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of the Regions**

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**217th MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE
REGIONS**

- 14 MARCH 2023 -

ITEM 9 B

**IMPACT OF COR OPINIONS
2022 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT**

Submitted by the secretary-general

FOR DECISION

SUMMARY

Bureau meeting: 217

Date: 14/03/2023

Item 9 b

Impact of CoR opinions 2022 Annual Impact Report

Type:

- Document for information / debate
- Document for decision
- Recommendation to the Assembly

Short description:

The Annual Impact Report 2022 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.

The Bureau is invited to:

- take stock of the impact of CoR opinions.

Remarks: N/A

Table of Contents

1. Summary	4
2. Introduction	7
3. The CoR's Annual Strategic Planning Cycle	11
4. Impact report with respect to the Committee's three political priorities for the 2020-2025 mandate	13
4.1 Bringing Europe closer to its people.....	13
4.1.1 Conference on the Future of Europe (COFE)	13
4.1.2 Ukraine and enlargement	14
4.1.3 From the European Year of Youth to building a strong Europe by investing in future generations	18
4.1.4 Migration and integration, democratic rights and freedoms	19
4.2 Building resilient regional and local communities	21
4.2.1 Implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility	21
4.2.2 Green Deal Going Local	22
4.2.3 Environment policy	23
4.2.4 Climate and energy policy	25
4.2.5 Digital Market and Digital Services Act	27
4.2.6 Industrial policy and Craft Geographical Indications	28
4.2.7 Implementation of European missions and launching the Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRI).....	29
4.2.8 Health issues	31
4.3 Cohesion as a fundamental value.....	32
4.3.1 The 8th cohesion report and the Just Transition Fund	32
4.3.2 The EU response to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and of the war against Ukraine on our cities and regions.....	34
4.3.3 Implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.....	35
4.3.4 The contribution of regions and cities to the New European Bauhaus.....	37
4.3.5 Rural development	39
4.3.6 Sustainable transport.....	39
5. Conclusions – Outlook	43
6. Appendices	48
6.1 Appendix 1: List of opinions included in this report	48
6.2 Appendix 2: List of opinions adopted in 2022	51
6.3 Appendix 3: References of the 6 Committee commissions' contributions to the Impact Report 2022.....	55

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 Opinion 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, notably through alliance building and interinstitutional cooperation or in the day-to-day lives of citizens brought about through EU legislation or EU actions promoted or initiated by the CoR.

In 2022, the CoR adopted 8 resolutions and 55 opinions.

It is also important to assess how the CoR's views and opinions are presented to the other EU institutions and how CoR rapporteurs interact – before and after the adoption of their opinion – with the representatives of the legislative institutions, namely the European Parliament and the Council of the EU (and its rotating Presidency), and the European Commission . In addition, the CoR President and the First Vice-President the CoR commission chairs and the Presidents of political groups participate in these interinstitutional relations. Meetings and exchanges with EU institutions during the course of the year are essential outcome indicators for our work. In 2022, the overall interaction with the EU institutions remained steady or even increased.

Overall, the output and outcome indicators clearly show that the CoR has maintained its crucial role as the local and regional voice at EU level. Moreover, the full report shows the progress made with regards to each of the three political priorities of the CoR's 2020-25 mandate.

First, in relation to bringing Europe closer to its citizens, the following key impacts have been highlighted:

- Significantly extending **the participation of local and regional politicians in the Conference on the Future of Europe** from 4 to 30 representatives and pushing for the acceptance of reform concerning the CoR, giving it an enhanced role in the EU's institutional architecture and the importance of active subsidiarity as a guiding principle for EU policy- and decision-making;
- Increasing outreach to the one million elected local and regional politicians by developing the CoR Regional and Local EU Councillors initiative (2032 councillors by the end of 2022) and finding synergies with the European Commission's pilot project on Building Europe with Local Councillors;
- Publishing the **third edition of the EU Annual Report on the State of Regions and Cities (2022)** highlighting the main findings on the most relevant topics for local and regional authorities at the EU level. The report generated unprecedented media and political attention;
- Organising the Marseille Summit, which that brought together 1500 local and regional politicians to discuss key topics. The adoption of the Marseille Manifesto paved the way for the Conference on the Future of Europe (COFE) conclusions on increasing LRAs' role at EU level;
- Adopting the Marseille Summit Declaration of EU Regions and Cities on Solidarity with Ukraine just days after the Russian invasion and the declaration by European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the reconstruction of Ukraine to the G7 – EC International Expert Conference on the Recovery, Reconstruction and Modernisation of Ukraine in Berlin later on in October;

- Launching the European Alliance of Regions and Cities for the reconstruction of Ukraine and launching the summer camps initiative, which led to the organisation of 15 camps by cities, municipalities and regions across the EU on the CoR's initiative.
- Lastly, the CoR led the work on the EU Charter on Youth and Democracy, which **represents one of the key CoR actions on both the COFE recommendations** relating to the democratic participation of young people in social, political and civic life **and the European Year of Youth (EYY)**.

Second, in relation to building resilient local and regional communities, the key impacts included the following:

- A CoR proposal of having stress tests on serious cross-border health threats was included in the European Parliament report.
- Around 30 points from the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act opinion were taken up in the reports by the European Parliament.
- Important CoR recommendations were taken on board in the European Commission proposal for a Regulation on Industrial Policy and Craft Geographical Indications.
- The Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRI) was included in the European Commission's Communication on a New Innovation Agenda for Europe.
- More than 20 references have been made to the local and regional level in the European Commission's Communication on the New European Bauhaus (NEB), which acknowledges that the local and regional authorities, being key actors in increasing public participation, must be the drivers of NEB projects; they should be directly involved in designing and implementing these projects.
- The Trees for Life initiative resulted in 300 000 trees being pledged by local and regional authorities across the EU.
- The launch of the Green Deal Handbook on Adaptation, a practical tool developed in-house, has triggered the interest of other EU institutions.
- The CoR delegation influenced the European Parliament's Resolution and the Council conclusions on COP27.
- The participation of the CoR at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) resulted in the CoR being explicitly mentioned in the COP15 decision as a key partner to support the implementation of its Plan of Action. It is the first time that the role of the CoR is recognized in such a text.

Third, in relation to promoting cohesion as a fundamental value of the EU, key impacts included the following:

- Within its conclusions on the 8th Cohesion Report, the Council called on the European Commission to consider including territorial impact assessments (regional proofing) in relevant EU policies.
- The European Commission followed the CoR's suggestions to extend the 100% EU co-financing rate for 2014-2020 cohesion policy funding under the CARE programme to the 2021-2022 accounting year.
- The new Cohesion Alliance was launched in October 2022 to provide a new momentum to strengthen Cohesion policy as part of the debate on the future of the policy
- The CoR's Automotive Regions Alliance is legally mentioned in the legislative text concerning the revised Regulation on CO₂ emission standards for cars and vans, Whereby the European Commission must consult the CoR when identifying financial needs to guarantee a just transition.
- The 20th edition of the EU Week of Regions and Cities involved 20 000 participants overall, confirming itself as the largest event dedicated to cohesion-related topics across the EU. It provided an impactful platform to renew the commitment of the over 12 000 partners of the Cohesion Alliance.
- Rural proofing is part of the European Commission's internal guidelines for the impact assessment of new legislative proposals.

- The CoR is now part of the European Commission working group shaping the governance of the Rural Pact.
- The European Parliament's report on the implementation of the Resilience and Recovery Fund takes on board the CoR's call to involve local and regional authorities better in the preparation of the national recovery and resilience plans.

The CoR's visibility increased in 2022 thanks to three communication campaigns reflecting the [2020-2025 political priorities](#), showing that the CoR's political work goes hand in hand with communication. The three campaigns focus on taking local and regional needs and concerns into account in order to increase legitimacy, ownership and added value, both for the EU's policies and their effectiveness on the ground, in order to serve the well-being of citizens. Initial results indicate an increase across all key performance indicators, such as media mentions and web and social media outreach, which rose again in 2022 compared to 2021. As part of its Annual Strategic Planning Cycle (ASPC), the CoR also continues to boost its strategic planning and cross-commission collaboration. The CoR Conference of Presidents (CoP) adopted strategic guidance in view of bringing the different activities of the CoR together under its ASPC, in order to ensure consistency and maximise impact. A substantial number of the proposals by the CoR impact oversight coordinator, in the person of the chair of the NAT commission until mid-mandate, and by the president of the Renew Europe group for the period 2022-2025, continued to be successfully implemented in 2022.

Finally, at the administrative level, the **Going for Impact!** strategy launched by the secretary-general in 2020, continues to strengthen the impact of the CoR's political work, enhance its outreach and set a standard of administrative good practice and support for CoR members. Its implementation is on track and has already produced a tangible impact in the modernisation of the CoR administration. Almost all work processes have been digitalised; among the most successful examples are the improvement of the electronic management of documents and their approval workflows, including full use of electronic signatures and the management of financial actors.

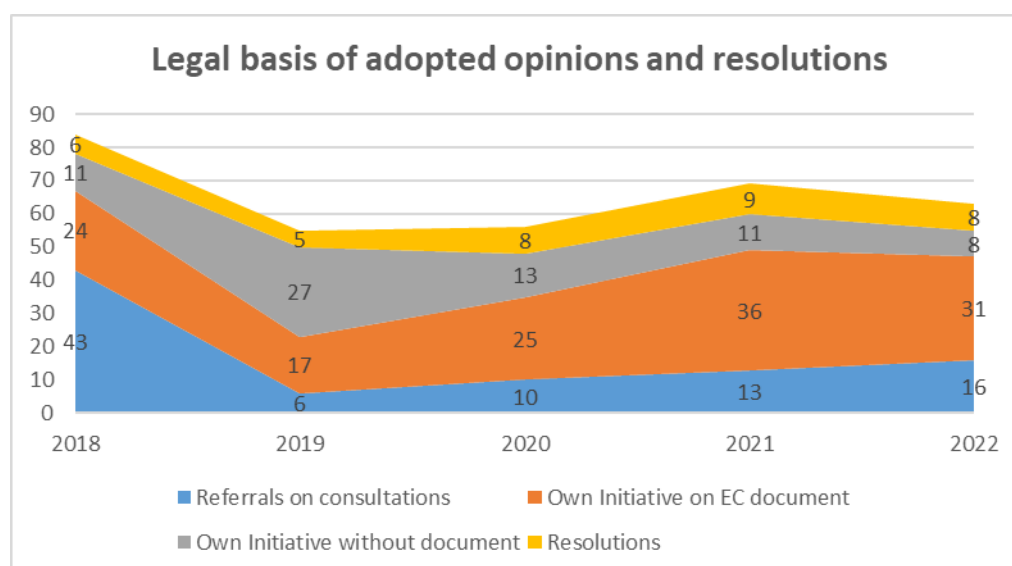
2. Introduction

As a consultative body to the European institutions, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) represents the European Union's local and regional authorities (LRAs) in the EU decision-making process. Its impact is to be assessed in terms of achievements in the EU legislative process (impact on preparatory or final legal texts), visibility for local and regional authorities in the setting of the EU's agenda or tangible changes in the EU's working methods or in the day-to-day lives of citizens brought about through EU legislation or EU actions promoted or initiated by the CoR.

In 2022, the CoR adopted a total of 8 resolutions and 55 opinions. This is in line with the average consultative output of the past 3 years.

Besides this quantitative assessment, the indicators below also give an overview of the key output and the key outcomes of the CoR's consultative work.

Opinions - Legal bases					
	Referrals	Own-initiative based on EC document	Entirely own-initiative	Resolutions	Total
2018	43	24	11	6	84
2019	6	17	26	5	54
2020	10	25	13	8	56
2021	13	36	10	9	68
2022	16	31	8	8	63



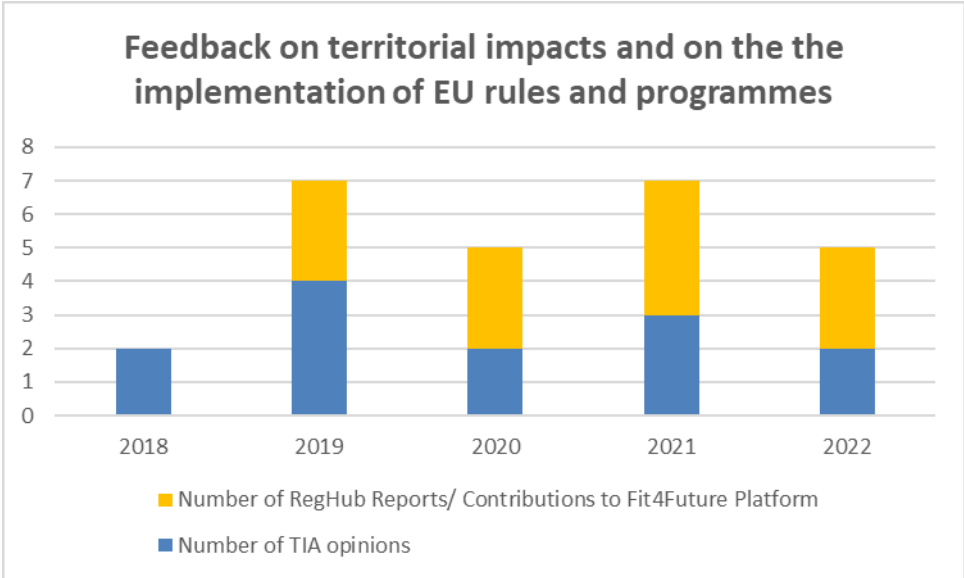
This table shows that the number of referrals based on European Commission documents (16) has slightly increased compared to last two years, despite

remaining below the number in 2018, when the European Commission presented its legislative package for the multi-annual financial framework, with more than 30 legislative acts. Instead, the CoR focused very much on **31 own-initiative opinions** (mainly based on European Commission documents) in order to contribute to the implementation and further development of EU policies and programmes. The CoR also continued to reduce the number of entirely own-initiative reports, which reflects the desire of the consultative work directorates to focus on contributing to ongoing EU policy debates. The relatively high number of own-initiative opinions based on European Commission documents shows that the COR-2023-00005-08-00-NB-REF (EN) 7/55

CoR's mandatory consultation rights should be extended by the next Treaty revision, in order to better reflect the reality of existing legal and executive responsibilities at local and regional level in Europe.

Another important indicator for the CoR is linked to its ability to provide feedback on the territorial impacts of EU regulation as well as feedback from the local level about the implementation of EU rules and programmes. That is why the number of **Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA) and Regional Hubs (RegHub) reports** is a useful performance indicator for the CoR. The same goes for the **overall timeliness of our CoR opinions**. This last indicator shows that all CoR opinions were adopted before key decisions on legislative files were taken by the EU institutions.

Output Indicators of the consultative works			
	Number of TIA opinions	Number of RegHub reports/ Contributions to Fit4Future Platform	Timeliness of CoR opinion (adopted before political agreements achieved)
2018	2	n/a¹	100%
2019	4	3	100%
2020	2	3	100%
2021	3	4	100%
2022	2	3	100%

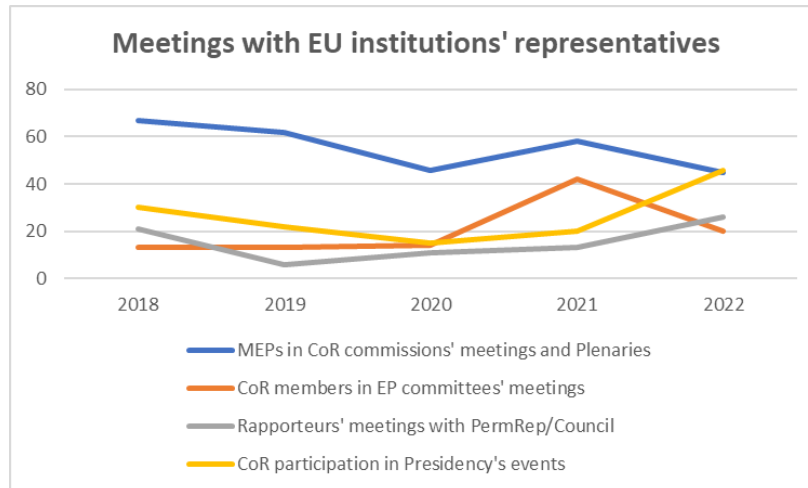


It is also important how the CoR views and opinions are presented to other EU institutions and how CoR rapporteurs interact – before and after the adoption of their opinion – with the representatives of the legislative institutions, namely the European Parliament and the Council of the EU (and its rotating Presidency), and the European Commission. In addition, the CoR President and First-Vice-President, the CoR commission chairs and the Presidents of political groups, participate in these interinstitutional relations. That is why meetings and exchanges with EU institutions during the course of the year are essential outcome indicators for our work. The table below shows that, while in 2019-2020 personal contact with the EU institutions dropped as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, in 2022 the overall interaction with the EU institutions increased again, reaching pre-COVID-19 levels.

Meetings with EU institution representatives

¹ The RegHub consultations started in 2019.

	MEPs in CoR commission meetings and plenaries	CoR members in EP committee meetings	Rapporteur meetings with Perm Rep/Council	CoR participation in Presidency events	Total
2018	67	13	21	30	131
2019	62	13	6	22	103
2020	46	14	11	15	86
2021	58	42 ²	13	20	133
2022	45	20	26	46 ³	137



All in all, the output and outcome indicators clearly show that the CoR has maintained its crucial role as the voice of the local and regional level at EU level.

This report is structured around the CoR political priorities for the 2020-2025 mandate. In doing so, it indicates progress made with regard to:

- bringing Europe closer to citizens
- building resilient local and regional communities
- promoting cohesion as an overall value of the EU.

As part of its Annual Strategic Planning Cycle (ASPC, see point 3) the CoR also continues to reinforce its strategic planning and cross-commission collaboration. The CoR Conference of Presidents (CoP) adopted strategic guidance with a view to bringing the different activities of the CoR together under its ASPC, in order to ensure consistency and maximise impact. A substantial number of the proposals by the CoR impact oversight coordinator, in the person of the chair of the NAT commission until mid-mandate, and by the president of the Renew Europe group for the period 2022-2025, continued to be successfully implemented in 2022. This includes the intensified collaboration between the CoR commissions in cross-cutting areas and on better regulation via the launch of the Better Regulation and Active Subsidiarity Steering Group (BRASS-G) for an improved evidence base for the implementation of active subsidiarity, greater information about CoR members' expertise piloted with Members+ in the area of the Green Deal, and greater outreach to representatives of local and regional authorities, such as through the Local Councillors' Network. In addition, as part of the ASPC a joint session of the CoP and the CoR commission chairs at the end of November 2022 confirmed the progress on improving the implementation of the CoR's priorities and adopted strategic guidelines for 2023.

At the administrative level, the **Going for Impact!** strategy, launched by the secretary-general in 2020, led to a number of projects that are intended to increase the impact of the CoR's political work, enhance its outreach and set a standard of administrative good practice and support for members.

² This high number is due to the participation of a large CoR rapporteurs' delegation in AGRI Committee meeting.

³ This high increase is due to 22 CoR members having participated in a seminar in Lednice, Czechia, which was part of the activities of the Czech presidency of the Council of the EU.

In the **Going for Impact!** exercise, the secretary-general wished to involve the whole CoR, both the political and the administrative levels, in order to deploy all efforts towards the administrative reform agenda. The implementation of the plan is on track and has already produced a tangible impact in the modernisation of the CoR administration. Almost all work processes have been digitalised; among the most successful examples are the improvement of the electronic management of documents and their approval workflows, including full use of electronic signatures and the management of financial actors. Simplification of administrative processes has been achieved through multiple projects, such as the Convergence project, which aims for a simplified, yet more purposeful, administrative framework that has reduced overlaps and enhanced synergies between the different instruments related to planning and reporting, risk management, impact reports, business continuity and some internal control processes. The HR framework was improved and a new hybrid working regime was prepared, which is being tested in a pilot project launched in April 2022. Furthermore, the joint CoR-EESC Digital Workplace pilot project was established, aimed at defining and sharing best practices with digital collaboration tools. Finally, a new task force was established to make proposals on the cost-efficient implementation of the new ways of working.

3. The CoR's Annual Strategic Planning Cycle

Based on the new approach to strategic planning agreed by the Conference of Presidents in December 2020, the CoR continued implementing the reinforced ASPC in 2022. 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 **2020-2025 mandate**. 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.

Based on the cooperation agreement with the European Commission, each year the CoR adopts two **resolutions on the European Commission's work programme**. In June 2022, the CoR adopted a resolution setting out its expectations and proposals from the European Commission's work programme for 2023, ahead of the Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's State of the Union speech in September, in which she set out the key political priorities for the coming year. In December, a second resolution was adopted, reacting to the work programme as published in October and setting the CoR's own political priorities for the next twelve months. These resolutions are based on input from the **CoR's six thematic commissions** and on contributions from the consultation with regional parliaments and assemblies with legislative powers, in cooperation with the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE). Under the political guidance of the **Conference of Presidents**, the CoR's annual strategic planning is also implemented through the strategic guidelines adopted each year in November, which provide the thematic orientation for the CoR's political work. The guidelines, which

are debated with the CoR commission chairs, and the resolutions inform the adoption of the work programmes of the CoR's thematic commissions each year. Since 2020, the ASPC also builds on the CoR's **EU Annual Report on the State of Regions and Cities**.

In addition to the **medium-term** dimension of the Annual Strategic Planning Cycle, which focuses on the CoR's five-year priorities, in the **longer-term** it also seeks to enhance 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 cooperation in the European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS) network.

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 effective information flow, including on interinstitutional developments. It contributes to improved coordination of the work of the CoP, the Bureau, the CoR commissions and the plenary assembly.

4. Impact report with respect to the Committee's three political priorities for the 2020-2025 mandate

4.1 Bringing Europe closer to its people

4.1.1 Conference on the Future of Europe (COFE)

Main impact:

- The COFE final report acknowledges that "**active subsidiarity and multilevel governance are key principles and fundamental features for EU functioning and democratic accountability**". It also highlights the need to "**reform the CoR (...) giving it an enhanced role in the institutional architecture, if matters with a territorial impact are concerned**".
- Several COFE proposals and measures call for the **strengthening of participatory democracy**, for LRAs and the CoR to be included in participatory processes, and for representative democracy and the link between citizens and their representatives to be strengthened.
- Several COFE proposals across all nine topics refer to the **territorial dimension of policy areas**, and call for the proper application of the principle of subsidiarity.

➤ Outcomes

Taking into account the CoR's key objectives with regard to the COFE, such as the recognition of European representative democracy at local and regional level, strengthening participatory democracy, the promotion of multilevel governance in the EU, leading to increased EU delivery capacity through active subsidiarity, and, finally, concrete proposals to address the territorial dimension of European policies in the achievement of the EU's overall cohesion objective, the following outcomes should be stressed:

- A good number of COFE proposals and measures call for participatory democracy to be strengthened and for LRAs and the CoR to be included in participatory processes. Other proposals acknowledge that the EU is founded on representative democracy and suggest measures that could strengthen the links and rebuild trust between citizens and their representatives, and that would involve the local and regional level, such as a network of local EU councillors or youth councils.
- The COFE final report recognises that "active subsidiarity and multilevel governance are key principles and fundamental features for EU functioning and democratic accountability", calls for a review of the mechanisms for involving national parliaments in EU affairs and including regional parliaments with legislative powers, in line with of the [CoR opinion on Better regulation](#),⁴ and asks for the "systematic use of a subsidiarity definition commonly agreed by all EU institutions", again in line with the CoR's long-standing advocacy for the common use of the subsidiarity assessment grid⁵. In addition to the area of democracy, the principle of subsidiarity is also mentioned in other policy areas such as health and social policies.
- Another proposal concerned the reform of the CoR "to encompass adequate channels of dialogue for regions as well as cities and municipalities, giving it an enhanced role in the institutional architecture, if matters with a territorial impact are concerned". The importance of such a proposal was highlighted in the CoR resolution on COFE adopted in June 2022⁶.

⁴ CIVEX-VII/007 – Better Regulation – rapporteur: Piero Mauro Zanin (IT/EPP) – COR-2021-04071-00-00-AC-TRA.

⁵ [CoR - Subsidiarity assessment grid - Model grid to assess subsidiarity and proportionality throughout the policy cycle \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁶ RESOL-VII/019 – Resolution on the Conference of the Future of Europe – COR-2021-06503-00-01-RES-TRA

- All CoR commissions supported the CoR delegation with background notes and preparatory materials ahead of the COFE working groups and plenary meetings, and contributed to the positioning of the CoR in COFE and to the follow-up on its proposals through the organisation of COFE-related thematic debates in CoR commission meetings and CoR plenary sessions, related sessions at the Marseille summit in March 2022, and through a study on *The territorial dimension of the Conference on the Future of Europe and its follow-ups* (June 2022)⁷. The CoR also contributed to COFE outreach, with initiatives such as the networks of EU councillors and young elected politicians (YEPs) as well as the partnership with the Bertelsmann Foundation.
- At the feedback event organised in December 2022 by the European Commission, European Parliament and the Council of the EU, the delegation of the Committee of the Regions and of local and regional authorities to the Conference on the Future of Europe was represented. The President intervened, highlighting the key elements of the CoR impact report and the declaration adopted by the delegation.

➤ **Building future impact**

The CoR COFE follow-up strategy will be developed around three pillars:

- securing the outcome of the COFE by implementing its recommendations both within the current Treaties and by identifying the Treaty changes necessary in order to implement them, by investing to this end in a political and institutional approach in support of a Convention⁸;
- developing interinstitutional cooperation, including via a revision of the bilateral cooperation agreements with the European Commission and European Parliament, as well as possible new ones, such as the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making. In this regard, the creation of the CoR's Better Regulation and Active Subsidiarity Steering Group (BRASS-G) in 2022 aims to strengthen the CoR's capacity to provide evidence from the ground to reinforce evidence-based and future-proof policy-making, and promote the concept of "active subsidiarity". BRASS-G will create synergies between the existing CoR activities on subsidiarity monitoring, implementation review via the RegHub network and the Fit-4-Future platform, territorial impact assessments, and strategic foresight, and will thus bolster the CoR's position in the interinstitutional dialogue on implementing the COFE recommendations;
- reinforcing the alliance and partnerships as well as outreach activities by connecting cities and regions on innovative mechanisms for citizen participation on EU matters.

4.1.2 Ukraine and enlargement

Main impact:

The European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine, launched by the CoR, intends to play a consultative role in the European Commission's **Ukraine Reconstruction Platform ("Donors Coordination Platform")**.

- Cities, municipalities and regions all over the EU, in coordination with associations, and **in collaboration with the CoR, organised 15 summer camps welcoming 1000 Ukrainian children.**
- The main messages of the **CoR opinion on *The role of EU cities and regions in rebuilding Ukraine* were taken up in the Declaration of the Alliance for the Reconstruction on Ukraine**, presented by the President at the International Expert Conference on the Recovery of Ukraine in Berlin.
- **Local and regional aspects now regularly feature in EEAS and European Commission programming documents** (NEAR and other DGs).

⁷ The study, drafted by Case/Milieu Consulting, has been published on the [CoR website](#).

⁸ This was also confirmed by the conclusions of the CoR's 10th subsidiarity conference in Valencia, Spain, on 11 November 2022 (available [here](#))

➤ **Outcomes**

Ukraine:

- Thematic debates and political messages voiced at CoR statutory meetings and other events were well received by the attending commissioners, MEPs and other high-level speakers and guests.
- The CoR plenary sessions and the meetings of the Working Group on Ukraine became the main port of calls for Local and Regional Authorities of Ukraine.
- Efforts to build networks and to offer the CoR as a platform for exchange and mutual support were deemed particularly fruitful. Within the structure of European Commission's Ukraine Reconstruction Platform ("Donors Coordination Platform"), a consultative role is foreseen for the Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine. In addition, due to active dialogue with the organisers of the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Lugano on 5-6 July, the [outcome document](#) includes an explicit reference to the importance of the local level. Working contacts were set for future cooperation on the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine.
- 15 summer camps were organised in 12 European cities and regions, welcoming 1000 Ukrainian children.
- The main messages of the CoR opinion on *The role of EU cities and regions in rebuilding Ukraine*⁹ were taken up in the Declaration of the Alliance for the Reconstruction on Ukraine, presented by the President at the International Expert Conference on the Recovery of Ukraine in Berlin on 25 October.
- The CoR joined forces with the European Commission to support LRAs sending material support to Ukraine thanks to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism

Enlargement:

- Years of CoR efforts in the area of enlargement (joint consultative committees, working groups, Enlargement Day, opinions on the annual European Commission enlargement package, etc.) have started "paying dividends": the EEAS and DG NEAR are now much more eager to exchange information and views with the CoR, and the local and regional aspect now regularly features in their programming documents.
- The European Commissioner in charge of enlargement addressed the Heads of the EU missions in the enlargement countries proposing to use the CoR as a privileged hub for peer-to-peer cooperation.
- The CoR has completed interinstitutional discussions and now stands ready to take part in a joint consultative committee with Albania.

This was achieved through **the following actions:**

Ukraine:

- Strong political messages of condemnation of the Russia's military invasion of Ukraine, solidarity with the Ukrainian people, and support for their sovereignty and freedom were sent during CoR meetings (CoP, Bureau, plenary and the CoR Working Group on Ukraine) since the very beginning of the military invasion. At the summit in Marseille on 3 March, all CoR members adopted the [CoR Declaration on Solidarity with Ukraine](#). At the same meeting, it was decided to grant to the Mayor of Kyiv the honorary membership of the European Committee of the Regions to highlight the role of mayors in Ukraine, in the aftermaths of the decentralisation reform, and in view of a future EU

⁹ CIVEX-VII/018 – The role of EU cities and regions in rebuilding Ukraine – rapporteur: Dario Nardella (IT/PES) – COR-2022-04172-00-00-AC-TRA

membership of Ukraine. Subsequent plenaries, in April and June, and the CoR's overall work were also refocused on Ukraine.

- The CoR Working Group on Ukraine met on 30 March in an extended format, including the presidents of the political groups, in order to discuss the humanitarian aid provided to Ukrainian cities and regions, and the support provided to Ukrainian refugees, and adopted a [declaration](#) on these topics. High-level speakers included: the Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, the EP's standing rapporteur on Ukraine, Michael Gahler (EPP/DE), and the president of the Council of Europe Congress, Leendert Verbeek.
- An urgent [Resolution on EU regions and cities' support for Ukraine](#)¹⁰ was adopted in plenary on 28 April. Further political messages were formulated and promoted by the CoR president, the CoR first vice-president, the chair of the working group and other key members at various international fora and meetings.
- On 6 April, the CoR's Conference of the Presidents went on a study visit to Rzeszów, Poland, together with the Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa Ferreira, in order to gather first-hand information about the local impact of the war in Ukraine, and to explore how to simplify the access to funding possibilities open for EU regions to alleviate the current refugee crisis.
- Platforms and tools launched by the CoR for coordination and information:
 - [CoR Stands in Solidarity with Ukraine](#) website, amplifying the president's statement and the Marseille Declaration,
 - [Info-Support Hub](#) web tool to gather and match requests for assistance and offers of support for Ukrainian refugees, linked to the EU Solidarity with Ukraine platform, launched by DG HOME.
- On 30 June, in cooperation with EU and Ukrainian associations of LRAs, the CoR launched the [European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine](#), which has conducted a massive outreach and awareness-raising programme, including nearly 40 bilateral or multilateral meetings and several working-level events aimed at promoting the alliance and obtaining the political support of all key EU and Ukrainian associations of LRAs. An action plan was drafted for 2022-23.
- A declaration was agreed upon among all partners of the Alliance, which was presented by the President at the International Expert Conference on the Recovery of Ukraine in Berlin on 25 October.

Summer camps for Ukrainian children: cities, municipalities and regions all over the EU, in coordination with associations, and in collaboration with the CoR, created a space where young Ukrainians can feel safe and find normality through a balanced daily routine and activities. The CoR president's office helped to spread information and success stories among CoR members in order to encourage them to engage with the initiative further.

Enlargement:

- The 2022 Enlargement Day involved participants from Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Georgia for the first time.
- Each one of the joint consultative committees and working groups had a youth-related thematic debate involving young elected politicians, some of whom were members of the CoR's Young Elected Politicians programme.
- Contacts were established with other EU institutions and an internal CoR survey was carried out on the possibilities of engaging CoR members in peer-to-peer cooperation with their counterparts in candidate and other partner countries.

¹⁰ RESOL-VII/020 – Resolution on the EU regions and cities' support for Ukraine – COR-2022-01808-00-01-RES-TRA
COR-2023-00005-08-00-NB-REF (EN) 16/55

- External meetings of all joint consultative committees and working groups (except the Joint Consultative Committee on Montenegro, due to local elections) were held in the second half of 2022.
- The CORLEAP annual meeting in Liberec, Czechia, on 3 November, addressed the future of the EaP and CORLEAP .
- The CoR rapporteur on the future of the Eastern Partnership (EaP), Alin-Adrian Nica (RO/EPP) took part in the Ministerial meeting of the Eastern Partnership on 12 December, to represent the President.
- The President hosted a working meeting with all Chairs of enlargement working group and co-chairs of JCC, in order to discuss how to further improve the impact of the CoR work on enlargement.

➤ **Building future impact**

Ukraine:

- The CoR will continue sending political messages in support of Ukraine's European integration and territorial integrity, with a focus on reforms, decentralisation and a bottom-up approach to reconstruction. The avenues for these messages include CoR statutory meetings, the embassies of individual members, and the Alliance for the Reconstruction of Ukraine.
- The CoR will continue to coordinate and negotiate with its members, associations and Ukrainian partners in order to extend the summer camps initiative throughout 2023.
- The CoR will implement its substantial support package focusing on capacity-building of Ukrainian LRAs and on humanitarian and reconstruction efforts.

Enlargement:

- Recent start of the EU accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia, granting of candidate country status to Ukraine and Republic of Moldova, and of European prospects to Georgia, as well as the European Commission's recommendation that candidate status also be given to Bosnia and Herzegovina. All of these give new impetus to the CoR's engagement with enlargement countries. The work of Working Group on Ukraine and CORLEAP can and should therefore also be seen in the context of EU enlargement from now on.
- The CoR has successfully positioned both itself and the cooperation of LRAs in the EU with their counterparts in enlargement countries as an integral and important part of the whole EU enlargement process. In this context, our Enlargement Day held each year has a crucial role to play.
- The opinion on *The future of the EaP* and the CORLEAP annual meeting in Liberec will involve the CoR in ongoing important debates on the future of the EaP and EU enlargement.
- The CoR will continue to fulfil and further develop its role as a "reservoir" of best practices in a multitude of policy fields with local and regional relevance that can be consulted by and shared with enlargement countries.
- The CoR will focus more its enlargement work on capacity-building of candidate countries LRAs, and put in place a new set of measures, notably the opening of the YEP programme to candidate countries.

In the context of the neighbourhood policy, the ARLEM plenary session met again in person and renewed its governance: its role within the Union for the Mediterranean was confirmed including by attending a number of ministerial meetings throughout 2022. In this context, the flagship initiative for cooperation with Libyan mayors kept producing positive results on the ground and visibility for the CoR.

4.1.3 From the European Year of Youth to building a strong Europe by investing in future generations

Main impact:

- The CoR's SEDEC and CIVEX commissions jointly led the participatory drafting process for a [Charter on Youth and Democracy](#), which **represents one of the key CoR actions on both the COFE recommendations** relating to the democratic participation of young people in social, political and civic life **and the European Year of Youth (EYY)**.
- The CoR demonstrated its capacity to contribute to a meaningful **delivery on the EYY objectives**, focusing on the importance of European youth participation in building a more sustainable and inclusive future, and engaged with young people and youth organisations, thus enlarging the CoR's outreach;
With the co-creation process for a Charter on Youth and Democracy together with young people, youth organisations and the European Youth Forum and the YEP programme, the CoR enhanced youth democratic participation, in particular at the local and regional level.
- In the interinstitutional setting and with its members, the CoR contributed to the reflection on future youth policy and youth mainstreaming, in line with the objectives of the EYY, promoting the exchange of good practices and discussion with CoR members and YEPs on the needs and situation of young people and how to better engage them in order to build a more inclusive, sustainable and just Europe.

Following the announcement of the European Year of Youth 2022 (EYY) by the president of the European Commission, both the related *CoR Action Plan*¹¹ and the *Resolution on the EYY*¹² demonstrated the CoR's strong support for young people and for enhancing ways to boost meaningful participation of young people in local communities, underlining the key role of LRAs in promoting youth participation in local democracy.

The CoR pursued a strong local and regional perspective in the successful implementation of the activities and principles of the 2022 European Year of Youth and underlined the important role of local and regional authorities in implementing youth-related measures and policy. In its interinstitutional relations and towards its members, the CoR emphasised the need to mainstream an intergenerational approach with a strong youth perspective to be built into policy-making, for example by means of a "youth test", as supported by the COFE, the CoR and the EP.

In its activities relating to the European Year of Youth, the CoR actively engaged with the community of the CoR's Young Elected Politicians (YEP) programme, which also produced its recommendations in view of the COFE and the European Year of Youth.

Furthermore, the 9th Summit of Cities and Regions in Marseille in March 2022 dedicated sessions to youth, engaging experts, politicians and representatives of youth organisations to discuss ways to enhance youth engagement for the future of European democracy and promotion of European values. By doing so, the CoR succeeded in strengthening its cooperation with European youth organisations and its cooperation with the European Youth Forum (EYF, the umbrella organisation for European youth organisations). This new engagement with young people also made it possible to develop

¹¹ COR-2021-04682-04-00-NB-TRA-EN, adopted by the CoR Bureau on 30 November 2021.

¹² RESOL-VII/018 – Resolution on the proposal for a European Year of Youth – COR-2021-05388-00-00-RES-TRA
COR-2023-00005-08-00-NB-REF (EN) 18/55

recommendations in the form of a *Charter on Youth and Democracy* on enhancing youth democratic participation, built on the views of, and engaging, those who are actually concerned by those recommendations, namely both the young generation and politicians, while reinforcing the collaboration between these as well as the CoR's outreach to young people.

The charter's participatory co-creation process was led by co-operation between the SEDEC and CIVEX commissions, and involved representatives from youth organisations across the EU, CoR members and YEPs as well as the EYF, thus engaging several multipliers in the process. By doing so, the CoR strengthened citizens' participation and youth involvement in European and local democracy, while at the same time boosting the link between citizens and their elected representatives.

The charter was signed and discussed at the CoR's December 2022 plenary session, in the presence of representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, youth leaders from all political families and the EYF and the YEPs. This process reinforced the CoR's outreach to European youth and advocacy organisations such as the European Youth Forum, as well as the CoR's cooperation with other EU institutions. The charter has been a well-received contribution to youth empowerment and widely distributed, including to Vice-President Schinas and Commissioner Gabriel, as well as to European Commission staff and members of the European Parliament and other stakeholders. As such, it paves the way for further outreach activities towards the young generation and the YEP community, including as regards the promotion of the next European elections.

Moreover, the chair of the CoR's SEDEC commission, Anne Karjalainen, was nominated CoR representative for the Group of EYY National Coordinators, which gathers representatives from ministries of all Member States. The SEDEC chair and the rapporteur of own-initiative opinion on the *Future of youth policy: youth mainstreaming in the context of the European Year of Youth 2022*¹³, participated in several interinstitutional meetings with representatives from the Member States and the EU institutions, thus consolidating the CoR's role in the interinstitutional framework and towards the national authorities of the EU Member States.

Altogether during the year, the CoR demonstrated its capacity to contribute to the meaningful delivery on the EYY objectives, engaging with young people and working to enhance youth democratic participation at all levels of government. Furthermore, lessons from this bottom-up drafting process for the EU Charter on Youth and Democracy can support the development of participatory mechanisms at all levels, including at the local and regional level.

In 2023, the CoR will continue its work to consolidate youth participation, starting from the local and regional level, in order to ensure follow up to the COFE recommendations and the legacy of the European Year of Youth, in particular on strengthening participatory democracy. The European Year of Skills 2023, to which the CoR will make a major contribution, will also benefit young people and provide opportunities to once again stress the need for quality education, enhancing citizenship skills for active democratic participation, and digital and other key skills, and show how LRAs can support related actions, in cooperation with other key stakeholders.

4.1.4 Migration and integration, democratic rights and freedoms

¹³ SEDEC-VII/030 – [The Future of Youth Policy in the EU. Reflection on youth policy and youth mainstreaming in the context of the European Year of Youth 2022](#) – rapporteur: Tine Radinja (SI/The Greens) – COR-2022-02752-00-00-PA-TRA

Main impact:

- **The EP draft report on the Crisis and Force Majeure Regulation** (part of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum proposals) refers to the **CoR opinion** and **takes up some of its recommendations**.
- **The CoR's Integration Network brought together 300 participants** at its various events and its survey with the OECD received over **110 replies**.

➤ **Outcomes**

- The EP draft report on [Crisis and Force Majeure Regulation](#) (part of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum proposals) refers to the [CoR opinion¹⁴](#) and takes up some of its recommendations; in particular, it includes the local and regional aspect in the definition of "crisis".
- The CoR's [Integration Network](#) brought together 300 participants at its various events and its survey with the OECD received over 110 replies.
- The CoR plenary debate on the opinion on *Revised Schengen Area Governance*¹⁵ raised the [visibility of the CoR's position](#) on Schengen and the importance of freedom of movement, in particular for cross-border regions.

This was achieved:

- by adopting 4 opinions ([Reinforcing democracy and integrity of elections¹⁶](#), [Extending the list of EU crimes to hate speech and hate crimes¹⁷](#), [Revised Schengen Area Governance¹⁸](#) and [Legal Migration – Attracting Skills and Talent to the EU¹⁹](#));
- by organising conferences on [The impact of managing migration and integration on LRAs, especially in border regions, and the need to enhance support to LRAs by the EU](#) and on [Migrant access to healthcare: From emergency responses to sustainable solutions](#);
- by collaborating with the OECD, the EP LIBE Committee, the EP JURI Committee, the EPRS, the JRC, Eurocities, the CPMR, AER, CEMR, UNHCR, Eurochambres, IOM, the European Commission under the [Partnership on Migrant Integration](#), and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) through the Annual dialogue on *The war in Ukraine: fundamental rights implications across the EU* and the Capacity building seminar for CoR staff on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and its local dimensions;
- by organising a [stakeholder consultation on Legal Migration – Attracting Skills and Talent to the EU](#), two workshops on [Joining forces: a multi-stakeholder dialogue on initiatives fostering local refugee integration](#) and [Multi-level governance for migrant integration - Launch Event of OECD Reports \(europa.eu\)](#) and the [Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award](#) for courage and excellence in the promotion of freedom, solidarity and equality.

¹⁴ CIVEX-VII/005 – New Pact on Migration and Asylum – rapporteur: Antje Grotheer (DE/PES) – COR-2020-04843-00-01-AC-TRA

¹⁵ CIVEX-VII/014 – Revised Schengen Area Governance – rapporteur: Antje Grotheer (DE/PES) – COR-2022-01129-00-01-AC-TRA

¹⁶ CIVEX-VII/013 – Reinforcing democracy and integrity of elections – rapporteur: Vincenzo Bianco (IT/PES) – COR-2022-01120-00-02-AC-TRA

¹⁷ CIVEX-VII/015 – Extending the list of EU crimes to hate speech and hate crimes – rapporteur: Aleksandra Dulkiewicz (PL/EPP) – COR-2022-01407-00-00-AC-TRA

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, footnote 9.

¹⁹ CIVEX-VII/017 – Legal migration - Attracting skills and talent to the EU – rapporteur: Giuseppe Varacalli (IT/Renew Europe) – COR-2022-03942-00-00-AC-TRA

➤ **Building future impact**

- The CIVEX commission will work towards influencing the EU legislative process in this field, both via opinions and political dialogues on legal migration and the recognition of qualifications, the anti-corruption package, and the good governance package.
- In 2023, an external meeting and conference on *Strengthening European citizenship by promoting European identity and democratic values* and an external seminar on *Disinformation - regional and local global dimension* will be organised.
- The cooperation with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency will be strengthened through seminars/webinars for CoR members on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and its relevance to LRAs. A workshop will also be organised in conjunction with the European Week of Regions and Cities (EURegionsWeek).

4.2 Building resilient regional and local communities

4.2.1 Implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility

Main impact:

- The EP report on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) takes on board the CoR's call for better involvement of local and regional authorities.
- This report makes also direct reference to the relevant CoR opinion and to the results of the recent consultation on the RRF undertaken by the CoR and CEMR.

The implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility²⁰ opinion puts forward the CoR's assessment of the early implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, i.e. largely the process of preparing the national recovery and resilience plans. It highlights that active engagement of local and regional authorities in preparing the national recovery and resilience plans (a key demand of the CoR) has often been lacking, as also underscored by an IPSOS survey carried out for the CoR, in which only one in ten local and regional authorities explained being either fully involved (1%) or partially involved (9%)²¹. The opinion stresses that this low involvement poses risks for the instrument's implementation and effectiveness.

The opinion is a crucial element in the CoR's broader body of work on the RRF, which also includes an earlier opinion on the RRF Regulation, several studies and consultations of LRAs, and a number of events and debates. Taken together, the CoR's work in this field has had a significant impact on the interinstitutional debates and procedures relating to the RRF. For instance, the European Commission has repeatedly expressed the fact that it stresses the importance of active engagement with LRAs in its discussions with Member States on the preparation and implementation of the plans (although the Regulation does not give a basis on which to enforce this legally). The European Parliament has shown significant interest in the analytical work and political views of the CoR, as demonstrated by the CoR being invited to the joint ECON-BUDG parliamentary working group on the scrutiny of the RRF on three separate occasions, in June 2021, October 2021 and May 2022 respectively.

²⁰ ECON-VII/018 – Implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility – rapporteur: Rob Jonkman (NL/ECR) – COR-2021-03682-00-00-AC-TRA

²¹ Survey based on 2698 interviews with local and regional politicians in the EU completed between 25 July and 11 September 2022. See: Committee of the Regions: Regional and Local Barometer. (October, 2022) available online at <https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/Pages/EURegionalBarometer-Survey-2022.aspx>.

On 30 May 2022, the EP ECON and BUDG Committees adopted their report on RRF implementation, which takes on board the CoR's call for better involvement of local and regional authorities and makes direct reference to the CoR opinion and to the results of the recent consultation on the RRF undertaken by the CoR and CEMR. These elements were preserved in the final resolution adopted in plenary on 23 June²².

4.2.2 Green Deal Going Local

Main impact:

- Launch of the Trees for Life initiative, which mobilised members, YEPs and local councillors. By July 2022, the **Trees for Life initiative** had become **one of the highest contributors to the 3 billion additional trees initiative of the European Commission, with more than 300 000 trees pledged**.
- **Through the Green Deal Funding Alert, the CoR started an ongoing channel** to directly inform local and regional authorities about funding opportunities within the EU, **reaching out to more than three thousand recipients**.
- **Launch of the Green Deal Going Local Handbook, an interactive tool to assist local and regional authorities** in implementing green deal policies and accessing financial and technical assistance.

➤ Outcomes

- The Green Deal Going Local working group has served to significantly reinforce the role of the CoR in the decision-making process by having an open discussion on the 'Fit for 55' package²³ with high-level representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament and the CoR. On 10 February 2022, the working group discussed each of the opinions with CoR rapporteurs, 4 MEPs (rapporteurs and shadow rapporteurs) and the private officers of Executive Vice-President Timmermans and Commissioner Simson. This meeting made the engagement of CoR rapporteurs with those from the EP significantly easier. Furthermore, as outlined below, many of the files have had an impact on the EP reports tied to the relevant proposals.
- The working group has also strengthened the position of the CoR on the topic of sustainable mobility: during the working group meeting on 13 May 2022, István Ujhelyi MEP, chair of the DiscoverEU mentorship group, called for stronger and more formal involvement of the CoR when it comes to the DiscoverEU initiative²⁴, as a key youth and mobility initiative of the European Commission.
- 2022 was also the year when the Green Deal Going Local campaign became fully operational. A significant aspect here was the launch of the Trees for Life initiative. The initiative aims to mobilise members, YEPs and local councillors to contribute to the 3 billion additional trees initiative²⁵ of the European Commission. By July 2022, the Trees for Life initiative had become one of the highest contributors with more than 300 000 trees pledged²⁶. Thanks to the Trees for Life initiative, the European Environment Agency has also adapted the reporting framework for the 3 billion additional

²² European Parliament resolution of 23 June 2022 on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility ([2021/2251\(INI\)](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0264_EN.html)), https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0264_EN.html

²³ [EU economy and society to meet climate ambitions \(europa.eu\)](https://www.europa.eu)

²⁴ [DiscoverEU | European Youth Portal \(europa.eu\)](https://www.europa.eu)

²⁵ [The #3BillionTrees Pledge – European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://www.europa.eu)

²⁶ <https://mapmytree.eea.europa.eu/>

trees initiative to facilitate input from local and regional authorities. Furthermore, through the Green Deal Funding Alert, the CoR has started an ongoing channel to directly inform local and regional authorities about funding opportunities within the EU, reaching out to more than three thousand recipients.

- Another significant accomplishment was the development and launch of the Green Deal Going Local Handbook²⁷, an interactive tool to assist local and regional authorities in implementing green deal policies and accessing financial and technical assistance. The handbook was launched on 20 September 2022, was met with great support from a wide variety of stakeholders²⁸, and was featured by key stakeholders in their activities²⁹.

➤ **Building future impact**

- During the first half-mandate, the Green Deal Going Local working group managed to establish itself as a strong and relevant actor and representative of local and regional authorities in the green transition. In the second half-mandate the working group will, under a new chair, realign its priorities towards the key issues in Europe, focusing on the areas where local and regional authorities have the powers and potential to make a difference. This includes taking stock of the Green Deal Going Local campaign, its activities, its achievements, and potential channels for further improvements.

4.2.3 Environment policy

Main impact:

- **The opinion on the 8th Environment Action Programme (EAP)** had a significant impact on the **final EAP text: the addition of a specific reference to enhanced cooperation with the CoR and references to regional specificities, participation of LRAs and multilevel governance.**
- CoR signature of the Edinburgh Declaration, advocating greater LRA involvement in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. **The rapporteur was included in the EU delegation attending the Geneva conferences and the Nairobi conference**, which are technical meetings to prepare the ground ahead of the United Nation (UN) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP15).
- As a follow-up to the opinion on pollinators, the **European Commission contacted the rapporteur to contribute in the final stage of the revision of the EU Pollinators Initiative.** The CoR is expected to have an active role during the implementation stage of this initiative.

➤ **Outcomes**

- The opinion on the *8th Environment Action Programme (EAP)*³⁰ had a significant impact on the final EAP text approved in 2022, in particular with the addition of a specific reference to enhanced cooperation with the CoR and references to regional specificities, participation of LRAs, multilevel governance, and ensuring adequate resources for LRAs.

²⁷ <https://cor.europa.eu/en/engage/Pages/Green-Deal-Handbook.aspx>

²⁸ <https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Green-Deal-Handbook-on-Adaptation.aspx>

²⁹ <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/news-archive/green-deal-going-local-handbook-giving-local-and-regional-authorities-guidance-for-the-green-transition>

³⁰ ENVE-VII/012 – 8th Environment Action Programme – rapporteur: Dimitrios Karnavos (GR/EPP) – COR-2020-05234-00-00-AC-TRA

- The opinion on the *EU Action Plan: Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil*³¹ is linked to the important work in the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform, co-chaired by Ms Schouten on behalf of the CoR. The 2nd meeting was hosted by the CoR and the 3rd took place in October 2022 preceded by a high-level workshop at the EU Regions Week, both focused on local and regional aspects.
- As a follow-up to the opinion on pollinators³², the European Commission contacted the rapporteur to contribute in the final stage of the revision of the EU Pollinators Initiative. The CoR is expected to have an active role in the implementation stage of the initiative, especially regarding exchange of knowledge and best practices on pollinators.
- The opinion on *Bio-diverse cities and regions beyond 2020 at the UN CBD COP 15 and in the next EU strategy*³³ stressed the need for formal recognition of the contribution of local and subnational governments in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The CoR position was taken up and reflected in the Council conclusions³⁴, underlining that the full and effective participation of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities is crucial for the development and efficient and effective implementation of the framework, and committing to ensuring a whole-of-government approach.

Furthermore, thanks to pressure from partners in the Edinburgh process, where the CoR is involved, this point is on the agenda of the UN CBD COP15 negotiations. The rapporteur was also included in the EU delegation attending the Geneva conferences (SBSTTA-24, SBI-3 and WG2020-3) and the Nairobi conference (WG2020-4), which are technical meetings to prepare the ground before the CBD COP15. A delegation of two members attended the CBD COP15 in Canada in December.

The CoR became one of the main partners of RegionsWithNature and CitiesWithNature, global action platforms officially supported and recognised by the CBD secretariat and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), with the aim of highlighting the key role of subnational governments in addressing biodiversity loss, and of ensuring multilevel governance opportunities within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The participation of the CoR at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) resulted in the CoR being explicitly mentioned in the COP15 decision as a key partner to support the implementation of its Plan of Action. It is the first time that the role of the CoR is recognized in such a text.

- The CoR is an official associated partner of the European Commission's DG for Research and Innovation's Circular Cities and Regions Initiative, whose first workshop was held on the CoR premises in October, with the participation of the deputy chair of ENVE.
- The CoR opinion on the *EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles*³⁵ exemplified good cooperation with 3 European Commission DGs, the textile industry, and associations.

➤ **Building future impact**

Further legislative proposals are expected on the circular economy and zero pollution.

³¹ ENVE-VII/019 – EU Action Plan: Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil – rapporteur: Marieke Schouten (NL/The Greens) – COR-2021-03178-00-00-AC-TRA

³² ENVE-VII/020 – Local and regional authorities accelerating the implementation of the EU Pollinators Initiative – rapporteur: Frida Nilsson (SE/Renew Europe) – COR-2021-03508-00-00-AC-TRA

³³ ENVE-VII/002 – Bio-diverse cities and regions beyond 2020 at the UN CBD COP15 and in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – rapporteur: Roby Biwer (LU/PES) – COR-2020-00539-00-01-AC-TRA

³⁴ [Council conclusions on the CBD COP15, 23 October 2022](#)

³⁵ ENVE-VII/033 – EU Strategy for Sustainable Circular Economy and Textiles – rapporteur: Jean-Luca Menesini (IT/PES) – COR-2022-02926-00-00-AC-TRA

The CoR will contribute in particular with legislative opinions on upcoming key proposals and with a greater involvement of the Green Deal Campaign. Certain actions of these strategies have potential for involvement of the LRAs and the CoR could promote their participation, disseminate information and, when appropriate, participate itself.

The CoR expects to be involved in the next developments and implementation of urban greening plans and plans to join efforts with initiatives such as the Green City Accord. Particularly, the CoR will be working in supporting LRAs in enhancing nature conservation and restoration through the dissemination of best practices, especially in urban areas, as a follow up to the CoR opinion on the EU nature restoration law and within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

4.2.4 Climate and energy policy

➤ **Main impact:**

- The opinions as well as the work of the **CoR Delegation in the COP27 negotiations in Egypt as part of the EU official delegation** had a significant impact within the EU United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process: the **EP resolution on COP27 adopted all amendments proposed by the CoR**, calling for a much stronger and more clearly defined role for LRAs; **the Council conclusions on COP27 highlighted** the importance of non-party stakeholders and **the importance of regional initiatives**.
- Significant parts of the opinion *Amending the Renewable Energy Directive to meet the new 2030 climate targets were taken up in the EP report*, promoting the role of LRAs, contrary to the original proposal, as well as upholding the principle of multilevel governance. **Taking up a number of CoR recommendations, the European Parliament calls for local and regional authorities to be involved in national climate measures**, for direct access to be provided to funds and for local and regional contributions to be incorporated into national energy and climate plans.
- **The Council conclusions on the Social Climate Fund agreed on the inclusion of elements of shared management of the fund, which was a new point introduced by the corresponding CoR opinion**, and called for the European Commission to provide the European Parliament, Council, European Economic and Social Committee and European Committee of the Regions with an independent ex post evaluation report on the spending of the fund.
- The CoR **hosted the first Annual Forum on the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change**, which was followed by **more than 1200 unique viewers**.

➤ **Outcomes**

- The opinion *Towards a structural inclusion of cities and regions in UNFCCC COP27*³⁶ set out, together with the opinion on *The CoR's role in boosting subnational climate diplomacy ahead of COP27 and COP28*³⁷, the CoR official position for UNFCCC COP27. The former stressed the need to involve LRAs in the design and implementation of mitigation and adaptation policies and therefore the need to make LRAs part of the UNFCCC processes, while the latter stressed the need to reinforce subnational climate diplomacy in the EU and its neighbouring countries. To represent the interests of EU cities and regions, the CoR appointed a delegation of 8 members³⁸, which participated in the COP27 negotiations in Egypt as part of the EU official delegation. The opinions, as well as the work of the delegation, had a very significant impact within the EU UNFCCC process:

³⁶ ENVE-VII/031 – Towards a structural inclusion of Cities and Regions in UNFCCC COP27 – rapporteur: Alison Gilliland (IE/PES) – COR-2022-02246-00-00-AC-TRA

³⁷ CIVEX-VII/016 – The CoR's role in boosting subnational climate diplomacy ahead of COP27 and COP28 – rapporteur: Olgierd Geblewicz (PL/EPP) – COR-2022-02284-00-01-AC-TRA

³⁸ https://cor.europa.eu/en/engage/Documents/4759_COP27_delegation_Final.pdf

the EP resolution on COP27 adopted all amendments proposed by the CoR, calling for a much stronger and more clearly defined role for LRAs; the Council conclusions on COP27 highlighted the importance of non-party stakeholders and the importance of regional initiatives. The preparation process for the opinions also served to solidify the CoR's interinstitutional role on the matter through broad stakeholder consultations, such as a dedicated Multilevel Climate and Energy Dialogue with Permanent Representations and MEPs, as well as a local pre-COP event hosted by the rapporteur³⁹. The CoR also participated for the first time in pre-COP negotiations (technical dialogues on the Global Stock-Take) and submitted an official contribution on adaptation to climate change to the stock-take as part of the LGMA constituency.

- The CoR organised a number of debates and bilateral meetings involving high-level EU policy- and decision-makers, including Commissioner Simson, Commissioner Ferreira and first executive vice-president Timmermans, to discuss the energy crisis's impact on cities and regions and to suggest measures to support local and regional authorities. As a result, the REPowerEU plan includes significant references to local and regional authorities. Furthermore, CoR proposals from the opinions *Amending the Energy Efficiency Directive to meet the new 2030 climate targets*⁴⁰, *Amending the Renewable Energy Directive to meet the new 2030 climate targets*⁴¹ and *Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)*⁴² were included in the recast directives part of the 'Fit for 55' package adopted by the European Parliament. Especially noteworthy in this respect is the opinion on *Amending the Renewable Energy Directive to meet the new 2030 climate targets*, where significant parts of the opinion were taken up in the EP report, promoting the role of LRAs, contrary to the original proposal, as well as upholding the principle of multilevel governance. Taking up a number of CoR recommendations, the EP calls for local and regional authorities to be involved in national climate measures, for direct access to be provided to funds and for local and regional contributions to be incorporated into national energy and climate plans. Concerning the Energy Efficiency Directive, the EP took on board a number of recommendations, from the inclusion of local and regional measures in the energy efficiency target, to a call to keep local and regional administrations informed about funding programmes.
- The CoR also hosted a milestone event with high-level representation on the REPowerEU, in cooperation with the Covenant of Mayors and the European Climate Pact, to ensure its position at the front of the pack when it comes to promoting a faster transition towards clean and sustainable energy. The ENVE commission secretariat was also invited to a Commission meeting of the Flemish Parliament to give feedback on behalf of the CoR on the Flemish Energy and Climate Plan and local climate action. Activities such as these have not only reinforced the CoR's standing, but have highlighted its importance in enabling key bottom-up initiatives of the European Commission.
- In the general area of climate action, the CoR adopted six opinions. Three of these opinions were related to the 'Fit for 55' package – *Making ETS and CBAM work for EU cities and regions*⁴³, *Towards a socially fair implementation of the Green Deal*⁴⁴ and *Revision of LULUCF and Effort*

³⁹ ENVE-VII/031 – Towards a structural inclusion of Cities and Regions in UNFCCC COP27 – rapporteur: Alison Gilliland (IE/PES) – COR-2022-02246-00-00-AC-TRA

⁴⁰ ENVE-VII/024 – Amending the Energy Efficiency Directive to meet the new 2030 climate targets – rapporteur: Rafał Kazimierz Trzaskowski (PL/EPP) – COR-2021-04548-00-01-AC-TRA

⁴¹ ENVE-VII/023 – Amending the Renewable Energy Directive to meet the new 2030 climate targets – rapporteur: Andries Gryffroy (BE/EA) – COR-2021-04547-00-01-AC-TRA

⁴² ENVE-VII/026 – Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) – rapporteur: André VIOLA (FR/PES) – COR-2022-00417-00-00-AC-TRA

⁴³ ENVE-VII/021 – Making ETS and CBAM work for EU cities and regions – rapporteur: Peter Kurz (DE/PES) – COR-2021-04546-00-01-AC-TRA

⁴⁴ ENVE-VII/022 – Towards a socially fair implementation of the Green Deal – rapporteur: Csaba Borboly (RO/EPP) – COR-2021-04801-00-01-AC-TRA

*Sharing regulations*⁴⁵ – where the CoR had a structured approach towards promoting the positions of the opinions within the legislative process. Most significantly, the Council conclusions on the Social Climate Fund set out an agreement to include elements of shared management of the fund, which was a new point introduced by the opinion, and called for the European Commission to provide the European Parliament, Council, European Economic and Social Committee and European Committee of the Regions with an independent ex post evaluation report on the spending of the fund. On the topic of climate adaptation, the CoR continued to justify its role as a key player in this policy area. Apart from the aforementioned tools and official submissions, the CoR hosted the first Annual Forum on the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change. Followed by more than 1200 unique viewers and with high-level representation, the event was a milestone for the Horizon Europe Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change and highlighted the CoR as a key partner for this initiative.

➤ **Building future impact**

- The CoR will aim to further develop its involvement and contribution to the UNFCCC process on the road to COP28, including closer cooperation with the Spanish presidency of the Council. Furthermore, the CoR will continue its efforts to support local and regional authorities in dealing with the energy crisis and representing their views and best practices at EU level. In the coming years, the CoR will also take a foresight approach towards the future of the European Green Deal and the mid-term 2040 climate targets.

4.2.5 Digital Market and Digital Services Act

Main impact:

- Around 30 points of the CoR opinion on *The Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act*⁴⁶ were taken up in the reports by the European Parliament.
- Eleven of these points were included in the final texts (both Digital Services Act and Digital Market Act taken together) following an agreement among the co-legislators.
- These points of particular relevance to regional and local authorities cover the explicit mention of online platforms for accommodation services and of the potential risk of unfair business practices by web browsers and virtual assistants.

The opinion on *The Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act* is embedded in a broader net of initiatives aimed at sharpening the CoR's profile as one of the EU's drivers of an inclusive digital transformation. Building on previous CoR opinions on the platform economy, it especially highlights the concerns of local and regional authorities relating to digital services which influence citizens' everyday lives in some of the sectors where platforms are active, such as housing and tourist accommodation, urban transport, and the delivery of public services. In addition, the opinion expresses the need to overcome the "double digital divide" caused by the unequal distribution of the prerequisites needed to reap the potential social and economic benefits of digitalisation: access to high-capacity networks and digital literacy. To counteract territorial and social disparities and ensure digital cohesion, the opinion therefore calls for capacity-building at the local level.

Thanks to the CoR rapporteur's engagement and follow-up work with relevant stakeholders and interinstitutional counterparts, the opinion on *The Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act* has

⁴⁵ ENVE-VII/025 – Revision of LULUCF and Effort Sharing regulations – rapporteur: Åsa Ågren Wikström (SE/EPP) – COR-2022-00061-00-01-AC-TRA

⁴⁶ ECON-VII/012 – The Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act – rapporteur: Rodi Kratsa (EL/EPP) – COR-2020-05356-00-02-AC-TRA

had a strong impact on interinstitutional debates on these legislative acts and the concerns of local and regional authorities were included in the final legislative texts. Around 30 points of the opinion on *The Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act* were taken up in the reports by the European Parliament. Eleven of these points were also included in the final texts (both Digital Services Act and Digital Market Act taken together) following an agreement among the co-legislators, notably:

- the explicit mention of online platforms for accommodation services (DSA). This is a key concern by authorities in cities and municipalities where Airbnb is operating, creating unfair competition with hotels.
- the inclusion of digital voice assistants and platforms that use integrated voice assistant technologies and web browsers in defining core platform services. This is to prevent unfair business practices by players using these technologies (DMA).
- highlighting the European Commission's reporting obligation to publish an annual report with findings of its monitoring activities and examinations, to be presented to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union (DMA).
- following the CoR and the EP's suggestion to include content-sharing platforms in the definition, the final text offers a more detailed definition of hosting services for the purposes of the regulation (DSA).
- While the EP report has picked up on the inclusion of the Digital Services Coordinators of at least three Member States (DSA) for the infringement procedure, the final text accommodates this suggestion by mentioning the principle of trusted flaggers and the role of Digital Service Coordinators in awarding "trusted flagger" status.

4.2.6 Industrial policy and Craft Geographical Indications

Main impact:

- A number of recommendations of the CoR's own-initiative opinion *Protecting Industrial and Craft Geographical Indications in the European Union*⁴⁷ were taken into account in the European Commission's proposal for a regulation (see details below).

On 13 April 2022, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on geographical indication protection for craft and industrial products. The proposal acknowledges the CoR's opinion on *Protecting Industrial and Craft Geographical Indications in the European Union*⁴⁸ and takes on board its most important recommendations, including the following:

- there is a need for a sui generis system of European-wide recognition of industrial and craft geographical indications (ICGI) that would eventually replace national systems, as a follow-up to joining the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement by the EU;
- the introduction of European ICGI protection should provide the same level of security for producers and certainty for consumers as is the case with agricultural geographical indications;
- the system for assessing and recognising industrial and craft geographical indications should be similar to the one functioning in the area of agriculture and foodstuffs;
- the logo of ICGIs should be the same as the agricultural and foodstuff one;
- the role of regional and local authorities in the process of ICGI registration should be guaranteed;

⁴⁷ ECON-VII/016 – Protecting Industrial and Craft Geographical Indications in the European Union – rapporteur: Martine Pinville (FR/PES) - COR-2021-02689-00-00-AC-TRA

⁴⁸ ECON-VII/016 – Protecting Industrial and Craft Geographical Indications in the European Union – rapporteur: Martine Pinville (FR/PES) - COR-2021-02689-00-00-AC-TRA

- the main drivers behind ICGIs should be local producer groups;
- the cost of registering an ICGI should take the form of a one-off fee and should not deter producer groups from registering;
- the registration process is two-staged, with the final stage managed by the European Union's Intellectual Property Office.

4.2.7 Implementation of European missions and launching the Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRI)

Main impact:

- PRIs included in the European Commission's Communication on *A New Innovation Agenda for Europe*⁴⁹, which will serve as a step towards developing fully-fledged, EU-supported deep tech valleys with strong stakeholder involvement, multilevel governance and cross-regional cooperation.
- The central importance of regional innovation ecosystems and the PRIs was stressed in the Council conclusions of 1 December 2022.⁵⁰
- The same approach has been reflected in the Horizon work programme for 2023-2024.⁵¹

Since their official launch on 29 September 2021, the five European **missions**⁵² have been actively supported by the CoR and its members. The CoR members and their regions and cities made a major contribution to their implementation in 2022: more than 140 CoR members represent regions and cities selected to participate in the call launched for the *Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities* mission, while at least 160 members come from territories having signed the *Charter on Adaptation to Climate Change*. In addition, several key members of the five mission boards have been selected from among CoR members or their regional/municipal administrations, thus providing political input on the future functioning of the individual missions.

CoR rapporteurs had the opportunity to provide input and an LRA viewpoint for the implementation and monitoring of the different missions, via the individual **mission boards** and the European Commission, in the context of targeted consultations and specialised events co-organised with the European Commission, e.g. dedicated Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP) seminars⁵³, Science meets Regions (SmR), the EU R&I Days, the EURegionsWeek⁵⁴ and the WIRE conferences.

The President of the CoR attended also Research & Innovation Days 2022, in September, at the invitation of Commissioner Gabriel, where he reaffirmed the European Committee of the Regions support for the different Missions, and highlighted the CoR members involvement.

The [Horizon work programme for 2023-2024](#) also provides for direct support for Ukrainian cities in joining the *Cities* mission and a reference to close collaboration with the [European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the reconstruction of Ukraine](#) proposed by the CoR. Moreover, in the European

⁴⁹ COM(2022) 332 final

⁵⁰ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14705-2022-INIT/en/pdf>

⁵¹ Adopted by the European Commission on 6 December 2022, [wp-10-european-innovation-ecosystems_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf](#) ([sciencebusiness.net](#))

⁵² [Commission launches EU missions to tackle major challenges](#)

⁵³ [KEP workshop – Building synergies for successful green and digital transitions](#)

⁵⁴ [KEP workshop – Science for Green Deal: Evidence for policy in regions & cities](#)

Commission's follow-up report⁵⁵ on the CoR opinion dedicated to the missions⁵⁶, the European Commission recognises that the "support of the Committee is instrumental to ensure that the EU missions can happen on the ground" and that "regional and local stakeholders (...) are key to the success of EU missions".

Furthermore, the European Commission's Communication on the *New European Bauhaus*⁵⁷ refers specifically to the European missions, stating that its "approach will be pursued through synergies with the activities launched under the Horizon Europe missions". In Annex I, it adds that "missions on cities and climate adaptation show great promise for developing further synergies with the New European Bauhaus". Accordingly, the relevant CoR opinion⁵⁸ points out that "the NEB should connect up with Horizon 2020 missions, particularly on the Adaptation to Climate Change and Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities".

The CoR continues to advocate for a strong territorial perspective and an important role for local and regional authorities in the implementation of the European missions, through continued, active involvement of its members, via their constituencies, in the various calls, charters and other engagement exercises (e.g. the Climate city contracts) launched in the framework of the missions.

The CoR joined forces with the JRC in renewing and upgrading the regional Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) concept⁵⁹ by introducing the **Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRI)** pilot⁶⁰ project, which also includes regions and the Member States. The objective of this pilot action is to facilitate the development and the implementation of regional innovation strategies and the development of regional innovation ecosystems, thereby enabling green and digital directionality and progress towards such future EU-funded initiatives as the deep tech valleys in regions. A key success factor in this process is federating innovation-related actors and structures at the regional level, cooperating across the levels of governance and improving synergies among the EU funds and programmes available to local and regional authorities.

The PRI project has proven to be very popular among EU Member States, regions and cities. The first set of workshops were organised with 60+ regional and national stakeholders, while the CoR has always been part of the process.⁶¹ One real impact is not only the mention of the PRI in the European Commission's Communication on the *New European Innovation Agenda*, but also the future planning of dedicated and related calls by the Commission with a view to strengthening the regional ecosystems via this new tool. PRI has also proven popular with Commissioners Gabriel and Ferreira, who strongly support this initiative politically.

Since the launch of the project, local and regional authorities benefit from the methodology to further develop their regional innovation strategies. Since 2022, the cooperation has taken place in the form of seminars, webinars, exchanges of information, analysis of experience, etc., with a view to enabling the participating regions to implement policies for the green and digital transition, as well as equipping them

⁵⁵ [European Commission follow-up report to the CoR opinion on European Missions](#)

⁵⁶ [SEDEC-VII/026 - European Missions – rapporteur: Markku Markkula \(FI/EPP\) – COR-2021-05656-00-01-AC-TRA](#)

⁵⁷ [New European Bauhaus](#)

⁵⁸ SEDEC-VII/25 – New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, Sustainable, Together – rapporteur: Kieran McCarthy (IE/EA) – COR-2021-05640-00-01-AC-TRA

⁵⁹ [What is Smart Specialisation?](#)

⁶⁰ [Partnerships for Regional Innovation \(PRI\)](#)

⁶¹ By December 2022: 4 Member States, 63 regions, 7 cities and 6 networks – [Participation in the Pilot – Smart Specialisation Platform \(europa.eu\)](#)

with methodological tools on a case-by-case basis in order to further develop their innovation ecosystems.

The Council conclusions on the European Innovation Agenda, adopted on 2 December 2022, stress the importance of interconnected innovation ecosystems in delivering the EU's strategic objectives. The conclusions specifically invite the European Commission, in collaboration with the European Committee of the Regions, to coordinate the initiative to create up to 100 regional deep tech valleys with the Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRI) initiative and to provide funding opportunities under Horizon Europe, the ERDF, and other relevant EU programmes.

Regarding the CONNECT section under the Horizon Europe work programme for 2023-2024, adopted by the European Commission on 6 December 2022, support will be available for interconnected innovation ecosystems, including such networks as the Partnerships for Regional Innovation and the European Research Area Hubs, among others. The promotion of joint programmes among innovation system actors includes, where appropriate, links with Partnerships for Regional Innovation, on which the CoR has been running a pilot action together with regions and the JRC since 2021.

The CoR will continue its cooperation and involvement in the work on PRIs as we wish it to become a strategic framework for innovation-driven territorial transformation, linking EU priorities with national plans and place-based opportunities and challenges.

4.2.8 Health issues

Main impact:

- **The CoR's call to periodically submit health systems to stress tests was taken up in the final version of the EP report** on serious cross-border health threats.
- Early on, the Health chapter in the State of Cities and Regions report identified mental health as the key emerging public health issue and the **European Commission president's announcement of the forthcoming Mental Health Initiative confirms the CoR's assessment. This CoR proposal is also scheduled in the European Commission's annual work programme.**

➤ **Outcomes**

- The CoR employed a full range of tools to successfully pursue the key policy objective of mapping the shortcoming of the current framework and delivering building blocks of the future EU health emergency preparedness and response architecture. Within the framework of its **privileged partnership** with the WHO, leaders of both institutions held exchanges on a few important occasions. Through its **consultative works**, the CoR provided input into legislative proposals (e.g. on HERA⁶² and EHDS⁶³), engaged with the wider community, including business operators, held a high-level debate on the **future health architecture** at the Marseille summit, and shaped the final outcomes of the **Conference on the Future of Europe**. Finally, the CoR president **communicated** on emerging health threats in SOCREG 2022.
- Several CoR ideas and recommendations are listed in the **final Conference on the Future of Europe report**. The CoR's call to periodically submit **health systems to stress tests** was taken up

⁶² NAT-VII/023 – Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority – rapporteur: Christophe Clergeau (FR/PES) – COR-2022-02296-00-00-AC-TRA

⁶³ NAT-VII/028 – European Health Data Space – rapporteur: Daniela Cîmpean (RO/EPP)

in the final version of the EP report on serious cross-border health threats. The same document contains another CoR request to establish **regional health emergency preparedness plans**. Early on, the Health chapter in the State of Cities and Regions report identified **mental health** as the key emerging public health issue and the European Commission president's announcement of the forthcoming Mental Health Initiative confirms the CoR's assessment. The proposal is also scheduled in the European Commission's annual work programme.

➤ **Building future impact**

- Keeping the momentum for health policy reforms remains the overarching goal. The CoR will strive to: (1) deliver policy and practice solutions to strengthen health prevention, preparedness and response to major health-related threats; (2) advise on local and regional strategies addressing health systems' resilience through opinions and networking activities; (3) continue working with the WHO and regional specialised networks; and (4) liaise with the ENVE commission on assessing the impact of climate change on health conditions in EU territories.

4.3 Cohesion as a fundamental value

4.3.1 The 8th cohesion report and the Just Transition Fund

Main impacts:

- The **General Affairs Council conclusions on the 8th cohesion report include**, thanks to the CoR's contribution, **a call for the European Commission to consider including territorial impact assessments (regional proofing) in relevant EU policies in order to operationalise the "do no harm to cohesion" principle**
- As well as references to the place-based approach, these conclusions include the need to pay attention to the needs of territories covered by Article 174 and a clarification that the structural and long-term objectives of cohesion policy must not be harmed in cases where cohesion policy reacts to new developments.
- The **European Parliament resolution** of 15 September 2022 on *Economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU: the 8th Cohesion report* included a request to involve the **European Committee of the Regions in the design of the "do no harm to cohesion" principle**, as well as a call for the European Commission to consider the possibility that public cohesion policy spending by Member States and local and regional authorities should not be considered national or equivalent structural expenditure as defined in the Stability and Growth Pact.

On 4 February 2022, the European Commission presented the 8th cohesion report, which not only provided a factual assessment of the state of cohesion in the EU, but also triggered the start of the discussions on how cohesion policy should be shaped in the future. Following a request by the French presidency of the Council, **the CoR put forward its political recommendations on the matter in its opinion on the 8th report on economic, social and territorial cohesion**⁶⁴.

⁶⁴ COTER-VII/016 – Eighth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion – Nathalie Sarrabezolles (FR/PES) – COR-2022-00729-00-00-AC-TRA

On 2 June 2022, the **General Affairs Council adopted its conclusions on the 8th cohesion report, which include, thanks to the CoR's contribution, a call for the European Commission to consider including territorial impact assessments (regional proofing) in relevant EU policies in order to operationalise the "do not harm cohesion" principle⁶⁵**, as well as references to the place-based approach, the need to pay attention to the needs of territories covered by Article 174, and a clarification that the structural and long-term objectives of cohesion policy must not be harmed in cases where cohesion policy reacts to new developments. The CoR indeed provided such input within the framework of a bilateral meeting between the CoR rapporteur and the French minister in charge of territorial development and in a respective follow-up letter, as well as through informal feedback provided by the COTER secretariat to the chair of the Council Working Group on Structural Measures

Thanks to the CoR rapporteur's close cooperation with her counterpart in the European Parliament, **the EP resolution of 15 September 2022 on *Economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU: the 8th Cohesion report*⁶⁶ included a request to involve the European Committee of the Regions in the design of the "do no harm to cohesion" principle**, as well as a call for the European Commission to consider the possibility that public cohesion policy spending by Member States and regional and local authorities should not be considered national or equivalent structural expenditure as defined in the Stability and Growth Pact.

The European Parliament's Resolution on *Economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU: the 8th Cohesion Report*⁶⁷ also provided major support for the CoR's work on the Just Transition Fund (JTF) as, in line with CoR's requests, it:

- calls on the European Commission to draw lessons from the implementation of the JTF;
- asks for a new fund, the JTF II, to be established in the post-2027 programming period at NUTS 3 level, with a revised allocation method;
- believes that the fund should be fully integrated into the Common Provisions Regulation.

The involvement of the regions in the context of the JTF was also mentioned in the Council conclusions on cohesion policy (point 30)⁶⁸, a small but important element resulting from the CoR's cooperation with the Czech presidency of the Council of the EU.

The 8th cohesion report also set the starting point for the upcoming discussions on the **future of cohesion policy post-2027**. The CoR, together with the main European territorial associations (AER, AEBR, CALRE, CEMR, CPMR, and EUROCITIES), therefore **relaunched the #CohesionAlliance** at its Plenary Session in October 2022, in order to maintain a pro-active role in the debate. In line with the **declaration "The debate on the Future of Cohesion Policy starts now!"⁶⁹** adopted at the relaunch event, the new focus of the #CohesionAlliance will be on addressing various and important aspects that are relevant for the discussion on the future of cohesion policy (such as overcoming the fragmentation of Cohesion Policy funds, improving and simplifying its delivery and reinforcing capacity building), whilst confirming the key principles

⁶⁵ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9796-2022-INIT/en/pdf>

⁶⁶ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0326_EN.html

⁶⁷ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0326_EN.html

⁶⁸ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14481-2022-INIT/en/pdf>

⁶⁹ https://cor.europa.eu/en/engage/Documents/2022_CohesionAlliance_Declaration.pdf

underpinning Cohesion Policy (such as the place-based approach or the principles of shared management, partnership and multi-level governance).

4.3.2 The EU response to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and of the war against Ukraine on our cities and regions

Main impacts:

- **The European Commission followed the CoR's suggestion under the CARE programme and put forward the possibility of 100% EU co-financing** for 2014-2020 cohesion policy funding being **extended for the accounting year 2021-2022**, in order to ease national budgetary pressures, notably due to the extended impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the aim of helping the Member States deal with the impact of COVID-19 on their economies, the European Commission launched the **Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII)**, designed to mobilise funds still available from the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). The CRII provided the Member States with immediate liquidity to finance investments relating to the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. investments in the healthcare sector, and support for SMEs and the labour market).

That initiative was complemented by a second package known as the **Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus (CRII+)**, which introduced additional and exceptional flexibility measures such as transfers across the three cohesion policy funds and between the different categories of regions, more flexibility with regard to thematic concentration, and the possibility of a 100% EU co-financing rate.

In addition, the European Commission mobilised the **Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe programme (REACT-EU)**, which is an emergency legislative initiative designed to release EUR 47.5 billion through Structural Funds, targeting the hardest hit Member States and regions.

A **key objective for the CoR** was to obtain the **extension of the flexible rules** under the Structural Funds to alleviate the burden on the hundreds of regional managing authorities which were under enormous stress due to the overlapping of the two programming periods. The timely extension of the flexibility measures would be of benefit both for the joint immediate response to the crisis and in the efforts to "build back better" – i.e. supporting cities and regions in their commitment to make the best use of cohesion policy, with increased efficiency, transparency and ownership, as well as ensuring the transition to a sustainable society, as defined in the Sustainable Development Goals and the EU Green Deal.

On 8 March 2022, **the European Commission followed the CoR's suggestion under the CARE programme and put forward the possibility of 100% EU co-financing** for 2014-2020 cohesion policy funding being **extended for the accounting year 2021-2022**, in order to ease national budgetary pressures, notably due to the extended impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 29 June 2022, **the European Commission took another step by adopting FAST-CARE, in order to extend the 100% co-financing rate until 2024** and mitigate the combined effect of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the high energy costs and the shortage of raw materials and labour caused by the war against Ukraine. This was a new package extending the support already provided under CARE by

proposing, among other measures, that at least 30% of the funds for refugees should be granted to local authorities, and extending the flexibility to cohesion policy funding, fully in line with the CoR's request.

In addition, the European Commission put forward the **possibility of retroactively declaring reimbursement expenditure relating to migratory challenges**, even when the operation has already been completed, **and to phase projects to the 2021-2027 programming period**, as the CoR requested after targeted research among LRAs.

4.3.3 Implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights

Main impact:

- 2022 brought tangible results for the CoR's political ambition to advance the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) throughout the EU leaving no one behind, especially through its work on improving working conditions in **platform work** (the CoR position was vindicated in a letter sent by the ministers of employment and social protection of 8 Member States to the CZ presidency) and on **homelessness** (the rapporteur was included both in the Steering Board of the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness and as a member of the platform itself, and provided extensive specific contributions regarding the structure of the platform's work).
- Previous CoR work on the social economy, occupational safety and health, education and long-term care was acknowledged in recent European Commission initiatives⁷⁰ in these policy fields, where the CoR was also called upon to help shape the future proposals, including by means of an outlook opinion on *Creating an enabling environment for the social economy*⁷¹.

The CoR's political ambition is to contribute to the full and correct implementation of all 20 principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights throughout the EU, leaving no one behind, and to achieve the 2030 headline targets set at the Porto social summit in May 2021.

In 2022, the CoR's work on the matter focused mainly on the following policy priorities: occupational safety and health, improving working conditions in platform work, eradicating homelessness, a European strategy for universities, and ensuring social protection and inclusion, with a focus on long-term care.

The CoR adopted its opinion on *Improving working conditions in platform work*⁷² at its June plenary. In the course of preparing the opinion, the rapporteur had a series of bilateral meetings with a diverse group of stakeholders (European Commission, MEPs, the ETUC, the ETUI, SMEUnited, BusinessEurope, Eurocities, and Belgian trade unions). Following the rapporteurs' contact with

⁷⁰ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European care strategy COM(2022) 440 final; Proposal for a Council Recommendation on access to affordable high-quality long-term care COM(2022) 441 final; Proposal for a Council Recommendation on the Revision of the Barcelona Targets on early childhood education and care COM(2022) 442 final; Proposal for a Council Recommendation on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion COM(2022) 490 final; Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on Better assessing the distributional impact of Member States' policies COM(2022) 494 final; Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2009/148/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work COM(2022) 489 final; Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on working towards an asbestos-free future: a European approach to addressing the health risks of asbestos COM(2022) 488 final

⁷¹ SEDEC-VII/033 – Creating an enabling environment for the social economy – rapporteur: Riccardo RIO (PT/EPP) – draft opinion

⁷² SEDEC-VII/028 – Improving working conditions in platform work – rapporteur Yondec Polet (BE/PES) – COR-2022-00155-00-00-AC-TRA

counterparts and interinstitutional partners, the CoR's points of view were vindicated in a letter sent by the ministers of employment and social protection of 8 Member States to the Czech presidency, in response to the latter's proposal, in which the ministers insisted in particular on maintaining "an effective and strong, but rebuttable, legal presumption of the employment relationship, reflecting the actual control and direction exercised by digital labour platforms".

The CoR also had a strong presence in the field of eradicating homelessness in 2022. The CoR rapporteur⁷³ was appointed member of the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness as well as of its steering board. He participated in the Ministerial Level Conference held by the French presidency of the Council in Paris and Lyon (February-March 2022), as well as in a number of workshops on homelessness. The outcome of the ministerial conference was to structure the platform's work around three objectives (mutual learning, best use of EU funding, and monitoring and data collection), all of which were called for in the CoR's opinion on *Eradicating homelessness in the European Union: The local and regional perspective*⁷⁴.

The CoR adopted its opinion on *Pathways to School Success*⁷⁵ at its October plenary. The position of the rapporteur was shared with representatives of the Member States during the meeting of the Council's Education, Youth, Culture and Sport (EYCS) Committee on 12 October. While the full range of the impact of this meeting will become visible in the future, the fact that the CoR rapporteur was invited to the Council's EYCS Committee could be considered an impact in itself.

Concerning equal treatment and opportunities (principle 3 of the Social Pillar), the CoR adopted the opinion on the *Strategy on Combatting Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life (2021-2030)*⁷⁶, pointing to the need to ensure that local and regional authorities are fully involved in its implementation, especially with the aim of creating, communicating and protecting societal values via place-based projects. The recommendation, laid down in the CoR opinion, of developing a dialogue with local and regional authorities and civil society, including churches and religious associations, was met with great interest by the stakeholders. The European Commission's follow-up report made extensive references to the CoR opinion, endorsing the CoR's positions and outlining future actions.

In 2023, employment and social policies will remain a priority policy area for the CoR in its efforts to contribute to the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. The CoR's SEDEC commission is in the process of adopting a number of new opinions (*EU care strategy*, *Recommendation on minimum income*, *Revision of the Asbestos Directive*, and *Creating an enabling environment for the social economy*) that will further promote the social dimension in the EU, to ensure timely influence over the legislative trilogues.

Based on the enhanced cooperation agreement, the CoR will continue working closely together with DG EMPL on a number of topics, including through exchanges of views with SEDEC members on forthcoming European Commission proposals. The CoR will also continue to strengthen its cooperation with the OECD's Local Employment and Economic Development programme in several thematic areas.

⁷³ Mikko Aaltonen (FI/PES)

⁷⁴ SEDEC-VII/023 – *Eradicating homelessness in the European Union: The local and regional perspective* – rapporteur: Mikko Aaltonen (FI/PES) – COR-2021-03911-00-00-PAC-TRA

⁷⁵ SEDEC-VII/031 – *Pathways to School Success* – rapporteur: Inga Bērziņa, (LV/Renew Europe) – COR-2022-03901-00-01-AC-TRA

⁷⁶ SEDEC-VII/027 – [Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life \(2021-2030\)](#) – rapporteur: János Ádám Karácsony (HU/ECR) – COR-2022-00247-00-00-AC-TRA

4.3.4 The contribution of regions and cities to the New European Bauhaus

Main impact:

- More than 20 references were made to the local and regional level throughout the European Commission's Communication on the *New European Bauhaus* (NEB)⁷⁷.
- More than 50 references were made to the subnational level in the EP's report on the NEB⁷⁸ following the main messages of the CoR opinion on the NEB⁷⁹, acknowledging that local and regional authorities, being key actors in increasing public participation, must be the drivers of NEB projects and should be directly involved in the design and implementation of these projects.
- Acknowledgement of the CoR's work on the NEB by the European Commission and the European Commission's high-level roundtable on the NEB.

The CoR's main focus is on continuing to promote the role of local and regional authorities in the development and implementation of the New European Bauhaus initiative.

The CoR was involved from the very beginning in the design⁸⁰ and the implementation of the NEB and delivered its opinion on the *New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, sustainable, together*,⁸¹ at its April plenary in order to contribute to the NEB initiative in a timely manner. The CoR also organised an online workshop during the EURegionsWeek⁸² on *The role of regions and cities in the NEB* in order to promote the local and regional perspective on the NEB among the EU institutions and relevant stakeholders. In their joint welcome message, Commissioner Gabriel and Commissioner Ferreira acknowledged the CoR's work on the NEB and their support for the CoR opinion.

Thanks to previous CoR work, the European Commission's Communication⁸³ clearly recognises the role of the CoR and of local and regional governments in the NEB initiative. More than 20 references were made to role of the local and regional level throughout the Communication.

One out of four recommendations in the chapter on the NEB Community/NEB Lab is dedicated to a "Labelling strategy", an idea strongly advocated for by the CoR during the April workshop as early as 2021. The Communication also mentions that the European Commission is counting on the cooperation of the CoR in order to raise awareness and promote the debate in their constituencies, mobilise citizens and private sector actors, and share available resources to support the NEB, and that they will involve the CoR in initiatives and follow-up actions. Other points include references to the crucial role of local and regional authorities for the implementation of the NEB, the need for strong cooperation with this multilevel governance framework, the idea that innovative approaches should be tested and implemented in close cooperation with local and regional authorities, and delivering on the NEB means following a place-based approach of cohesion policy at the local and regional level. Throughout 2022,

⁷⁷ [COM\(2021\) 573](#)

⁷⁸ [Report on the New European Bauhaus | A9-0213/2022 | European Parliament \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁷⁹ SEDEC-VII/25 – New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, Sustainable, Together – rapporteur: Kieran McCarthy (IE/EA) – COR-2021-05640-00-01-AC-TRA

⁸⁰ The CoR members and their regions contributed actively to the design phase of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative in 2021 during the high-level event on 14 April 2021, with the participation of Commissioners Gabriel and Ferreira.

⁸¹ SEDEC-VII/25 – New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, Sustainable, Together – rapporteur: Kieran McCarthy (IE/EA) – COR-2021-05640-00-01-AC-TRA

⁸² October 2022

⁸³ COM(2021) 573 final

the CoR worked in close collaboration with one member of the European Commission's high-level roundtable on the NEB, striving to promote the local and regional perspective of the NEB with a view to achieving further impact.

The European Parliament's report on the NEB⁸⁴ directly refers to the importance of local and regional authorities in relation to the implementation of the NEB and mentions the subnational level more than 50 times in the final texts. The main political messages of the CoR opinion on the NEB were distilled in the EP report. The main points in relation to the local and regional level could be summarised as follows:

- insists that the NEB must create guidelines for the Member States, including local and regional authorities, for its implementation, and that it must promote the participation and connection of all stakeholders, including local and regional governments;
- invites the European Commission and the Member States to encourage the direct involvement of local and regional authorities in the design and implementation of projects;
- urges local and regional authorities to investigate how local cultural institutions can benefit from implementing the NEB principles;
- emphasises the importance of more flexibility for local and regional authorities to experiment with NEB projects;
- highlights that local and regional authorities should play a key role in the development and co-financing of NEB projects;
- acknowledges the potential of the NEB, which can be used by local authorities and regions to bolster social, economic and territorial cohesion, and stresses the importance of the multilevel governance principle and all regions, including peripheral urban areas, cross-border areas, areas affected by the industrial transition, and regions that suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps, such as less-populated, rural and mountain areas, islands and outermost regions;
- emphasises that stakeholders such as local and regional authorities, which are key actors in increasing public participation, must be the drivers of NEB projects.

Acknowledging the CoR's strong interest in the NEB, the first yearly monitoring report of the Joint Action Plan between the CoR, the European Commission's Directorates for Education and Culture and for Research and Innovation, and the Joint Research Centre (JRC),⁸⁵ stipulates that the JRC will continue to involve the local and regional level in the further development of the NEB and counts on the CoR to raise awareness via its members throughout Europe's regions and cities.

In 2022, the CoR initiated its cooperation with the Culture and Creativity Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC), the newest KIC of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), by identifying possible ways of collaborating as well as further synergies, particularly with regard to NEB-related initiatives proposed by the CoR in the NEB opinion, such as the voucher scheme.

The CoR rapporteur on the NEB was invited to participate in the NEB Festival as keynote speaker, while the European Commission once again acknowledged the CoR's supporting role for the NEB initiative.

⁸⁴ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2022-0213_EN.html

⁸⁵ https://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Documents/SEDEC/Action%20Plan%20EC%20CoR_yearly_monitoring_final.pdf

To follow up on the role of cities and regions in the development and implementation of the NEB, the CoR aims to further improve its impact in the field. To support it, the institution has commissioned a study, to be delivered in June 2023, and wishes to organise a territorial impact assessment on the NEB in 2023.

4.3.5 Rural development

Main impact:

- The **European Commission included rural proofing in its internal guidelines** for impact assessments on new legislative proposals.
- **Joint NAT-EP RUMRA seminar** under the Czech Council presidency on *Community-led Local Development and Smart Villages as Innovative Tools for Effective Development of Rural Areas*.
- The Rural Pact launch conference was a first step towards a governance mechanism for rural issues: the **CoR** was represented in the high-level panels and organised a workshop, and **is now involved in the working group shaping Rural Pact governance**.

➤ **Outcomes**

- The European Commission included rural proofing in its internal guidelines for impact assessments on new legislative proposals.
- Rural Pact launch conference on 15-16 June 2022 became a first step towards a governance mechanism for rural issues: the CoR was represented in the high-level panels and organised a workshop, and is now involved in the working group shaping Rural Pact governance.
- The CoR further developed cooperation with competent EP bodies (Joint NAT-EP RUMRA seminar under the Czech Council presidency on *Community-led Local Development and Smart Villages as Innovative Tools for Effective Development of Rural Areas*; Joint EP AGRI-REGI hearing where the CoR opinion on the *Long-term vision for rural areas*⁸⁶ was presented).
- The CoR has started to mainstream rural specificities in opinions on all relevant policies, from demographic trends to digitalisation, education and social impacts of the green transition. The example could be close interaction between NAT and COTER in view of the opinions on the *8th Cohesion Report* and on *Small Urban Areas*.
- Beyond its consultative work, the CoR/NAT collaborated with the ENRD thematic group on the long-term vision for rural areas, the OECD Working Party on Rural Policy, the EIB, UNESCO, the European Rural Parliament, and national rural parliaments.

➤ **Building future impact**

Within the CoR, the focus in 2023 will be on promoting the needs and potential of rural areas in the various policy fields relevant to LRAs.

4.3.6 Sustainable transport

Main impact:

⁸⁶ NAT-VII/021 – A Long-term vision for the EU's rural areas – rapporteur: Juan Manuel Moreno Bonilla (ES/EPP) – COR-2022-02951-00-00-AC-TRA

- Building the **Automotive Regions Alliance** (ARA) in the first half of 2022 and launching the initiative with a political declaration of the ARA at the June CoR plenary. Co-organising the first political meeting of regional presidents of the ARA on 17 November 2022 in Leipzig.
- **All key positions and demands of the CoR opinion⁸⁷** on the strengthening of CO₂ emission performance standards for cars and vans were **included in the European Parliament's report**, which was adopted at its first reading on 8 June 2022.
- Legal engagement of the CoR in the final text of the Regulation to "strengthen the CO₂ emission performance standards for new passenger cars and vans".
- More than 20 points from the CoR's opinion on the *New Urban Mobility Framework*, also adopted at the October 2022 plenary, were taken up in amendments tabled by MEPs to the report of the TRAN Committee⁸⁸ and the report of the REGI Committee⁸⁹.
- Inclusion of the just transition mechanism and a reference to the CoR as a key partner in the final legal text of the CO₂ Emission Standards Regulation.
- The CoR rapporteur on the revision of the **trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) Guidelines⁹⁰** discussed the CoR positions on the proposed revision in key **interinstitutional meetings** (like the Connecting-Europe-Days in Lyon during the interinstitutional session with Council, Parliament and Member States or at the EP TRAN Committee).

Achieving the **decarbonisation of transport** in the light of the Paris Climate Agreement and the European Green Deal is the main objective for all transport modes and has a direct impact on LRAs in view of their overall responsibility for the operation of transport services on their territories. The decarbonisation process will mean a profound transformation of the European mobility system. This transformation will be felt in different ways in different parts of the transport sector, notably in the sector that contributes by far the most to CO₂ emissions: passenger cars and vans. Zero-emission road transport and the end of the internal combustion engine will affect the automotive ecosystem in the regions substantially and will need to be accompanied by a "just transition" mechanism. The public transport sector will also need to undergo a major transformation in the coming years to accommodate the modal shift targets set out under the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Strategy. The step-changes required in terms of increased capacity, multimodality and integrated ticketing, urban planning, and allocation of road space will necessitate a renewed approach to multilevel governance and present a considerable funding challenge for LRAs.

The CoR addressed the transformation of the automotive sector in its opinion on the legislative proposals of the European Commission concerning the transformation of the road transport system (*Towards zero emission road transport⁹¹*) in the areas of alternative fuel infrastructure deployment and CO₂ emission standards for cars and light vans. The opinion on these legislative files was adopted in January 2022 and **called for a just transition mechanism for automotive regions**, including budgetary and policy support measures. This call was echoed by the **Automotive Regions Alliance** (ARA) – a political network of regions with a strong automotive and supply industry sector which will be affected

⁸⁷ COTER-VII/15 – Towards zero emission road transport: Deploying alternative fuels infrastructure and strengthening CO₂ emission performance standards – rapporteur: Adrian Ovidiu Teban (RO/EPP) – COR-2021-04913-00-00-AC-TRA

⁸⁸ Amendments 1-344 – Draft report on The New EU Urban Mobility Framework | TRAN_AM(2022)737364 | European Parliament (europa.eu)

⁸⁹ Amendments 1-344 – Draft report on The New EU Urban Mobility Framework | TRAN_AM(2022)737364 | European Parliament (europa.eu)

⁹⁰ COTER-VII/019 – Guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) – rapporteur: Isabelle Boudineau (FR/PES) – COR-2022-01228-00-00-AC-TRA

⁹¹ COTER-VII/15 – Towards zero emission road transport: Deploying alternative fuels infrastructure and strengthening CO₂ emission performance standards – rapporteur: Adrian Ovidiu Teban (RO/EPP) – COR-2021-04913-00-00-AC-TRA

by the transition towards zero-emission road transport – which was launched at the initiative of the CoR's COTER commission. One of the key impacts the CoR and the Automotive Regions Alliance have achieved is the inclusion of the just transition mechanism in the final legal text of the CO₂ Emission Standards Regulation. It identifies the ARA/CoR as the key partner that needs to be consulted by the European Commission when defining the needs for this mechanism.

All key positions and demands of the CoR opinion⁹² on the strengthening of CO₂ emission performance standards for cars and vans **were included in the European Parliament's report**, which was adopted at its first reading on 8 June 2022. Both the CoR and the EP stress that zero-emission road transport cannot be achieved without just transition measures for the automotive industry and regions, based on territorial impact assessment and social and multilevel dialogue. Both stressed that it needs to be supported by dedicated funding lines and policy measures. The final legal text recognises this need for a just transition and provides for statutory involvement of the CoR and the ARA in the preparation of needs and financial gaps assessment for a just transition (to be done by the end of 2025 by the European Commission). In the final text, agreed in the trilogue negotiations between the European co-legislators, the European Commission was asked to further assess the territorial impact and the needs and funding gaps in order to ensure a just transition for automotive regions. This report is due by the end of 2025 and the European Commission is legally obliged to "build on ongoing initiatives such as [...] the Automotive Regions Alliance of the Committee of the Regions". The CoR will therefore be a key player in managing a just transition pathway for automotive regions.

The transformation of the public transport sector was addressed by the CoR over the course of 2022 in the context of its opinion on the European Commission's New Urban Mobility Framework⁹³. This allowed the CoR to further develop its close cooperation with the European Commission (DG MOVE), members of the European Parliament's TRAN and REGI Committees, key sectoral stakeholders, and the EU Mission on Smart and Climate-Neutral Cities, leading not only to increased visibility of the CoR in this important policy area, including through staging the launch event, but also to increased awareness among CoR members of funding calls under this Horizon mission.

Following close **cooperation with the EP** (TRAN Committee) shadow rapporteurs in conjunction with the opinion on the *New Urban Mobility Framework* and with the REGI Committee (participation of the CoR rapporteur in the REGI meeting), more than 20 points were taken up from the CoR opinion in the amendments tabled by the TRAN and REGI Committees, relating to aspects such as affordability of public transport, feasibility of free public transport schemes, and EU support for on-demand public transport in rural areas.

The CoR was invited by the European Commission to take part as an **observer in the reformed Expert Group on Urban Mobility** (EGUM), which is the European Commission's Member State expert group, now enlarged to include a limited number of representatives of local and regional authorities, and will be the key expert group consulted on the development of the series of deliverables announced under the New Urban Mobility Framework over the years ahead.

The **infrastructure aspect of transport** is a key lever for ensuring future sustainable transport. The **revision of the TEN-T Guidelines Regulation** as the key enabler for sustainable and low- and zero

⁹² COTER-VII/15 – Towards zero emission road transport: Deploying alternative fuels infrastructure and strengthening CO₂ emission performance standards – rapporteur: Adrian Ovidiu Teban (RO/EPP) – COR-2021-04913-00-00-AC-TRA

⁹³ COTER-VII-020 – The new Urban Mobility Framework – rapporteur Linda Gaasch (LU/The Greens) – COR-2022-00952-00-01-AC-TRA

emission mobility has been highlighted by the COTER rapporteur⁹⁴. Sustainable transport infrastructure is the backbone of the internal market and provides for connectivity of all regions. It guarantees territorial and social cohesion. The better integration of "urban nodes" into the TEN-T has been a demand of the CoR and is included as one of the key aspects in the new guidelines. The CoR rapporteur presented the CoR positions in at the interinstitutional conference of the Connecting-Europe-Days in Lyon in June 2022 and EP TRAN Committee in October 2022.

Also the Russian war in Ukraine has impacted on the aspect of transport and infrastructure security. The revised proposal of the European Commission, reflecting the war in Ukraine and addressing this from a transport infrastructure point of view has been unanimously welcomed by the CoR opinion.

The CoR will continue to focus on the mobility transformation in order to ensure a just transition, as the end of the internal combustion engine will have a huge impact on the regional ecosystems in regions that host the automotive and supply industries. It will also continue to work to ensure mobility for all and to address transport poverty. Urban mobility and resilience will therefore continue to be a high priority for the institution.

⁹⁴ COTER-VII/019 – Guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) – rapporteur: Isabelle Boudineau (FR/PES) – COR-2022-01228-00-00-AC-TRA

5. Conclusions – Outlook

2022 marked the third year of the implementation of the CoR's five-year political mandate. The **mid-term renewal of the political leadership** took place successfully at its June plenary session.

This was preceded a month earlier by the publication of the **final report of the Conference on the Future of Europe**, which endorsed many priorities of the local and regional level, including a dedicated proposal on subsidiarity. In 2023, the CoR's involvement in the implementation of the proposals of the Conference on the Future of Europe will continue across all nine thematic policy areas. The CoR will also develop its strategy for the **upcoming European elections** and the new methods for citizens' panel consultations that the European Commission is implementing.

The Marseille summit and its manifesto had a major impact on the position of the delegation of local and regional representatives at the Conference on the Future of Europe and paved the way for the COFE conclusions asking for an upgraded role for the CoR within the EU's institutional architecture.

The year was marked by **Russia's war against Ukraine**, which had an impact in the EU on food and energy prices, on top of the immense human suffering for the local population. Through several initiatives, the CoR supported Ukrainian municipalities and regions. This was also evident **in the third edition of the EU Annual Report on the State of Regions and Cities 2022**, in which 76% of local politicians stated that their local or regional authority was receiving refugees from Ukraine and at least half of respondents said that their local or regional authority was sending material aid to Ukraine. Overall, the third edition of the EU Annual Report on the State of Regions and Cities 2022 presented, as always, a consistent and coherent assessment of the state of the local and regional level in the EU.

This year's **Impact Report shows the highlighted role of the CoR** in addressing topics such as the European Year of Youth, the legacy of which will continue with the Charter on Youth and Democracy, feeding into 2023's European Year of Skills. The local and regional level contributed to topics such as COP27, the implementation of the European Green Deal, the legislative process of competition, and digitalisation-related topics such as the DSA and DMA, as well as health and migration, to name just a few.

The European Week of Regions and Cities offered a crucial opportunity to look at cohesion policy's main achievements over the past two decades, showcasing its impact on citizens' quality of life and the social and economic convergence across European regions. It helped to launch a new Cohesion Alliance's commitment to reinforce cohesion policy and increase the territorial impact of all EU investments in order to make them fit for Europe's long-term challenges, and stressed the importance of the principle "do not harm to cohesion" in particular in a context where flexibility has been used to cope with COVID and war-related emergencies.

The Young Elected Politicians (YEP) programme and the CoR Network of Regional and Local EU Councilors have been steadily growing in terms of their participation, quality and outreach, thus providing an impactful contribution to the political objective of reaching out to the over 1.2 million local and regional politicians across the EU. The CoR will work to make this impact even more important in the pre-election year of 2023.

Outreach activities vis-à-vis the other EU institutions, the cooperation with the European associations of local and regional authorities, the enhanced cooperation between rapporteurs across all six CoR commissions in cases where initiatives affect multiple policy areas, and the collaboration with key

partners such as the EPRS, ESPON, the JRC and the OECD, contributed positively to legislative work in 2022 and will continue to do so in 2023. In 2023, it will be important to maintain this positive dynamic, particularly through measures aiming to:

- strengthen **cooperation between rapporteurs and across CoR commissions**, given the fact that many policy initiatives (such as the Green Deal or the digital transition) affect many policy areas;
- continue our **outreach activities vis-a-vis the EU institutions**;
- reinforce our efforts to **highlight the territorial impacts of EU policies** and the need to ensure that no region is left behind;
- **strengthen the evidence base of our consultative work** through strengthened collaboration with key partners such as the EPRS, ESPON, the JRC or the OECD, to name but a few;
- ensure the quality and consistency of the EU Report on the State of Regions and Cities 2022 in order to make it more appealing to the media and **increase efforts to maximise its political impact after its release**;
- continue to work with the European Commission, EU and national associations, and all partners that ensure **successful implementation of the EURegionsWeek**;
- **improve the outreach-oriented activities** aimed at triggering EU debate at local and regional level via CoR members, YEPs and EU councillors.

Among the most impactful communication activities in 2022, the following can be highlighted:

Marseille Summit

On 3 and 4 March 2022, 1 800 participating local and regional politicians from across the EU attended **the CoR's 9th European Summit of Regions and Cities in Marseille, France**. Its 12-point manifesto of local and regional leaders **had a major impact on the position of the delegation of local and regional representatives at the Conference on the Future of Europe and paved the way for the COFE conclusions** asking for an upgraded role for the CoR within the EU institutional architecture. The summit took place just days after the Russian invasion of Ukraine and its agenda was rescheduled to convey EU regions' and cities' solidarity with Ukraine's people and its LRAs. Ukrainian local leaders were able to remotely attend a number of sessions to express their needs and concerns.

European Week of Regions and Cities

The European Week of Regions and Cities celebrated its 20 anniversary **and marked the first ever hybrid edition and an important comeback in Brussels after the pandemic, gathering over 20 000 participants online and in person**. It offered the opportunity to look back at cohesion policy's main achievements over the past two decades and discuss the challenges ahead. **The EURegionsWeek featured 301 sessions with 528 European, national, regional and local partners. The opening in the European Parliament hemicycle with President Roberta Metsola gather over 3 000 participants onsite and online**, a success in terms of impact and visibility for the CoR.

EU Annual Report on the State of Regions and Cities

The EU Report on the State of Regions and Cities, released on 11 October 2022, was accompanied by a major communication and media campaign that triggered media and political interest at EU, national, regional and local level (**over 1770 CoR media mentions and co-signed op-eds in 9 Member States**). The ad hoc **IPSOS Regional Barometer exercise, carried out in parallel, reached out to over 2000 local and regional leaders across Europe** to gather their views on key topics and was widely covered in media terms.

Young Elected Politicians programme

The CoR's Young Elected Politicians (YEP) programme was further developed: in 2022, an **additional 160 young politicians were selected to participate in the programme, bringing the total number to 680**. In 2022, 246 individual politicians were reached (+34% compared to 2021). Overall, there were **775** participants in all YEP events (+15% compared to 2021). **155** YEPs took advantage of the possibility of speaking during CoR activities (events, newsletter, social media, videos, etc.). Their participation in the EU Regions Week and the work done for the Charter on Youth and Democracy were key highlights of this programme.

Network of Regional and Local EU Councillors

In 2022, the **Network of Regional and Local EU Councillors**, launched in May 2021, grew steadily, **reaching 2032 participants in December**. Local and regional politicians from all 27 EU Member States registered, the most represented countries being Romania, Germany, Spain, Italy and France; about 30% of the registered councillors were women.

Local dialogues

In the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe, the CoR members organised 132 local dialogues to ensure that the COFE genuinely and concretely involved local communities. These outreach initiatives contributed to highlight the need for a stronger LRAs role within the European institutional architecture.

In 2022, the revised **Rules of Procedures (RoP) of the CoR** entered into force, changing some aspects of its work and allowing for better coverage of cross-cutting topics, for instance through the nomination of shadow rapporteurs or the creation of special cross-commission working groups. Additionally, reporting on the follow-up to opinions as well as on the CoR's impact was reinforced. In 2023, the CoR will also seek to reinforce interinstitutional cooperation by relaunching the process to revise its cooperation agreements with the European Commission and the European Parliament, and will continue to work closely with the other EU institutions on the follow-up to the Conference on the Future of Europe. The new RoP envisages a more direct link between own-initiative proposals and the CoR's strategic planning. These proposals should focus not only on political objectives, but also on the expected political impact. A new revision procedure for the RoP is also expected in 2023 to look first and foremost at urgent changes relating to the possibility of holding certain meetings remotely in non-exceptional circumstances, and could, as a second step, consider other improvements.

The secretary-general's Going for IMPact! strategy will be pursued in 2023 with a view to modernising the CoR administration. Planned actions include:

- optimising budget use in support of members' activities;
- better administrative support for communication on opinions (visualisation, factsheets, etc.);
- continued simplification of the administrative environment and cutting red tape, including a reduction in the number of rules and procedures;
- continuing to develop the Convergence project, which aims for a simplified, more purposeful administrative framework, reducing overlap and enhancing synergies between the different instruments relating to the following administrative instruments: Strategic Management Plan, Annual Operational Working Plan (AOWP), Annual Activity Report, Risk Management, Business Continuity and Annual Impact Report.;
- better monitoring and analysis of the CoR's performance;

- gradual equipment of all CoR meeting rooms for hybrid meetings;
- introduction of the advanced electronic signature and streamlining of best practices with regard to its implementation;
- optimising IT and logistics governance;
- possible synergies with other EU institutions in the area of buildings, libraries and salaries;
- modernising the HR framework and hybrid ways of working by: further developing the policy on mobility and talent management, promoting the use of video training to save time for staff giving training and to allow staff to follow training when it suits them, and developing a "new ways of working" policy, together with the EESC, to ensure its cost-effective implementation.
- developing a CoR in-house research policy supporting rapporteurs and foresight;
- implementing the Green Deal in the CoR as an organisation;
- further digitalising the CoR's processes and environment, including:
 - consolidating initiatives into permanent structures to ensure smart and efficient digitalisation of the processes and the standardisation of digital awareness among staff by 2023, in particular the Digital Workplace pilot project (jointly with the EESC), aimed at establishing and sharing best practices with digital collaboration tools, which will become the Digital Workplace Network, and Task Force 8 on Digital Strategy, which will become the Digital CoR – Community of Practice;
 - promoting the digital autonomy of services by enabling them to digitalise simple administrative processes based on forms;
 - digitalising workflows for the approval of all documents for statutory meetings;
 - further digitalising the management of financial actors;
 - further developing the Convergence platform, in order to facilitate the encoding of contributions relating to planning and reporting processes, risk management and business continuity and digitalising internal approvals, quality checks and the consolidation of final reports, while allowing for an overview of all instruments, in order to see the links between the various elements or to develop ad hoc reports or analyses. Removing the administrative burden will allow services to focus on content;
 - optimising the follow-up of implementing/mitigating actions derived from the AOWP, the risks, exception reports and ex-post recommendations through the monitoring tool integrated into the Convergence platform.

In 2023, it will also be important to combine the long-term political priorities of the CoR, which were set at the beginning of the mandate, with regular dialogue and cooperation with the other EU institutions.

2023 will be a crucial year for the European Union and its local and regional authorities. It will be marked by the enormous efforts required in the face of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, rising energy prices and the knock-on effects on the economy, while defending Europe's democratic values and pursuing its long-term goals and interests, such as successfully achieving climate neutrality by 2050, shaping Europe's digital future, strengthening its unique social market economy, building a Union of prosperity, and making Europe stronger in the world.

Against this background, the CoR has adapted its institutional approach to focus on the development and implementation of results-oriented planning, with a clear objective to increase the relevance and visibility of the CoR's political action in the interinstitutional context. For this, the work programmes of the CoR commissions set out the specific objectives in each policy area and put forward a strategy to channel the CoR's political messages towards the other EU institutions.

These measures should lead to the CoR opinions having a stronger impact overall.

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1: List of opinions included in this report

CIVEX

- CIVEX-VII/007 – Better Regulation – rapporteur: Piero Mauro Zanin (IT/EPP) – COR-2021-04071-00-00-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/018 – The role of EU cities and regions in rebuilding Ukraine – rapporteur: Dario Nardella (IT/PES) – COR-2022-04172-00-00-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/005 – New Pact on Migration and Asylum – rapporteur: Antje Grotheer (DE/PES) – COR-2020-04843-00-01-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/014 – Revised Schengen Area Governance – rapporteur: Antje Grotheer (DE/PES) – COR-2022-01129-00-01-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/013– Reinforcing democracy and integrity of elections – rapporteur: Vincenzo Bianco (IT/PES) – COR-2022-01120-00-02-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/016 – The CoR's role in boosting subnational climate diplomacy ahead of COP27 and COP28 – rapporteur: Olgierd Geblewicz (PL/EPP) – COR-2022-02284-00-01-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/015 – Extending the list of EU crimes to hate speech and hate crimes – rapporteur: Aleksandra Dulkiewicz (PL/EPP) – COR-2022-01407-00-00-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/017 – Legal migration – Attracting skills and talent to the EU – rapporteur: Giuseppe Varacalli (IT/Renew Europe) – COR-2022-03942-00-00-AC-TRA

COTER

- COTER-VII/015 – Towards zero emission road transport: Deploying alternative fuels infrastructure and strengthening CO2 emission performance standards – rapporteur: Adrian Teban (RO/EPP) – COR-2021-04913-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/016 – Eighth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion – rapporteur: Nathalie Sarrabezolles (FR/PES) – COR-2022-00729-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/019 - Guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) – rapporteur: Isabelle Boudineau (FR/PES) - COR-2022-01228-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII-020 – The new Urban Mobility Framework – rapporteur: Linda Gaasch (LU/The Greens) – COR-2022-00952-00-01-AC-TRA

ECON

- ECON-VII/018 – Implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility – rapporteur: Rob Jonkman (NL/ECR) – COR-2021-03682-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/012 – The Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act – rapporteur: Rodi Kratsa (EL/EPP) – COR-2020-05356-00-02-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/016 – Protecting Industrial and Craft Geographical Indications in the European Union – rapporteur: Martine Pinville (FR/PES) – COR-2021-02689-00-00-AC-TRA

ENVE

- ENVE-VII/012 – 8th Environment Action Programme – rapporteur: Dimitrios Karnavos (GR/EPP) – COR-2020-05234-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/019 – EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil – rapporteur: Marieke Schouten (NL/The Greens) – COR-2021-03178-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/020 – Local and regional authorities accelerating the implementation of the EU Pollinators Initiative – rapporteur: Frida Nilsson (SE/Renew Europe) – COR-2021-03508-00-00-AC-TRA
- 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) – COR-2020-00539-00-01-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/033 – EU Strategy for Sustainable Circular Economy and Textiles – rapporteur: Jean-Luca Menesini (IT/PES) – COR-2022-02926-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/031 – Towards a structural inclusion of Cities and Regions in UNFCCC COP27 – rapporteur: Alison Gilliland (IE/PES) – COR-2022-02246-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/024 – Amending the Energy Efficiency Directive to meet the new 2030 climate targets – rapporteur: Rafał Kazimierz Trzaskowski (PL/EPP) – COR-2021-04548-00-01-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/023 – Amending the Renewable Energy Directive to meet the new 2030 climate targets – rapporteur: Andries Gryffroy (BE/EA) – COR-2021-04547-00-01-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/026 – Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) – rapporteur: André VIOLA (FR/PES) – COR-2022-00417-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/021 – Making ETS and CBAM work for EU cities and regions – rapporteur: Peter Kurz (DE/PES) – COR-2021-04546-00-01-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/022 – Towards a socially fair implementation of the Green Deal – rapporteur: Csaba Borboly (RO/EPP) – COR-2021-04801-00-01-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/025 – Revision of LULUCF and Effort Sharing regulations – rapporteur: Åsa Ågren Wikström (SE/EPP) – COR-2022-00061-00-01-AC-TRA

NAT

- NAT-VII/023 – Health Emergency preparedness and Response Authority – rapporteur: Christophe Clergeau (FR/PES) – COR-2022-02296-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/021 – A Long-term vision for the EU's rural areas – rapporteur: Juan Manuel Moreno Bonilla (ES/EPP) – COR-2022-02951-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/028 – European Health Data Space – rapporteur: Daniela Cîmpean (RO/EPP) –

SEDEC

- SEDEC-VII/023 – Eradicating homelessness in the European Union: The local and regional perspective – rapporteur: Mikko Aaltonen (FI/PES) – COR-2021-03911-00-00-PAC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/25 – New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, Sustainable, Together – rapporteur: Kieran McCarthy (IE/EA) – COR-2021-05640-00-01-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/026 – European Missions – rapporteur: Markku Markkula (FI/EPP) – COR-2021-05656-00-01-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/027 – Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life (2021-2030) – rapporteur: János Ádám Karácsony (HU/ECR) – COR-2022-00247-00-00-AC-TRA

- SEDEC-VII/028 – Improving working conditions in platform work – rapporteur: Yonnec Polet (BE/PES) – COR-2022-00155-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/029 – European Strategy for Universities – rapporteur: Emil Boc (RO/EPP) – COR-2022-00328-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/0030 – The Future of Youth Policy in the EU – rapporteur: Tine Radinja (SI/The Greens) – COR-2022-02752-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/031 – Pathways to School Success – rapporteur: Inga Bērziņa (LV/Renew Europe) – COR-2022-03901-00-01-AC-TRA

RESOLUTIONS

- RESOL-VII/018 – Resolution on the proposal for a European Year of Youth – COR-2021-05388-00-00-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VII/019 – Resolution on the Conference of the Future of Europe – COR-2021-06503-00-01-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VII/020 – Resolution on the EU regions and cities' support for Ukraine – COR-2022-01808-00-01-RES-TRA

6.2 Appendix 2: List of opinions adopted in 2022

CIVEX

- CIVEX-VII/011 – Strengthening the EU-UK relationship at subnational level and remedying the territorial impact of the UK's withdrawal from the EU – rapporteur: Michael Murphy (IE/EPP) – COR-2022-00108-00-01-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/012 – Enlargement package 2021 – rapporteur: Anna Magyar (HU/ECR) – COR-2022-00109-00-00-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/013 – Reinforcing democracy and integrity of elections – rapporteur: Vincenzo Bianco (IT/PES) – COR-2022-01120-00-02-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/014 – Revised Schengen Area Governance – rapporteur: Antje Grotheer (DE/PES) – COR-2022-01129-00-01-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/015 – Extending the list of EU crimes to hate speech and hate crimes – rapporteur: Aleksandra Dulkiewicz (PL/EPP) – COR-2022-01407-00-00-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/016 – The CoR's role in boosting subnational climate diplomacy ahead of COP27 and COP28 – rapporteur: Olgierd Geblewicz (PL/EPP) – COR-2022-02284-00-01-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/017 – Legal migration. Attracting skills and talent to the EU – rapporteur: Giuseppe Varacalli (IT/Renew Europe) – COR-2022-03942-00-00-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/018 – The role of EU cities and regions in rebuilding Ukraine – rapporteur: Dario Nardella (IT/PES) – COR-2022-04172-00-00-AC-TRA

COTER

- COTER-VII/013 – Towards a macro-regional strategy in the Mediterranean – rapporteur: Nikola Dobroslavić (HR/EPP) – COR-2022-02167-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/15 – Towards zero emission road transport: Deploying alternative fuels infrastructure and strengthening CO2 emission performance standards – rapporteur: Adrian Ovidiu Teban (RO/EPP) – COR-2021-04913-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/016 – 8th report on economic, social and territorial cohesion – rapporteur: Nathalie Sarrabezolles (FR/PES) – COR-2022-00729-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/017 – The new EU Arctic strategy – rapporteur: Mirja Vehkaperä (FI/Renew Europe) – COR-2021-06509-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/018 – Small urban areas as key actors to manage a just transition – rapporteur: Kieran McCarthy (IE/EA) – COR-2022-00136-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/019 – Guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) – rapporteur: Isabelle Boudineau (FR/PES) – COR-2022-01228-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/020 – The New EU Urban Mobility Framework – rapporteur: Linda Gaasch (LU/The Greens) – COR-2022-00952-00-01-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/021 – The next generation of own resources for the EU budget – rapporteur: Nathalie Sarrabezolles (FR/PES) – COR-2022-01229-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/022 – Enhancing cohesion policy support for regions with geographic and demographic handicaps – rapporteur: Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis (FR/EA) – COR-2022-02959-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/024 – Just and Sustainable Transition in the context of the coal and energy intensive regions – rapporteur: Sari Rautio (FI/EPP) – COR-2022-04074-00-00-AC-TRA

ECON

- ECON-VII/020 – The EU economy after COVID-19: implications for economic governance – rapporteur: Elio Di Rupo (BE/PES) – COR-2022-00194-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/021 – Digital Cohesion – rapporteur: Gaetano Armao (IT/EPP) – COR-2022-00195-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/022 – Proposal for a Council Directive on ensuring a global minimum level of taxation for multinational groups in the Union – rapporteur: Federico Borgna (IT/PES) – COR-2022-01727-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/023 – European Chips Act to strengthen the European semiconductor ecosystem – rapporteur: Thomas Gottfried Schmidt (DE/EPP) – COR-2022-01960-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/024 – EU Data Act – rapporteur: Anne Karjalainen (FI/PES) – COR-2022-01959-00-01-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/025 – Protecting Industrial and Craft Geographical Indications in the European Union (revised) – rapporteur: Martine Pinville (FR/PES) – COR-2022-02982-00-02-AC-TRA

ENVE

- ENVE-VII/018 – Gender equality and Climate change: towards mainstreaming the gender perspective in the European Green Deal – rapporteur: Kata Tüttö (HU/PES) – COR-2021-02509-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/019 – EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil – rapporteur: Marieke Schouten (NL/The Greens) – COR-2021-03178-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/020 – Local and regional authorities accelerating the implementation of the EU Pollinators Initiative – rapporteur: Frida Nilsson (SE/Renew Europe) – COR-2021-03508-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/021 – Making ETS and CBAM work for EU cities and regions – rapporteur: Peter Kurz (DE/PES) – COR-2021-04546-00-01-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/022 – Towards a socially fair implementation of the Green Deal – rapporteur: Csaba Borboly (RO/EPP) – COR-2021-04801-00-01-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/023 – Amending the Renewable Energy Directive to meet the new 2030 climate targets – rapporteur: Andries Gryffroy (BE/EA) – COR-2021-04547-00-01-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/024 – Amending the Energy Efficiency Directive to meet the new 2030 climate targets – rapporteur: Rafał Kazimierz Trzaskowski (PL/EPP) – COR-2021-04548-00-01-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/025 – Revision of LULUCF and Effort Sharing regulations – rapporteur: Åsa Ågren Wikström (SE/EPP) – COR-2022-00061-00-01-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/026 – Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) – rapporteur: André VIOLA (FR/PES) – COR-2022-00417-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/027 – Ecological transition – What balance between social acceptability and environmental imperatives from the point of view of cities and regions with a view to building resilient communities? – rapporteur: Hanna Zdanowska (PL/EPP) – COR-2022-00104-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/028 – Ecological transition – What balance between social acceptability and environmental imperatives from the point of view of cities and regions with a view to building resilient communities? – rapporteur: Vincent Chauvet (FR/Renew Europe) – COR-2022-00105-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/029 – Ecological transition – Energy package on gas, hydrogen and methane emissions – rapporteur: Jakub Piotr Chełstowski (PL/ECR) – COR-2022-01522-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/031 – Towards a structural inclusion of Cities and Regions in UNFCCC COP27 – rapporteur: Alison Gilliland (IE/PES) – COR-2022-02246-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/032 – Revision of Industrial Emissions Directive – rapporteur: Jean-Noël Verfaillie (FR/Renew Europe) – COR-2022-02951-00-00-AC-TRA

- ENVE-VII/033 – EU Strategy for Sustainable Circular Economy and Textiles – rapporteur: Jean-Luca Menesini (IT/PES) – COR-2022-02926-00-00-AC-TRA

NAT

- NAT-VII/021 – A Long-term vision for the EU's rural areas – rapporteur: Juan Manuel Moreno Bonilla (ES/EPP) – COR-2022-02951-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/022 – Future EU state aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas – rapporteur: Guido Milana (IT/PES) – COR-2022-02295-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/023 – Health Emergency preparedness and Response Authority – rapporteur: Christophe Clergeau (FR/PES) – COR-2022-02296-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/024 – EU Forest Strategy for 2030 – rapporteur: Joan Calabuig Rull (ES/PES) – COR-2022-02294-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/025 – Reform of the geographical indications system – rapporteur: Karine Gloanec-Maurin (FR/PES) – COR-2022-03736-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/028 – Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food system – rapporteur: Piotr Calbecki (PL/EPP) – COR-2022-02101-00-00-AC-TRA

SEDEC

- SEDEC-VII/024 – [EU strategic framework on health and safety at work 2021-2027](#) – rapporteur: Sergio Caci (IT/EPP) – COR-2021-05555-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/025 – [New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, Sustainable, Together](#) – rapporteur: Kieran McCarthy (IE/EA) – COR-2021-05640-00-01-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/026 – [European Missions](#) – rapporteur: Markku Markkula (FI/EPP) – COR-2021-05656-00-01-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/027 – [Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life \(2021-2030\)](#) – rapporteur: János Ádám Karácsony (HU/ECR) – COR-2022-00247-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/028 – [Improving working conditions in platform work](#) – rapporteur: Yonnec Polet (BE/PES) – COR-2022-00155-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/029 – [European Strategy for Universities](#) – rapporteur: Emil Boc (RO/EPP) – COR-2022-00328-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/030 – [The Future of Youth Policy in the EU. Reflection on youth policy and youth mainstreaming in the context of the European Year of Youth 2022](#) – rapporteur: Tine Radinja (SI/The Greens) – COR-2022-02752-00-00-PA-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/031 – [Pathways to School Success](#) – rapporteur: Inga Bērziņa (LV/Renew Europe) – COR-2022-03901-00-01-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/032 – [A new innovation agenda for Europe](#) – rapporteur: Markku Markkula (FI/EPP) – COR-2022-04105-00-00-PAC-TRA

RESOLUTIONS

- RESOL-VII/019 – Resolution on the Conference of the Future of Europe – COR-2021-06503-00-01-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VII/020 – Resolution on the EU regions and cities' support for Ukraine – COR-2022-01808-00-01-RES-TRA

- RESOL-VII/021– Resolution on REPowerEU: cities and regions accelerating the energy transition – COR-2022-02627-00-00-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VII/022 – Resolution on the European Committee of the Regions' proposals regarding the European Commission Work Programme for 2023 – COR-2022-02657-00-00-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VII/023 – Resolution on the outcome and follow up of the Conference on the Future of Europe – COR-2022-02627-00-00-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VII/024 – Resolution on the State of Regions and Cities in the European Union – COR-2022-04332-00-01-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VII/025 – Resolution on the European Commission Work Programme and the CoR political priorities for 2023 – COR-2022-05222-00-00-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VII/026– Resolution on the European Year of Skills 2023 – COR-2022-05216-00-00-RES-TRA

6.3 Appendix 3: References of the 6 Committee commissions' contributions to the Impact Report 2022

Commission	Presentation of the document (meeting date)	Reference number of the document
CIVEX	17 November 2022	COR-2022-05283-00-00-TCD-TRA
COTER	23 November 2022	COR-2022-04939-00-01-TCD-TRA
ECON	7 December 2022	COR-2022-05543-00-00-TCD-TRA
ENVE	9 December 2022	COR-2022-04924-00-01-TCD-TRA
NAT	22 November 2022	COR-2022-04596-00-02-TCD-TRA
SEDEC	12 December 2022	COR-2022-05287-00-00-TCD-TRA
