



European Committee
of the Regions

#YoungLocalLeaders

young
elected
politicians

Issue 9 | May 2024 | #UseYourVote Special Edition |

YEPs Monthly Newsletter

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

ONE MONTH TO GO European Elections 2024

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS
6-9 JUNE 2024

**ONE MONTH
TO GO**

RECEIVE VOTING REMINDERS

#USE
YOUR
VOTE
ELECTIONS.EUROPA.EU

**Only one month to go
until the European
elections!**

**#UseYourVote OR others will
decide for you!**

This is your opportunity to make
your voice heard, to have your say
on what's most important to you.

Learn more and sign up for voting
reminders:

<https://elections.europa.eu/en/>

Discover the European Parliament's powerful **campaign video**, which uses personal stories of war and dictatorship to inspire voters in the upcoming elections. Reflecting on Europe's turbulent history, this emotional video brings to life the memories of those who lived through Europe's darkest hours, from the Holocaust to the fall of the Berlin Wall, and emphasises the crucial importance of voting and that democracy should not be taken for granted.

Watch the video below and be reminded why every vote counts

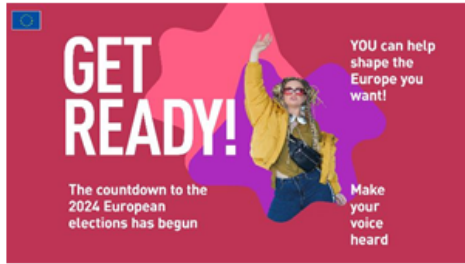


YEP Call to **GO TO VOTE**

Our Young Elected Politicians, together with the Bertelsmann Stiftung, have signed a [letter](#) - soon available in all 24 EU languages - encouraging all to vote in the upcoming elections. This collective effort highlights the importance of each vote in building a democratic and thriving Europe. Stand together for democracy —your vote is powerful, make it heard in the 2024 European Elections!

[READ MORE](#)





Get ready!, by the DG COMM of the European Commission

Stay informed for the upcoming European elections with the 'Get ready!' flyer, prepared by the European Commission. Available in all 24 EU languages, it's your essential guide to making your vote count.

[EXPLORE MORE](#)

Europe Day 2024

On 8 and 9 May, one month before the European Elections, and in conjunction with Europe Day, over 60 cities throughout Europe are **lighting up more than 130 buildings** with a message that encourages the 440 million European citizens to participate in the upcoming elections. **Iconic landmarks**, including Paris's Arc de Triomphe, Brussels' Grand Place, Rome's Colosseum, Barcelona's Sagrada Familia, Fort Saint Angelo in La Valletta, the Presidential Palace in Bratislava, and the Rio-Antirrio bridge in Greece were illuminated in European colours.



Europe Day held on 9 May every year, commemorates peace and unity across Europe. This date celebrates the anniversary of the "**Schuman declaration**", which proposed a new form of political cooperation in Europe aimed at making war among European nations impossible. The declaration is viewed as the foundation of what is now known as the European Union.



Open Day at the CoR

Last Saturday, on the 4th of May, we celebrated **Europe Day** at the Committee of the Regions by opening the doors of our premises in Brussels to everyone.

More than 1300 people came inside until 14:30, where they could visit 16 interactive stands and activities offering the chance to get to know more about the CoR's role and commitment to narrowing the distance between the EU and its local communities.

To mark the day – and the CoR 30th anniversary – there was the Festival of Regions and Cities with tastings, quiz games and a digital show, providing an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of our territories.

On 9 May, **CoR President Vasco Alves Cordeiro** said that Europe should come together to tackle its challenges by finding Europe-wide solutions and empowering local authorities, while ensuring that citizens are involved in shaping Europe's future through their vote and democratic participation.

[READ THE FULL STATEMENT](#)

The EU in 2023 Report

Are you interested in learning about the EU's responses to the challenges of 2023 and the achievements made throughout the year? Do you want to discover the key policy developments and their impact on citizens?

Explore the General Report of the EU in 2023, published at the end of March from the European Commission, available in all 24 EU languages.

[READ HERE](#)



The EU in



Enlargement Day

The CoR recently highlighted the significance of integrating regions and cities into the EU enlargement process during [the flagship event on EU enlargement policy](#) dialogue and the exchange of best practices, first held in 2015. Celebrating the anniversary of the 2004 accession, local and regional leaders gathered on 29-30 April and emphasised the need for substantial funding and administrative capacity for successful future enlargements. The event stressed the importance of local-level reforms and peer-to-peer partnerships, notably supporting Ukraine's reconstruction and EU accession.

[READ MORE](#)



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During the [Enlargement Day plenary session](#), Mr Marko BARAĆ, Member of the City Council of Kragujevac (Serbia/Greens), and member of the YEP network intervened in the panel discussion on the "Local and regional authorities in the enlargement process". Mr BARAĆ focused on the developments in the functioning of the administrative system in Serbia.

In the debate on "Public administration reform and fiscal decentralisation", our YEP Sara ARSLANAGIĆ, Deputy Chair of the Municipality Council of Centar Sarajevo (Bosnia Herzegovina/Renew), spoke about the main features of the fiscal system in her country, highlighting, among other things, the complexity and the high degree of decentralisation of responsibilities for revenues and expenditures, a weak central government and the asymmetry in the fiscal structure.



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[WATCH THE ENLARGEMENT DAY PLENARY](#)

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.

[CONTACT US](#)

