



young  
elected  
politicians

## YEPs Monthly Newsletter

All you need to know about CoR's activities and events!

Issue 4 | December 2023

### In Focus

*High-level conference on participatory democracy is coming up!*

**A new chapter for participatory democracy: Paving the way for the future**

The European Committee of the Regions is organising a high-level conference on the future of participatory democracy. This event will focus on enhancing citizen engagement in the EU, particularly ahead of the 2024 European elections.

[Conference Agenda](#)



BertelsmannStiftung #euLocal

**Mark your calendars for Friday, 15 December 2023!**

Should you wish to participate, please register **by 13 December 2023, end of business.**

[Register](#)

### Keynote speaker: Bruce Schneier from Harvard Kennedy School

A highlight of the event will be our keynote speaker, Bruce Schneier, Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. An internationally renowned security technologist, called a "security guru" by The Economist.

He will delve into the significant impact of recent technological advancements, including AI, on the essence of democracy in the EU.



@Alain\_Herzog

Check out his most recent essay below, exploring novel ways in which AI might alter how democracy functions.

[Article: Ten Ways AI Will Change Democracy](#)

## Monthly Highlights



From top left to right, Maxime Miltgen (PES/LU), Joonas Kiviranta (ECR/FI), Antonina Majcharzak (EPP/PL), Kathrin Werth (Greens/IT) and Lavinia Bianchi (EA/IT).

### Last #CoRplenary of 2023!

Five YEPs attending the last Plenary of CoR for 2023 after networking with their political groups. Two of them made interventions in two crucial debate in the Hemicycle of the European Parliament.

**Maxime Miltgen (PES/LU)** talked about gender-mainstreaming in the context of social cohesion on the debate about the future of cohesion policy.

**Joonas Kiviranta (ECR/FI)** intervened on the debate about European Hydrogen Bank, stressing the need of a technological neutral approach.

### Busy week for our YEP from UA

Our Ukrainian YEP **Svitlana Yarova (PES)** intervened at the session on "Sustainable energy, mobility and water solutions" during this year's **Cities and Regions for International Partnerships: Localising Global Gateway Forum**, co-organised by the EC's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA) and the European Committee of the Regions.

Ms Yarova also attended the opening of the Vinnytsia City Council office with PES President, Christophe Rouillon and CIVEX chair Patrick Molinoz as well as the conference on "European Integration of Ukraine" at the European Parliament.



© European Union / Fred Guerdin

Check out her week in a Instagram post from PES group

### Speaking at CIVEX and ENVE Committee meeting in November

On 21 November 2023, Gergely Kristof Gulyas (ECT/HU) took the floor during the **20th CIVEX Commission Meeting** at the debate on youth political participation in view of the European elections.

Mr Gulyas pointed out that raising the interest on public life among young people before entering voting age is particularly important.

Watch the CIVEX meeting



On 22 November 2023, Guillaume Garrigues (EPP/FR) participated in the **ENVE commission debate on energy and climate action**. Mr Garrigues advocated for the end of the tax exemption for the air sector and for an overhaul of the functioning of the electricity market.

Watch the ENVE meeting



### YEPs Green Stories

What are local communities around Europe doing to support global climate goals? Our YEPs know best and therefore shared with us some **#EUGreenDeal** best practices ahead of the **COP28 in Dubai**, commenced on 30 November.

Check out the projects shared by Mircea Brait (EPP/RO), Ivan Gašpert (PES/HR) Nicole Marnini (ECR/IT), Jeroen Baeten (EA/), and Kathrin Werth (Greens/IT).

Find out more

## Looking Ahead

### European Summit of Regions and Cities Mons | Belgium 18-19 March 2024



On 18-19 March 2024, Mons, in the Walloon Region of Belgium, will welcome mayors, councillors, regional ministers and high-level European and global decision-makers.

[Visit the website](#)

#### Registrations are now open!

Don't miss the opportunity to be part of the largest European gathering of local and regional representatives and make your voice heard.

[Register now](#)

#### There is more!

**Do you want to be an active partner in the Summit and present your city, region, project or story?** The Summit will host, at its very core, the Festival of Regions and Cities, where local and regional authorities, institutions, NGOs and many more will be able to exhibit and exchange with participants.

Find out more and **apply to be part of the Festival by 15 January 2024!**

[Apply](#)

### together.eu for democracy

*Voting at the European elections is your opportunity to decide what the European Union should focus on over the next five years.*

[Together.eu](#) is an initiative of the European Parliament, aimed at enhancing participation in European democracy, particularly encouraging voting in the 2024 European elections. It's a community-driven effort focused on the belief that democracy thrives when individuals from diverse backgrounds actively engage in it, primarily through exercising their right to vote.

Learn more:



The **European elections** will take place in **6-9 June 2024** and are crucial in deciding our collective approach to tackling the most significant challenges of our generation has ever known.

Together, let's make a difference,  
**one vote at a time.**

**Sign up now to get voting reminders and ensure you don't forget to use your vote.**

[Sign up](#)

#USEYOURVOTE



### Your Voice Matters!

Missed giving feedback on **EURegionsWeek 2023**? There's still time! Your input is vital to enhance future events.

Take a quick moment to fill out our survey and have your say. Let's make EURegionsWeek even better together!

[Fill out the survey](#)

**Your opinion is important – share it with us today!**

### Social Media Corner!

Do you have best practices in your municipality, city or region?

Share with the YEP community on our [Facebook](#) or [WhatsApp](#) groups and learn from others!

[FACEBOOK](#)

[WHATSAPP](#)

**Get in touch** with our Social Media Team for our masterclasses, one-to-one consultations and others.

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