR/PES) – COR-2023-03671-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/046 – Skills and talent mobility – rapporteur: François Decoster (FR/Renew E.), COR-2023-05840-00-01-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VIII/001 – Building the European Research Area: A local and regional perspective – Rapporteur: Melanie Kühnemann-Grunow (DE/PES) – COR-2025-00365-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VIII/002 – Intergenerational Fairness: A Local and Regional Approach to Building Inclusive and Sustainable Societies – rapporteur: Tine Radinja (SI/Green+Pro) – COR-2025-00369-00-00-AC-TRA

- SEDEC-VIII/003 – An EU Anti-Poverty Strategy – rapporteur: Yonnec Polet (BE/PES) – COR-2025-01106-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VIII/004 – Union of Skills Strategy – rapporteur: Emil Boc (RO/EPP) – COR-2025-01105-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VIII/005 – Strengthening women's rights and gender equality for women in the EU: A local and regional perspective – rapporteur: Carina Ohlsson (SE/PES) – COR-2025-01108-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/037 – Zero long-term unemployment: the local and regional perspective – rapporteur: Yonnec Polet (BE/PES) – COR-2022-05490-00-00-AC-TRA

RESOLUTIONS

- RESOL-VIII/002 – Urgent resolution on strengthening the territorial dimension in the implementation of the industrial action plan for the European automotive sector – COR-2025-00987-00-00-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VIII/005 – Resolution in view of the next MFF – COR-2025-01331-00-00-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VIII/07 – Resolution on the proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034 – COR-2025-03109-00-00-RES-TRA

6.4 Appendix 4: References of the six Committee commissions' contributions to the Impact Report 2025

Commission	Presentation of the document (meeting date)	Reference number of the document
CIVEX	20/11/2025	COR-2025-03289-00-02-TCD-TRA
COTER	1-2/12/2025	COR-2025-03464-00-01-TCD-TRA
ECON	27/11/2015	COR-2025-03476-00-00-TCD-TRA
ENVE	05/12/2025	COR-2025-03322-00-01-TCD-TRA
NAT	19/11/2025	COR-2025-03314-00-01-TCD-TRA
SEDEC	28/11/2025	COR-2025-03418-00-00-TCD-TRA

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