



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

# The CoR Impact

Current Achievements

## Executive Summary

June 2020

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# 1. Introduction

The impact of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) largely depends on the ability of the Committee and its members to give input to the legislative process, providing the right advice at the right time. To achieve the best results, the CoR strives to combine its long-term political priorities, set at the beginning of each five-year term of office, with regular dialogue and cooperation with the other EU Institutions.

In 2019, the CoR adopted 49 opinions, supporting the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission in their legislative work on policy challenges and cross-cutting topics, through political debates organised in each of the six CoR commissions.

One aspect of this report makes it fundamentally different from previous summaries. This document is being produced at a time when Europe and the world are facing the Covid-19 pandemic, a health and economic crisis such as the Union has never seen before.

During these difficult few months, the CoR has responded to the coronavirus by confirming its role as the primary interface

and reference point between the EU and its local and regional governments.

The CoR, its political leadership and members have advocated relentlessly – and successfully – for the next EU budget to help cities and regions in distress. In mid-2020, the EU Institutions are now united to deliver a transformative agenda for years to come, starting with the EU's roadmap for recovery.

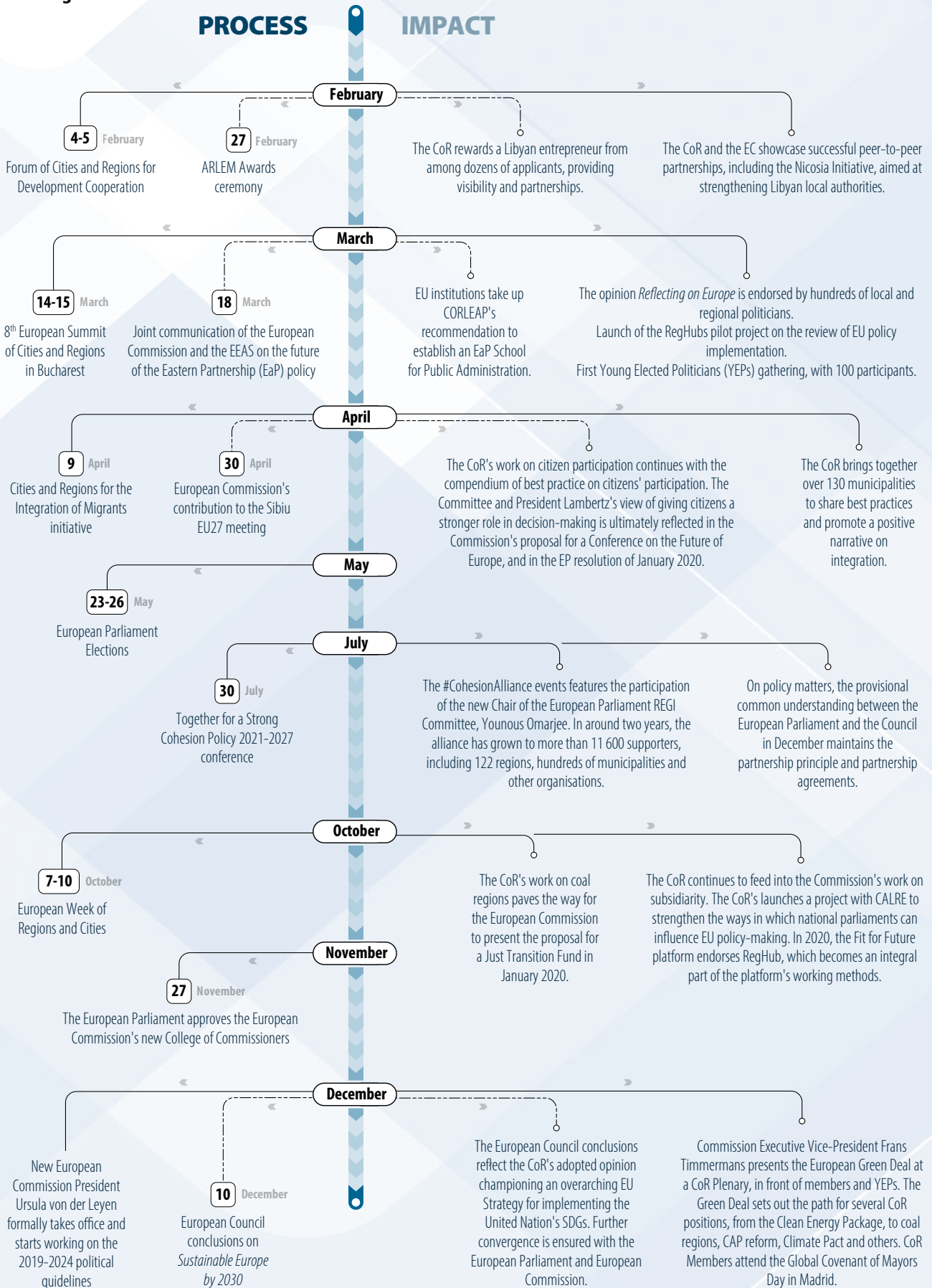
The political priorities of the CoR's 2020-2025 term of office similarly reflect this unprecedented situation, ultimately aspiring to build a Europe that is closer to its citizens. The President's upcoming landmark address at the October plenary, the **Barometer of EU Regions and Cities** will continue to offer the necessary guidance on how to face the aftermath of this emergency.

Today more than ever, the CoR continues supporting, uniting and representing the cities, regions and citizens of Europe. Together, we are already further along the road to recovery.



## PROCESS

## IMPACT



## 2. Overview of main achievements

### 2.1. A Europe of the future belongs to its citizens

#### 2.1.1. A year of transition, a year to reflect on “The Future of Europe”

**European elections were held in May 2019 and resulted in a new European Parliament and College of Commissioners. The CoR continued reflecting on the priorities of the Union, as seen by the one million local and regional elected politicians it represents. In the course of the year, the CoR convinced other EU institutions of the importance of ensuring a permanent system of citizens’ consultations.**

- Following the endorsement given in the European Council conclusions of December 2018<sup>1</sup>, CoR President Karl-Heinz Lambertz continued to champion the idea of a permanent mechanism for structured consultation and dialogue with citizens, to increase the democratic legitimacy of the EU and bring it closer to its citizens.
- The key message of the Committee’s 2018 opinion entitled [Reflecting on Europe: the voice of local and regional authorities to rebuild trust in the European Union](#) was further amplified by the endorsement of hundreds of politicians at the 8th Summit of Cities and Regions in Bucharest in March 2019 with the [Declaration Building the EU from the ground up with our regions and cities](#).
- Seminars in April and May brought together experts and practitioners from different levels of government to collect insights on citizen engagement, and highlighted results of successful initiatives, resulting in the compendium [From local to European: Putting citizens at the centre of the EU agenda](#).
- The European Commission’s [proposal](#) for a Conference on the Future of Europe, prepared for the informal EU27 meeting in Sibiu on 9 May, acknowledged the work, views and findings of the CoR, and included the idea of giving citizens a stronger role in the EU’s decision-making process. Proper communication and engagement with citizens was also deemed essential to strengthen the identity and democracy of Europe.
- In June, the CoR plenary adopted a [resolution](#) that, once again, called on the other EU institutions for “a joint effort for the creation of a structured and permanent system of citizens consultations” based on a long-term strategy.
- CoR President and co-rapporteur President Karl-Heinz Lambertz met EC Vice-President-designate for Democracy and Demography Dubravka Šuica on 6 November 2019, highlighting the importance of involving local and regional authorities (LRAs) in the forthcoming Conference.
- The European Parliament agreed on the importance of citizens’ dialogues as a means to involve Europeans more closely in EU policy-making. President Lambertz welcomed the support at, among other events, a December meeting of the European Parliament Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO), in one of his last public engagements as CoR President.
- The EP resolution of 15 January 2020 on the Conference of Europe, referred to the CoR idea of establishing a permanent dialogue with citizens, on the basis of the 2018 opinion.



#### 2.1.2. Promoting Active Subsidiarity

**Towards the end of 2017, the Juncker Commission recognised subsidiarity as one of the key aspects in the debate on the Future of Europe, and involved the CoR in the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and “Doing Less More Efficiently”. Over the next two years, the CoR continued its efforts to ensure that the Task Force’s recommendations take root in the EU’s framework, and promoted greater direct involvement of LRAs in European policy-making.**

- The October 2018 communication on subsidiarity by the European Commission<sup>2</sup> called for a common understanding of subsidiarity and proportionality promoting the Common Assessment Grid, as recommended by the CoR delegation in the Task Force. The pledge was supported by the Austrian Council Presidency in its Subsidiarity Conference organised in November 2018.
- The CoR’s Bucharest Summit of Regions and Cities promoted another CoR idea presented in the Task Force by launching the [CoR RegHubs pilot project](#) on the review of EU policy implementation.
- On 15 April 2019, the Commission confirmed the Task Force report in its 2019 communication<sup>1</sup> on better regulation. In its opinion [Better regulation: taking stock and sustaining our commitment](#), adopted in October 2019 and presented at the 9th Subsidiarity Conference in Rome on 22 November 2019, the CoR condensed its

<sup>1</sup> European Council conclusions, 13–14 December 2018 (CO EUR 22 CONCL 7)

<sup>2</sup> The principles of subsidiarity and proportionality: Strengthening their role in the EU’s policymaking

views on the Commission's better regulation agenda and the role of regions and local authorities in implementing Active Subsidiarity in EU policy-making.

- The opinion was presented on 22 November in Rome at the 9th Subsidiarity Conference, where the CoR and the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE) launched a pilot project strengthening the involvement of regional parliaments

in the EU legislative process, including feeding into the annual Commission's Work Programme.

- On 11 May, the European Commission launched its Fit for the Future Platform, inviting the CoR to actively participate in it and endorsing the CoR's RegHub initiative, which becomes an integral part of the working methods of the platform.

### 2.1.3. Young Elected Politicians scheme, the new generation

**Involving some "unusual" suspects of European policy-making by reaching out to hundreds of young elected representatives from all corners of Europe.**

- For several years, the CoR has promoted an ERASMUS scheme for local and regional politicians programmes in various pilot projects. In 2019, the CoR refocused its approach and launched the Young Elected Politicians (YEPs) scheme, a network of politicians aged 40 or below and holding office at the regional or local level in the EU.
- The first 100 YEPs were invited to the Bucharest Summit. During the record-breaking 2019 European Week of Regions (EWRC) – which attracted more than 9000 participants and 330 sessions – more than 100 YEPs were introduced to a wide range of regional policies, meeting newly elected MEPs (the EWRC took place during the hearings of the newly designated European Commissioners).
- Five young elected politicians were among the speakers at the Opening Session of the #EURegionsWeek in October, together with President Lambertz, Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska and EP Vice-President Klára Dobrev.
- 37 YEPs were involved in EuropCom, in November, and a new group of 30 YEPs worked together on the draft of the YEPs4Climate declaration



handed to the Commission's Executive Vice-President Timmermans at the CoR December Plenary.

- The [YEPcommunity.eu](https://yepcommunity.eu), a portal allowing YEPs to keep in touch, share best practices and experiences and reach out to the one million local and regional councillors across the Union.
- Within one year of its launch in March 2019, two YEPs "graduated" to join the CoR as alternate members.

## 2.2. Continuing to invest in regions and cities

### 2.2.1. For an ambitious cohesion policy legislative package

**The CoR significantly influenced the European Parliament on the Cohesion Policy legislative package 2021-2027, with several opinions on a wide range of aspects adopted in the last plenary of 2018: the [Common Provisions Regulation](#), the [European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund](#), the [European Social Fund Plus](#), the [European Territorial Cooperation](#); and, on the [European Cross Border Mechanism](#).**

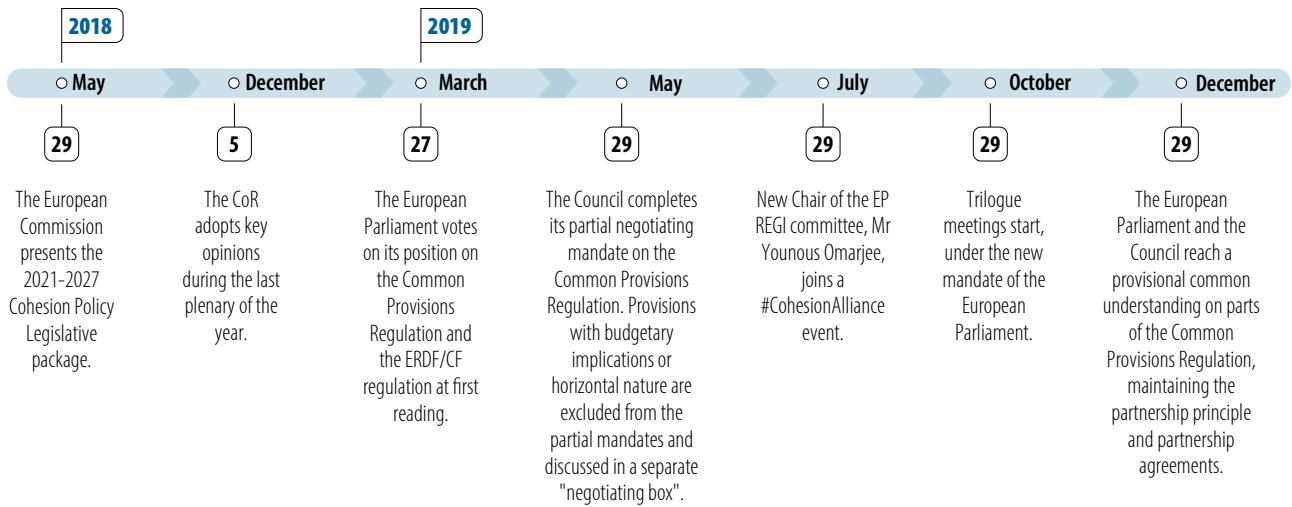


- Both institutions agreed on continuing to emphasise the principles of partnership and multilevel governance, calling for a financial allocation for the whole 2021-2027 period, higher co-financing rates, maintaining the n+3 rule and introducing a safety net that would also apply at regional level.
  - They further agreed on including a new article in the European Development Fund / Cohesion Fund (ERDF/CF) regulation referring to areas covered by Article 174 of the TFEU, focusing the ERDF thematic concentration on categories of regions classified according to their GDP per capita, a higher budget for European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), and the creation of Interregional Innovation Investments (III) with a specific budget allocation. They finally called for the swift adoption of the European Cross Border Mechanism.
- Implementing a longstanding request of the CoR<sup>3</sup>, a Council regulation<sup>4</sup> adopted in November 2018 enabled the Commission to exempt national funds for projects supported by EU European Territorial Cooperation programmes from EU state aid control. As a result, regions may use more of their money for cross-border cooperation in Europe.
  - Regarding the reform of EU cohesion policy, close contacts with the EP rapporteurs resulted in aligning the CoR and EP positions.

<sup>3</sup> European Territorial Cooperation

<sup>4</sup> EU clears national aid linked to EU-funded programmes from state aid checks press release, 26 November 2018

- Positive impact on the Council was achieved towards the end of the year, when the latter and the CoR provisionally agreed on the parts of the Common Provisions Regulation that are relevant for programming and maintaining the partnership principle and agreements.
- Launched in October 2017 with the main European territorial associations (AER, AEER, CALRE, CEMR, CPMR, and EUROCITIES), two years later, the [#CohesionAlliance](#) counted more than 11600 supporters, including 450 organisations and institutions, including 122 regions, 140 towns and counties, 46 associations of local authorities.



### 2.2.2. Preparing the 2021-2027 MFF negotiations

Paving the way for discussions that would become key the following year, the European Parliament and the CoR converged significantly on the first reading of other dossiers related to the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework.

- At a time when the Council was focusing on streamlining the “negotiating box” and finding a compromise between Member States on key cross-cutting elements, the CoR adopted a [Resolution on Developments in the interinstitutional negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027](#), in line with the EP’s own resolution<sup>5</sup>. It covered aspects such as the need for a Contingency plan, the size of the MFF and its opposition to cohesion and Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) cuts.
- The CoR contributed to shaping the position of the European Parliament’s AGRI and ENVI committees’ on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).
- The CoR worked assiduously with the AGRI regions network to reaffirm the need to safeguard the central role of European regions

in the drawing-up and implementation of agricultural and rural development policies, as well as the need to increase their role in the EU decision-making process, in particular on the second pillar of the CAP framework.

- The AGRI Committee took on board many of the CoR’s positions, on market regulation tools, for example, and recognised the role of regional authorities in CAP strategic plans.
- A report by the ENVI committee on the latter followed up the CoR’s suggestion to dedicate 30% of the first pillar to eco-schemes.
- After years of political work, the MFF proposal tabled by the European Commission on 27 May 2020, the Commission incorporated the following CoR requests: reinvigorating the EU’s cohesion policy, strengthening rural development, boosting the just transition and supporting vital regional sectors such as tourism, culture and SMEs. The budget also introduced a new healthcare programme advocated by the CoR, which would bring together all levels of government to improve services and facilities across the continent and respond adequately to the coronavirus pandemic.



<sup>5</sup> P9\_TA(2019)0032

### 2.2.3. Changing mindsets on developments in Europe's Coal Regions

*The CoR has been very sensitive in convincing policy-makers of the need for a regional support mechanism for the green transition of the EU's coal regions which, following the Paris Agreements, are facing enormous challenges to move away from coal.*

- The CoR organised a series of concerted actions throughout the year. The SET-Plan conference, in March, highlighted the role of local and regional authorities in energy transition, and was swiftly followed by the opinion on [Implementing the Paris Agreement through innovative and sustainable energy transition at regional and local level](#).
- The rapporteur represented the Committee in the annual [Platform for Coal- and Carbon-intensive Regions in Transition](#), an initiative by European Commission's DG ENER.
- In October, the CoR organised a Conference on Coal Regions, attended by Commissioner for Budget Günther Oettinger, Ministers and State secretaries from Member States with coal regions, MEPs and other stakeholders.
- The CoR opinion on [Socioeconomic structural change in Europe's coal regions](#), led the rapporteur to speak at the European Parliament's REGI Committee meeting on 5 December.
- Finally the CoR's position of establishing a Just Transition Fund, which supported a request made by the European Parliament, was included in the European Commission's European Green Deal plan<sup>6</sup> in January 2020, among several other proposals discussed hereunder.
- In 2020, the CoR continued to take the lead on the subject by publishing a study on [Assessing the need for a modification of the state aid rules for the phasing-out of coal](#).

## 2.3. Laying the foundations for the European Green Deal

### 2.3.1. Feeding into the Commission's European Green Deal plan

*Presented as the top priority in Commission President von der Leyen's political guidelines<sup>7</sup>, the European Green Deal<sup>8</sup> is among this Commission's flagship initiatives. Going beyond what has been traditionally called "climate action", the Green Deal represents a whole new strategic framework for growth, to transform Europe into the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. It is built upon several CoR ideas and contributions.*

- In addition to its work on the CAP and coal regions, the CoR has contributed to the Commission's forestry policies by outlining the variety of local and regional type of forest management ([Implementation of the EU Forest Strategy](#)) in extensive meetings with Parliament, Commission and stakeholders.
- On maritime policy and fisheries, the CoR has advocated recognition of the blue economy as an instrument for jobs and sustainable growth in coastal and maritime regions, something that is still not entirely the case across the EU.
- The Commission's Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans, at a CoR Plenary session debate in December 2019, stated that the Green Deal cannot be achieved by national governments alone and that "all levels of governance will have to play their role if we want to succeed".
- The CoR supported the Commission proposal with the resolution [The Green Deal in partnership with local and regional authorities](#), which underlined the need for a coherent, cooperative approach, underpinned by the principle of multi-level governance.
- The CoR decided in February 2020 to establish a Working Group on the Green Deal Going Local to ensure a coherent, transparent and transversal approach to the Committees' contributions to the Green Deal.



### 2.3.2. An ambitious energy transition

*The CoR's calls for increased ambition on the climate and a revision of the targets included in the Clean Energy Package were reflected in the European Commission's European Climate Law<sup>9</sup>, which formalised the climate neutrality target and opened the way to revising climate legislation over the next two years.*

- In June, the Commission welcomed the CoR's proposals to insist on the need for Member States to properly address energy poverty<sup>10</sup>.
- The opinion on [Implementing the Clean Energy Package: the NECPs as a tool for local and territorial governance approach to climate, active and passive energy](#), in October, and the Green

6 A European Green Deal webpage

7 A Union that strives for more - Political guidelines for the next European Commission 2019-2024

8 COM(2019) 640 final

9 European Climate Law webpage

10 COM/2019/285 final



Deal resolution of December, strengthened the CoR's proposal for a multi-level platform for dialogue on energy and climate. In feedback documents sent to the CoR, the Commission welcomed the suggestion of co-organising a "recurring forum to discuss climate and energy matters including the NECPs".

- The CoR's calls to promote energy efficiency in buildings were reflected in the European Commission's proposal for a Renovation Wave initiative contained in the Green Deal communication.
- The CoR opinion on the [Covenant of Mayors post-2020](#) outlined ways to ensure that all EU regional and city authorities can continue to benefit from the initiative. The opinion's rapporteur was invited to give the concluding remarks at the Global Covenant of Mayors

Day at the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 25 in Madrid, with the newly appointed EU Commissioner for Energy, Ms Kadri Simson.



### 2.3.3. Environmental policy and the circular economy

**Many elements of the directive on single-use plastics<sup>11</sup>, the Circular Economy Action Plan<sup>12</sup> and the already-mentioned European Green Deal are in line with the CoR's recommendations.**

- The late 2018 opinions on a [Proposal for a single-use plastics directive](#) and on a [European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy](#) contributed to the EU's work on the circular economy and waste policy in the crucial plastics sector.
- Elements of the opinion [Towards an 8<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme](#) from early 2019 were reflected in the Council conclusions on the EU's environment and climate change policies for the period 2021–2030, issued in December.
- In the same period, the Commission's communication on the Green Deal committed to a new Environment Action Programme (EAP) and included a new monitoring mechanism as proposed by the CoR.
- Lastly, also in late 2019, the opinion on the [Quality of water intended for human consumption](#) contributed to the revision of the Drinking Water Directive, as a part of the EU's Circular Economy Action.
- The Regulation on minimum requirements for water reuse adopted on 13 May 2020<sup>13</sup> included several proposals from the CoR, such as responsibility for water quality at the point of compliance, the possibility of industrial water reuse and the introduction of ISO standards for compliance and verification. The opinion [Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on minimum requirements for water reuse](#), which contributed to this result, had already been reflected by a European Parliament report<sup>14</sup> earlier in the year.

### 2.3.4. Implementing the SDGs – together, across Europe

**A key stakeholder on the subject, the CoR continued to advocate for the development of an overarching EU strategy specifically built on the United Nation's SDGs.**

- The CoR was one of the co-drafters of the recommendations of the EU multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs to the European Commission<sup>15</sup>.
- The European Commission Reflection Paper on SDGs<sup>16</sup> included an executive summary of the recommendations of the CoR co-drafters, as well as many elements of the recommendations themselves.
- A [joint CoR-OECD survey](#) was highly successful and featured prominently in the OECD's own major report A territorial approach to the SDGs.
- In March, the European Parliament's report on SDGs<sup>17</sup> featured several amendments suggested by the CoR.
- In June, the CoR adopted the opinion [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\): a basis for a long-term EU strategy for a sustainable Europe by 2030](#), continuing to propose the inclusion of SDGs in the programme of the European Semester.
- The European Council explicitly mentioned local and regional authorities, the role of the CoR in localising SDGs, and the CoR opinion on the topic, in its conclusions of 10 December 2019<sup>18</sup>.
- The new College of Commissioners took on board the key CoR request of incorporating SDGs into the European Semester, as these featured clearly in the Commission's Green Deal initiative.



11 PE-CONS 11/1/19 REV 1  
 12 Circular Economy Action Plan webpage  
 13 2018/0169(COD)  
 14 Adopted 12 February 2019  
 15 Multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs webpage  
 16 A Sustainable Europe by 2030 webpage  
 17 Reporting on SDG implementation: UN mechanisms and the EU approach  
 18 Sustainable Europe by 2030 webpage

## 2.4. Regions and cities beyond borders

### 2.4.1. Forum of Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation and the Nicosia Initiative

*The 6<sup>th</sup> Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation Forum in February was an important step in the ongoing cooperation with cities and regions in the Southern Neighbourhood and beyond.*

- The event shaped the content of the [European Commission's 2020 Call for Proposals of the Partnership for sustainable cities](#).
- It showcased the CoR's [Nicosia Initiative](#), which supports peer-to-peer cooperation with Libyan municipalities at a time of fragile statehood.
- Finally the Forum provided evidence for the CoR's opinion [Regions and cities contributing to the development of Africa](#).



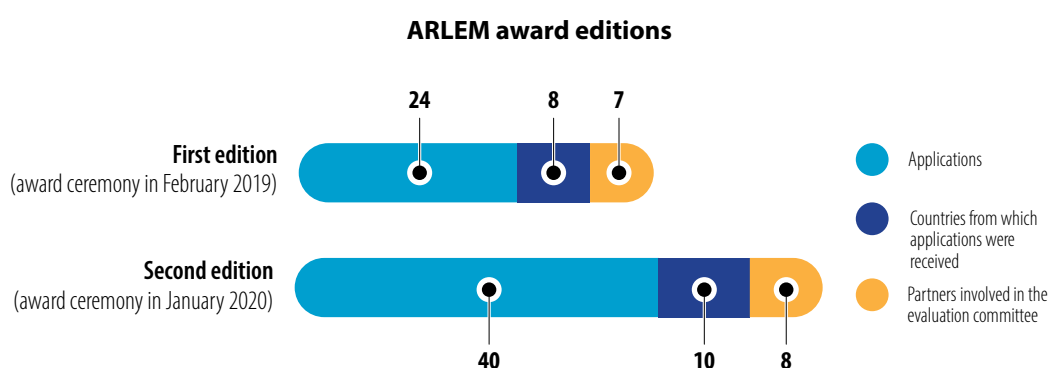
### 2.4.2. Shaping the future of the Eastern Partnership

*The Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP) contributed to the consultation on the future of the EU's EaP policy in the year of its tenth anniversary.*

- CORLEAP advocated for the creation of an EaP Academy for Public Administration, tailored to the needs of public administration at sub-national level. The proposal was taken up in the joint communication of the European Commission and the EEAS on *Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020*<sup>19</sup>.
- The communication resonated with the CoR's fundamental view that sub-national authorities play an essential role in promoting the Eastern Partnership beyond capital cities, and emphasised the role of local authorities and other actors as multipliers and opinion leaders.

### 2.4.3. ARLEM Award for sustainable development in the Mediterranean

*For the first time, ARLEM granted an award for young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean. Building on the [report on youth entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean](#), the award aims to inspire entrepreneurial potential in the region, show the positive impact of local and regional authorities on their entrepreneurial ecosystem, and highlight how young entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean are creating local jobs and economic development.*



- Through the award, the CoR strengthened numerous partnerships, including with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the European Training Foundation, the Joint Research Centre, the Intermediterranean Commission of CPMR, and Medcities.
- The award also increased the visibility of CoR partners, including the ARLEM rapporteur, the winning enterprise 'Zimni Jdeed', and the Mayor of Tripoli (Libya), with radio and print interviews, and at a UfM ministerial policy conference in April 2019, in Cascais.



<sup>19</sup> Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020: Reinforcing Resilience – an Eastern Partnership that delivers for all webpage

## 2.4.4. Over 130 municipalities join forces for a positive narrative on migration

***Together with leading European associations of cities and regions (AER, CEMR, CPMR and Eurocities), the CoR launched the initiative [Cities and Regions for the Integration of Migrants](#), pursuing its commitment to changing hearts and minds on the subject.***

- Supported by the Commission, the Integration initiative aims at helping local and regional leaders promote a strong, positive narrative on integration. Over 130 municipalities, districts and regions joined before the end of the year.
- Several other events focused on small localities were organised, in cooperation with partner territorial associations including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) and the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), to raise awareness about the role of smaller municipalities and mid-sized local and regional authorities in managing migration and migrants' integration in Europe.
- The CoR has been producing recommendations on a range of legal proposals presented by the European Commission as part of its [European Agenda on Migration](#) since 2015. Continuing to make migrants' voices heard in public was one of the reasons why the CoR became a formal member of the Urban Agenda Partnership for the Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees<sup>20</sup>, allowing representatives of the European Migrant Advisory Board to become co-organisers of several CoR debates about migration.
- The CoR remains an advocate for making EU funds related to migration and integration management more easily accessible to cities and regions, and is closely following the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) regulation for 2021-2027 on these matters.



## 2.5. Afterword: The CoR's new term of office

***Last December, the final plenary session of the 2015-2020 term of office celebrated the 25th anniversary of the institution. The CoR closed a year marked by close cooperation with the European Parliament's elections campaign, the Bucharest summit, and a record-breaking European Week of Regions and Cities.***

***During the first six months of 2020, the context in which CoR members operate changed dramatically. The CoR is acutely aware of this and, building on its renewed membership, a new leadership and a new economic and political climate, it continues to assist the regions and cities of Europe.***

- In February, the CoR inaugurated its [2020-2025 term of office](#) with the election of President Apostolos Tzitzikostas, Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia, and Vice-President Vasco Alves Cordeiro, President of the Regional Government of the Azores. With a new initiative, the "Members Village", held at the European Parliament, the CoR welcomed a reduced number of members (329) post-Brexit.
- In March, the CoR's Conference of Presidents' [Action Plan](#) provided a way forward to contribute to the EU response to Covid-19 and to continue assisting, informing, engaging and representing regions and cities across Europe in these difficult times.
- The [Covid-19 Exchange Platform](#) acted as online gateway for CoR actions on the pandemic, providing members and other local and regional representatives with a place to share updates, exchange best practice and attend online events. The interactive [#EuropeansAgainstCovid19 map](#) published hundreds of local response stories and stories of cross-border cooperation.
- For this year's [Europe Day on 9 May](#), a common declaration was adopted, calling for a European Health Emergency Mechanism, a strengthened EU budget, and an EU Recovery Fund focusing on sustainable local infrastructure. The CoR also hosted an online debate that day for regional and local politicians to exchange views with Commissioners and European Parliamentarians. This was broadcast on Europe by Satellite.
- The CoR continued its policy work on other fronts. In May, the European Commission [expanded](#) the role of the CoR in its new Fit for Future Platform, part of the REFIT programme, recognising RegHub as a valuable tool for its work.
- Finally, in late May, the CoR made a further significant impact, as the **EU's 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework and Recovery Plan** met the CoR's expectations; in the words of the President, the new MFF proposal provided "a clear answer to populists and Eurosceptics, proving the added value of the European Union during these difficult times."

<sup>20</sup> Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees webpage



## European Committee of the Regions

Created in 1994, after the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty, the European Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of 329 regional and local representatives from all 27 Member States, representing over 447 million Europeans.

Its main objectives are to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the EU's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies. The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council have to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union as a means of upholding EU law where there are breaches to the subsidiarity principle or failures to respect regional or local authorities.

Edited by the Directorate for Communication of the European Committee of the Regions

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