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of the Regions**

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**224th MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE
REGIONS**

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ITEM 9 B

**IMPACT OF COR OPINIONS
2023 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT**

Submitted by the Secretary-General

FOR DECISION

SUMMARY

Bureau meeting: 224

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Item 9 b

Impact of CoR opinions 2023 Annual Impact Report

Type:

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

Short description:

The Annual Impact Report 2023 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
- approve the 2023 Annual Impact Report and recommend to the Plenary Assembly to adopt the report

Remarks: N/A

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Summary

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

- achievements in the EU legislative process and in general European debates (impact on preparatory or final legal texts);
- visibility for local and regional authorities in the setting of the EU's agenda;
- tangible changes in the EU's working methods, 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 2023, the CoR adopted 53 opinions and 6 resolutions, which is a slightly lower figure than in previous years given a decreasing number of referrals in the penultimate year of the European Commission's mandate.

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.

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:

- By actively engaging in high-level discussions on skills policies during the European Year of Skills, the CoR not only reinforced its position as a key stakeholder in this policy area;
- The CoR's contribution to strengthening European democracy was recognised by the European Parliament: references to enhancing the CoR role included in the EP report on Parliamentarism, European citizenship and democracy and in the AFCO committee opinion on European Union regulatory fitness and subsidiarity and proportionality;
- The Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award ceremony web-streaming was viewed 3700 times (three times the usual livestream of the plenary);
- Explicit reference to the CoR work in the first **EU Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Voluntary Review** drafted by the European Commission;
- The draft Council Conclusions took on board the CoR's line on the European Semester and also gave prominent recognition to the role of the **CoR as a key driver in boosting SDGs localisation**.
- The **2023 Young elected politicians (YEP)** programme's cohort involves 156 YEPs covering all EU member states and, for the first time, all EU candidate countries, bringing the total amount of participants in the YEP programme since its establishment to 836;
- The **Network of Regional and Local EU Councillors** has reached 3000 participants and gathered local and regional politicians from all 27 EU Member States. It is generating relevant impact by

bringing Europe closer to local communities and encouraging local and regional councillors to organise EU and CoR related activities within their regions, cities and villages.

- A great outreach to local citizens and fora at the occasion of the CoR external Bureau meetings in Kiruna (Sweden) and Logroño (Spain).
- A **Memorandum of Understanding was agreed between the CoR and the European Parliament** on Communication in the run-up and follow-up to European elections 2024, where the CoR has a key role to play from a democratic, policy and institutional point of view.
- Progress made by the CoR as regards building a more inclusive, gender-equal and fair EU, by improving gender equality, including in its own workings, by a dedicated **Gender Equality Action Plan** adopted by the Bureau on 9 October, and subsequent appointment of a special Bureau Rapporteur on the CoR Gender Equality Action Plan, Ms Sari Rautio (FI/EPP).

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

- Release of **Green Deal Going Local (GDGL) Handbook** and upscale of Members' Green Deal best practices valorisation;
- In the European Commission's (EC) proposal subsequent to the **CoR opinion on Fit 4 Future**, many of the recommendation of this opinion were taken on board. Many other points of the CoR opinion¹, reiterating points that had not been addressed in the EC's proposal, were taken up by the Council and the European Parliament;
- Strong reference to LRAs role in EU mandate for UNFCCC COP28;
- First-ever **meeting of CoR delegation with UN Secretary General Guterres** at High Level Political Forum in New York;
- Formal recognition of the CoR as key partner to implement UN COP 15 and other relevant activities on biodiversity;
- CoR activities at UNFCCC COP28 advocate for stronger inclusion of subnational governments in global climate negotiations, more ambitious nationally determined contributions, rooted in local action, and a Global Goal on Adaptation based on targeted solutions for local communities.;
- The CoR opinion on the Critical Raw Materials Package² strongly influenced the European Parliament position;
- On the Single Market Emergency Instrument, the European Parliament report adopted amendments from the CoR opinion³ with specific reference to these amendments as coming from the CoR;
- The joint Horizon Europe and Interregional Innovation Investments call on Regional Innovation Valleys was launched by the European Commission on 17 May 2023, responding to the CoR's appeal for better synergies between the regional policy funds and the Horizon programme in support of regional innovation;
- Successful follow up of the **Fit for 55 package**, including pilot action of the CoR to influence trilogues negotiations (on the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation and the Trans-European Transport Networks Guidelines);
- Several agriculture and food policy related CoR opinions were highly reported in the European, national and local press (88 articles for the CoR opinion on food security and food systems) as well as the organic awards ceremony which social media campaign generated 1 912 engagements on social media;

¹ ECON-VII/029 – Interoperable Europe Act - rapporteur: Michele Pais, (IT/ECR) - COR-2023-00152-00-00-AC-TRA

² ECON-VII-031 - Critical Raw Materials Package, rapporteur: Isodile Ries (DE/PES) COR-2023-02188-00-01-AC-TRA

³ ECON-VII/027 - Single market emergency instrument - rapporteur: Muhterem Aras, (DE/The Greens) - COR-2022-04234-00-00-AC-TRA
COR-2023-04735-15-00-NB-REF 5/60

- The CoR position in the opinion "Preparing for and dealing with crises: strengthening the resilience of the Union, its regions and cities" was largely echoed by the European Commission. One of the main calls in the opinion was for the development of the **territorial vulnerability scoreboard** in close collaboration with the European Commission in order to better understand and take account of the risks related to the vulnerabilities of local areas and populations to disasters and crises. This vulnerability dashboard was launched in November 2023;
- The agreement between the Parliament and the Council on the short-term rentals recognised the importance of timely and accurate data from the collaborative platforms and the role these have for local authorities as requested by the CoR; media highlighted how the new rules will give the city leaders better insights and more leverage to design urban development or tourism strategies. In terms of media outreach, coverage of the debate that took place in the NAT Commission meeting was extremely far-reaching extending as far as Panama and Ecuador.

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

- The own-initiative opinion on *The future of Cohesion policy post-2027*⁴ allowed the CoR, as the first institution working on the matter, to assume a **pro-active and leading role on the future of cohesion policy**. The **Council conclusions on the future of cohesion policy** adopted by the General Affairs Council on 30 November took on board many aspects that have been put forward by the (draft) CoR opinion and call for general awareness of doing no harm to cohesion in all Union policies and initiatives;
- The economic transition of many automotive regions has been addressed through the "Automotive Regions Alliance" (ARA) of the CoR and for the first time the CoR has been referred to in a legal text (Regulation (EU) 2023/851) in which the co-legislators identified the ARA and the CoR as the key partner for the EC in addressing the shortcoming of their transition planning;
- The CoR secured future support by the European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion (ESPON) on Territorial Impact Assessment in the context of the new ESPON 2030 programme;
- The Council Recommendation⁵ on developing social economy framework conditions now includes several references to the CoR opinion and to many of its key points, highlighting the potential of the social economy to generate inclusive and sustainable local growth;
- The European Parliament's New European Bauhaus (NEB) Pilot Project on a voucher scheme was an EU action initiated by the CoR. The Pilot will be implemented by the Joint Research Center partnering with the CoR;
- At the High-Level Policy Forum under the Spanish presidency, the EP rapporteur on Long-term vision for the EU's rural areas publicly acknowledged the importance of the CoR's input to her report: this report contains several CoR positions;
- For the opinions *Towards zero emission road transport*⁶ and *Guidelines for the development of the trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)*⁷ the CoR has had access to the documents of the

⁴ COTER-VII/030 – The future of Cohesion policy post-2027 – co-rapporteurs: Vasco Alves Cordeiro (PT/PES) and Emil Boc (RO/EPP) – COR-2023-02250-PAC-TRA.

⁵ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13287-2023-INIT/en/pdf>

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

interinstitutional negotiations ("trilogues") and was able to present its views in this crucial stage of the legislative process;

- The 21st edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities confirmed itself as the largest EU inter-institutional event dedicated to cohesion themes across the EU, with 8.418 registered participants on site and over 3.000 online, including some 600 elected representatives, 244 sessions and 210 workshops.

Supporting Ukraine: an overarching priority of the CoR

- CoR representing the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine participated for the first time in the 2023 London Ukraine Recovery Conference.
- The European Parliament reflected several recommendations of the CoR opinion in its report on the establishment of the Ukraine Facility.
- The CoR promoted the Summer camps for Ukrainian children initiative further by increasing coordination efforts and reaching out to partners.

In 2023, media and social media communication activities have generated a consistent impact and have maximised the visibility and credibility of the CoR. In particular, they resulted in around 12.926 media mentions. On top of the large coverage registered in regional and local media, 2023 has been marked by large quality coverage in main national and European outlets. Social media activities have also produced excellent results, 2023 of CoR's own social media posts received 45 022 engagements. The engagement gained through boosted and paid social media content had an even larger impact on the CoR's social media accounts. The CoR social networks have registered a steady growth of followers: Facebook: 59 620, Instagram: 13 633, LinkedIn: 64 202 and X: 57 267.

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. The work initiated by the the CoR impact oversight coordinator, in the person of the president of the Renew Europe group, continued in 2023.

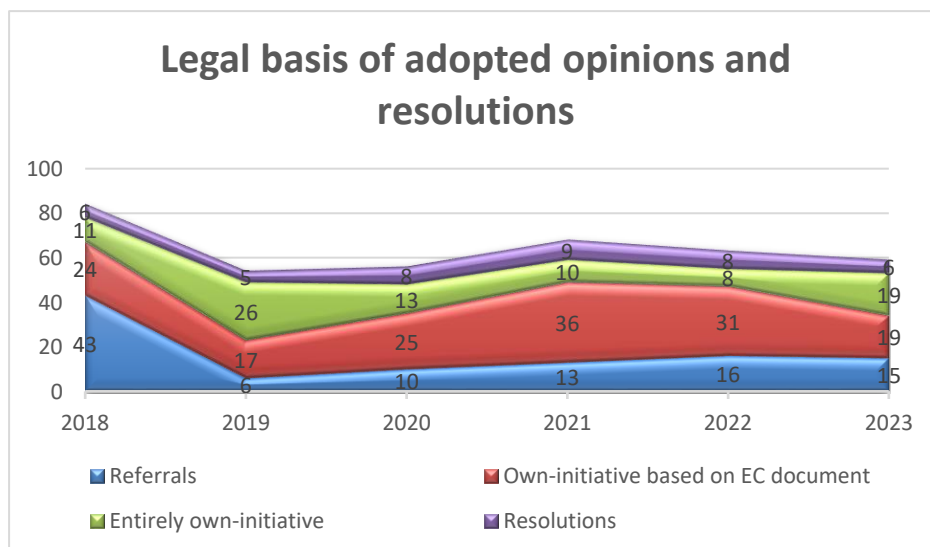
1. Introduction

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 2023, the CoR adopted a total of 6 resolutions and 53 opinions. This is slightly less than the average consultative output of the past 3 years because of reduced legislative production by the European Commission in its penultimate year of the current mandate.

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
2023	15	19	19	6	59



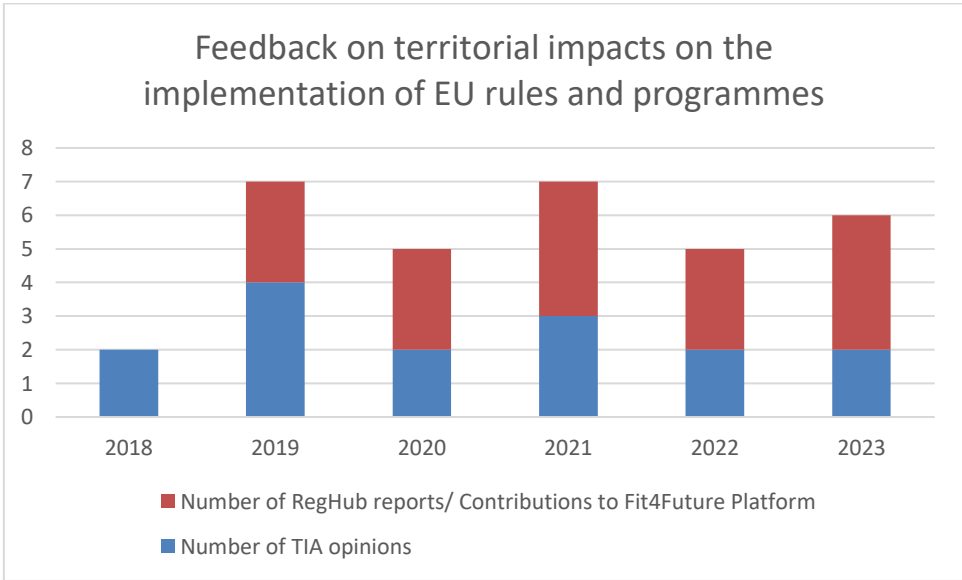
This table shows that the number of referrals based on European Commission documents (15) has remained stable compared to last year. Instead, the CoR focused very much on **38 own-initiative opinions** (half of which were based on European

Commission documents) in order to contribute to the implementation and further development of EU policies and programmes.

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.

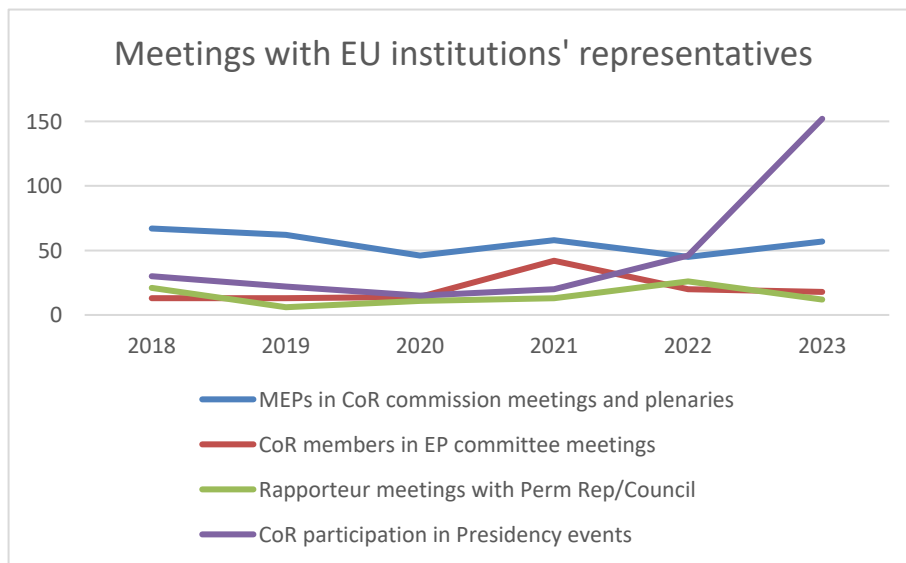
Output Indicators of the consultative works			
	Number of TIA opinions	Number of RegHub reports/ Contributions to Fit4Future Platform	Timeliness of CoR opinion (adopted before political agreements achieved)
2018	2	n/a⁸	100%
2019	4	3	100%
2020	2	3	100%
2021	3	4	100%
2022	2	3	100%
2023	2	4	100%



It is also important how the CoR's 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.

⁸ The RegHub consultations started in 2019.

Meetings with EU institution representatives					
	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 ⁹	13	20	133
2022	45	20	26	46 ¹⁰	137
2023	57	18	12	152 ¹¹	239



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 role was even strengthened by increased cooperation with the EU Presidency and the Council, notably through the access to trilogue

documents that the Council gave to the CoR as from this year.

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. This includes the intensified cooperation between the CoR commissions in cross-cutting areas and on better regulation through the launch of the Better Regulation and Active Subsidiarity Steering Group (BRASS-G) for an improved evidence base

⁹ This high number is due to the participation of a large CoR rapporteurs' delegation in AGRI Committee meeting.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ This exceptionally high number is due to the fact that the CoR External Bureau meeting in Logrono and well as the CoR ENVE commission's external meeting in Malaga, Spain, were part of the Spanish Presidency events.

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 European Network of Regional and Local Councillors. In addition, as part of the ASPC a joint session of the CoP and the CoR commission chairs at the end of November 2023 confirmed the progress on improving the implementation of the CoR's priorities and adopted strategic guidelines for 2024.

2. The CoR's Annual Strategic Planning Cycle (ASPC)

Based on the approach to strategic planning agreed by the Conference of Presidents in December 2020, the CoR continued implementing the reinforced ASPC in 2023. 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**. 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 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 2023, the ASPC was adjusted in light of the 2019-2024 legislative term that is drawing to a close. In this context, while the CoR continued to work on the delivery of the remaining initiatives via its activities and consultative work, the focus of the ASPC was placed on LRAs' need to define their key objectives and targets in the EU policy process in the medium and long-term. On 4 July, the CoP adopted a declaration towards the European elections in 2024 recalling the fundamental partnership with the EU's cities and regions in order to deliver concrete results from EU policies for citizens, and strengthening the EU's democratic legitimacy. In October, the 2023 Annual Report on the State of Regions and Cities was issued with a resolution adopted by the Plenary drawing on the recommendations to make proposals in view of the next legislative term and the strategic agenda for 2024-2029. This was followed by the strategic guidelines adopted by the CoP in November, further to a debate with the CoR Commission Chairs.

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.

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

3.1 Bringing Europe closer to its people

3.1.1 Democratic rights and freedoms

Main impact:

- The CoR's contribution to strengthening European democracy recognised by the European Parliament: references to enhancing the CoR role included in the EP report on Parliamentarism, European citizenship and democracy and in the AFCD committee opinion on European Union regulatory fitness and subsidiarity and proportionality;
- The CoR opinions on the European Media Freedom Act and The role of local and regional authorities in countering disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference, and the Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award have put forward valuable proposals on how to strengthen the resilience of democratic societies against the threats of disinformation and challenges to media freedom;
- The CoR Integration network has scaled up its outreach and capacity-building events;
- CIVEX commission 1st vice-chair represented the CoR in the high-level political conference in conjunction with the 4th Summit of the Council of Europe's Member States and signed the Call for Action on behalf of the CoR;
- The total number of unique registrations to 14th EuroPCOM conference, which slogan was "Communicating Democracy", were 1422, out of which 596 on-site, 692 online, and 134 hybrid (mix of on-site and online)

The CoR opinions on the [European Media Freedom Act](#)¹² and [The role of local and regional authorities in countering disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference](#)¹³, and the [Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award](#) (MPAA) are aiming at contributing to further strengthening the resilience of democratic societies against the threats of disinformation and challenges to media freedom, ensuring respect for the rule of law, fundamental rights and EU values of freedom, solidarity and equality, and promoting the contribution of actors at local and regional level in the fight against intolerance, radicalisation, hate speech, oppression and xenophobia. Ahead and after the proclamation of the winner and the third Award ceremony in the CoR Plenary in February 2023, there were 37 publications mentioning the award, over 150 retweets of the hashtag, and the web-streaming of the ceremony was viewed 3700 times (three times the usual livestream of the plenary).

The CoR contribution to the implementation of the [European Commission's Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021–2027](#) and the activities of the [CoR Network of Cities and Regions for Integration of Migrants](#)' (CoR integration network) has supported the integration of migrants and refugees, promoted the involvement of cities and regions in designing integration policies for third country nationals in Europe and reaffirmed the instrumental role of LRAs in the successful integration of migrants and refugees and building cohesive and resilient communities.

¹² CIVEX-VII/020 – European Media Freedom Act - rapporteur: Mark Speich, (DE/EPP) - COR-2022-05388-00-01-AC-TRA

¹³ CIVEX-VII/023 – The role of local and regional authorities in countering disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference - rapporteur: Gustaw Marek Brzezina, (PL/EPP) - COR-2023-01564-00-02-AC-TRA

The Charter on Youth and Democracy has been further promoted, thus delivering on both the recommendations of the Conference on the Future of Europe and the European Year of Youth.

CoR opinions and work on democracy, fundamental rights and freedoms have been presented and political messages conveyed at relevant debates and other forums, organised at EU, national and local level, including:

- presentation of the opinion on *the European Media Freedom Act* during the Council's Audiovisual and Media Working Party in April 2023,
- presentation of the opinion on *The role of LRAs in countering disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference* during a [High-level debate](#) on the defence of democracy in July 2023 with the European Commission Vice-President Věra Jourová and Raphaël Glucksmann, Chair of the European Parliament's Special Committee on foreign interference in democratic processes,
- participation of the 1st vice-chair of the CIVEX commission in the [high-level political conference](#) '*Embedding democratic values in Europe's communities*' held in May 2023 in Reykjavík, in conjunction with the 4th Summit of the Council of Europe's Member States, and signing on behalf of the CoR the [Call for Action](#),
- opening by the CIVEX chair together with the European Commission Vice-President Věra Jourová of an event organised on the International Democracy Day in September 2023 by the European Endowment for Democracy, European Partnership for Democracy, European Network of Political Foundations, International IDEA and Carnegie Europe

In its report on Parliamentarism, European citizenship and democracy, adopted in September 2023¹⁴, the European Parliament has recognised the CoR's contribution to strengthening European democracy and made references to enhancing the role of the CoR, as well as in the AFCO opinion on European Union regulatory fitness and subsidiarity and proportionality – report on Better Law - Making covering 2020, 2021 and 2022, adopted in September 2023¹⁵.

The CoR Integration network has scaled up its outreach and capacity-building events that bring together local and regional authorities, as well as policymakers, practitioners and experts in the field. This included a conference on '[Empowering regions and cities in migrant integration governance](#)', held in March 2023, and a seminar on '[World Children's Day: the role of local authorities in protecting and empowering migrant and refugee children](#)', held in November 2023, organised in cooperation with UNICEF. Further to that, Antje Grotheer (DE/PES), CoR rapporteur for the CoR opinion¹⁶ on the [New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#), presented the opinion and promoted the CoR's migration and integration policy work at a number of European forums, to mention: the high-level dialogue of the Includ-EU final conference on '[Including all and embracing diversity](#)', organised by the Assembly of European Regions, the conference on '[Migration and cohesion policy in the EU](#)', organised by the Parliament of the Canary Islands and the conference on "*Migration and Asylum Policies through a regional lens: Rethinking Multilevel Governance in the Mediterranean*", organised by the Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the EU.

The future impact in the policy area of democratic rights and freedoms will be built by:

- investing in implementing relevant recommendations of the Conference on the Future of Europe and the European Year of Youth,

¹⁴ [European Parliament resolution of 14 September 2023 on Parliamentarism, European citizenship and democracy](#) (2023/2017(INI)), co-rapporteurs Alin Mituta (Renew Europe) and Niklas Nienieß (Greens – EFA).

¹⁵ [AFCO opinion on European Union regulatory fitness and subsidiarity and proportionality – report on Better Law - Making covering 2020, 2021 and 2022](#), rapporteur Jacek Saryusz-Wolski (ECR).

¹⁶ CIVEX-VII/005 - New Pact on Migration and Asylum – rapporteur: Antje Grotheer (DE/PES) - COR-2020-04843-00-01-AC-TRA

- promoting CoR opinions at relevant debates and forums,
- raising awareness and supporting the implementation at local level of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Charter on Youth and Democracy,
- enhancing synergies with partner institutions, such as the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, including through a joint event to be held for the 30th anniversary of both the CoR and the Congress, and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights,
- further promoting the *Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award*.

In line with the CoR CIVEX commission's annual work programme, the Communication Plan and priorities of the 2020-2025 mandate, the key themes with the greatest potential for political impact in 2023, relate to: A new chapter for participatory democracy and Communicating democracy.

A new chapter for participatory democracy

Under the communication campaign “A new chapter for EU democracy”, the CoR renewed its partnership with the Bertelsmann Foundation to deliver trainings and capacity building on deliberative and participatory democracy to CoR members, EU Councillors and Young Elected Politicians. On 22 September 2023 a dedicated training on “Becoming a Citizen Participation Expert” was launched for members of the YEP programme. The impact of these activities is proven by the large turnout and interest in both of the main activity, which was significantly higher than similar activities carried out by institutional partners. As democratic legitimacy is an integral part in both ensuring a strong democratic foundation of the EU and a solid turnout in the European elections, these results helped the CoR achieving a very strong impact in promoting democratic rights and freedoms.

The CoR has been working on the topic of participatory and deliberative democracy for a long time and participatory democracy has always been a significant portion of this work. Since March 2016, the CoR has been active in the “Reflecting on Europe/Future of Europe” campaign, providing a platform for regions, cities and their citizens to engage in the debate on the future of Europe. Overall, since 2021, the CoR-Bertelsmann partnership involved 67 regions and cities in over 20 EU and candidate countries. 15 events have been organised, gathering 400 representatives of local and regional authorities.

Communicating democracy

The CoR has, in 2023, placed participatory democracy again as a key pillar in one of its communication campaigns through an outreach and capacity building programme aimed at ensuring that local and regional authorities deliver what they can in view of the European elections 2024. Within this framework, the 14th EuroPCom conference (the largest EU conference on institutional communication) took place on 26 and 27 June 2023 in Brussels and online. With the next European elections only one year away, this year's EuroPCom was all about democracy. Under the slogan Communicating Democracy – Communicating Europe, communication experts from the local, regional, national and European level have shared their best practices when it comes to successful communication strategies, and discuss how to get voters engaged. The total number of unique registrations were 1422, out of which 596 on-site, 692 online, and 134 hybrid (mix of on-site and online).

A large part of the CoR’s activities when it comes to the field of democracy is also making sure that democracy and EU values are communicated effectively. The LRAs have a unique position and responsibility as the link closest to the citizens to make the democratic process clear, transparent and inclusive. These objectives line up with the CoR’s position in institutional communication, being the

host of EuroPCom. The two strands perfectly aligned with this year's EuroPCom, that was dedicated to communicating democracy. Renewed efforts will be put on building on the already successful interinstitutional cooperation at the very basis of EuroPCom, in particular in the framework of the partnership built with the European Parliament on the EU elections communication campaigns

3.1.2 The European Year of Skills

Main impact:

- By actively engaging in high-level discussions, on skills policies during the European Year of Skills, the CoR has reinforced its position as a key stakeholder in this policy field;
- The European Alliance of Apprenticeships renewed its priority of "Mobilising local and regional authorities as catalysts for apprenticeships within the local business environment"¹⁷ for 2023, illustrating the robust partnership evolving between the CoR and DG EMPL over recent years.

The CoR played a central role in shaping and promoting skills-related policies during the European Year of Skills (EYS) 2023, across all levels of government, with a particular focus on the local and regional levels. Special emphasis was placed on the significance of local and regional authorities (LRAs) in championing these policies at grassroots level. The CoR also actively collaborated with EU institutions and relevant stakeholders, expanding its outreach. The main CoR policy objectives for 2023, as presented in the CoR Action Plan, its resolution on the *European Year of Skills*¹⁸ and ¹⁹ and its resolution on *Harnessing talent in Europe's regions*²⁰ included (i) to ensure a consistent approach to the CoR's consultative and political activities related to the EYS. Another important objective was (ii) to strengthen the CoR's role within the interinstitutional framework. Additionally, efforts were made (iii) to enhance the CoR's outreach efforts in promoting the significance of LRAs in the EYS.

In response to the CoR resolution on *Harnessing talent in Europe's regions*, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen sent a letter to the CoR expressing her satisfaction at the strong support demonstrated by the CoR on this topic and proposing robust collaboration with European Commission Vice-President Dubravka Šuica and Commissioner Elisa Ferreira on this matter.

The CoR additionally adopted an own-initiative opinion on *Mentoring: a powerful and meaningful tool for the Europe of tomorrow*²¹, demonstrating a significant impact on shaping the dialogue and policy formation on mentoring.

In 2023, members of the CoR actively engaged in over 50 events associated with the EYS, showcasing the CoR's significant influence on skills policy. Their involvement not only elevated the importance of skill development at a regional and local level but also facilitated the exchange of ideas and best practices among institutions and stakeholders.

The President of the CoR participated in the Porto Social Forum, an event organised by the Portuguese Government to mark the second year of the Porto Social Summit and take stock of progress regarding

¹⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=26879&langId=en>

¹⁸ RESOL-VII/026 – European Year of Skills 2023 – COR-2022-05216-00-00-PRES-TRA-EN.

¹⁹ The EP and the Council sought the CoR's perspective on the EYS Decision.

²⁰ RESOL-VII/028 – Harnessing talent in Europe's regions – COR-2023-00574-00-00-PRES-TRA-EN.

²¹ SEDEC-VII/038 – Mentoring: a powerful and meaningful tool for the Europe of tomorrow – rapporteur: Anne Rudisuhli,(FR/Renew Europe) – COR-2023-01537-00-01-AC-TRA.

the Porto Declaration. Likewise, CoR member Emil Boc (RO/EPP) participated in the exchange of views with Commissioner Ferreira on "Harnessing talent in Europe's regions" held by the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) in March 2023. These participations underlined the CoR's important role in shaping and driving skills policies that are responsive to the unique needs of regions and localities across Europe.

The CoR maintained its enhanced collaboration with the Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) concerning skills policies. Both institutions were engaged in discussions regarding the potential involvement of the CoR in EYS activities. DG EMPL proposed a cooperative effort with the CoR on the concept of organising expert discussions on skills-related topics. Within DG EMPL, the European Alliance of Apprenticeships renewed its priority of "Mobilising local and regional authorities as catalysts for apprenticeships within the local business environment"²² for 2023, illustrating the robust partnership evolving between these two institutions over recent years.

On top of this, the CoR played a prominent role at the European Employment and Social Rights Forum in November 2023, the most important conference organised by the European Commission on social policies and skills.

The CoR also participated in the OECD meeting on the EYS in November 2023, and showcased the CoR's work in this area. Additionally, the OECD actively engaged in the the CoR European Week of Regions and Cities workshop on "Harnessing Talent for Regional Growth" in October 2023, in which the SEDEC chair, representatives of DG REGIO, CoR members, and the President of the Board of the European Innovation Council took part.

Another significant outcome has been the deepened collaboration between the chairs of the EP EMPL Committee and of the CoR SEDEC commission. They are jointly drafting an op-ed on skills, specifically related to the EYS. This op-ed will be published and presented at the CoR event on the EYS²³. Each commission within the CoR has played an integral role in enhancing the impact of the EYS by actively contributing their expertise and efforts towards its successful execution in 2023.

The CoR will continue its work on the EYS in 2024 and strive to further enhance skills development and awareness in Europe during that year. In support of the EYS and as an active effort to assess skills policies at local and regional level, the CoR will organise an event on the EYS and commission a study that focuses on the involvement of LRAs in shaping skills development and training policies.

3.1.3 SDGs and the EU Voluntary Review

Main impact:

- Explicit reference to the CoR work in the first EU Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Voluntary Review drafted by the European Commission;
- Integration of the CoR's recommendations in the EU Voluntary review: a link to a CoR map on SDGs localisation as well as local and regional good practices for each SDG chapter;

²² <https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=26879&langId=en>

²³ The CoR will organise a closing event on the European Year of Skills on Q1/2024.

- The Spanish Presidency of the EU identified SDGs localisation as one of its priorities and worked closely with the CoR to raise the visibility of SDGs and their localisation, including by drafting Council Conclusions specifically on the local dimension topic;
- The draft Council Conclusions took on board the CoR's line on the European Semester as well as the need to have an EU overarching strategy and a multi-stakeholders platform. It also gave prominent recognition to the role of the CoR as a key driver in boosting SDGs localization;
- The European Parliament financed a specific project implemented by the European Commission Joint Research Centre on SDGs regional monitoring: REGIONS2030 .

SDGs had slowly been losing visibility in the EU political agenda when the European Commission decided to elaborate an EU Voluntary Review to be presented at the United Nations in July 2023. Given the lack of EU overarching strategy to implement SDGs, and lack of progress in the last few years, 2023 became a key year to give more visibility to SDGs and show how essential the role of regions and cities is in reaching them.

Based on its opinions and resolution on SDGs²⁴, its partnership with the OECD and its long-time collaboration with associations of local and regional authorities (Eurocities, CEMR, Regions4) and individual regions, the CoR organised several events with the European Commission Secretariat General coordinating the drafting of the EU Voluntary Review. The CoR also carried out a survey with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) which provided new data for the EU Voluntary Review. In addition, the CoR was entrusted to deliver content: local and regional good practices for each SDGs, involvement of youth in our work, prizes related to SDGs, and a map on SDGs localisation. In its EU Voluntary Review, the European Commission took on board all the good practices collected from CoR members and partners, placing the CoR as the entry point for any regional/local input. The European Commission also took on board the CoR's contributions on multi-level governance and youth. The EU Voluntary Review also features a link to the CoR's map on SDGs localization and repeatedly refers to the CoR's valuable work. Moreover, the Voluntary Review of the EC contains a forward-looking point indicating explicitly that it will work with the CoR on SDGs to better communicate on it and accelerate implementation: *"Building on their contribution to [its] preparation of the voluntary review, (...) the Committee of the Regions will continue to play a key role as platforms to regularly exchange with stakeholders on SDGs implementation"*²⁵

The Voluntary Review was presented jointly with the EC, Council, CoR and EESC at the United Nations in July 2023.

The CoR also conveyed its positions to the European Parliament, notably the need to have SDGs monitoring at regional level, not just at national level. The European Parliament integrated the CoR's positions on SDGs in its report adopted in June, and most importantly financed a project implemented by the JRC, DG REGIO and Eurostat on SDGs regional monitoring, a focus the CoR had been calling for several years in all its opinions on SDGs. The CoR is well connected to the project, supporting it via

²⁴ ECON-VII/014 - Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 - rapporteur: Ricardo Rio (PT/EPP) - COR-2022-04274-00-00-AC-TRA

ECON-VII/028 - Progress in the implementation of SDGs - rapporteur: Ricardo Rio (PT/EPP) - COR-2022-04274-00-00-AC-TRA

RESOL-VII/030 - SDGs in EU regions and cities following the EU Voluntary Review and 2023 UN discussions - COR-2022-03638-00-00-RES-TRA

²⁵ *EU Voluntary Review on progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* available at https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13600-EU-Voluntary-Review-on-the-implementation-of-the-2030-Agenda-for-Sustainable-Development_en . Page 24

the organisation and participation in the Launching event, a workshop at the European Week of the Regions and Cities, and a Final event in December 2023. Following the recommendations of the CoR to follow-up on this project and to further deploy EU support programmes on SDGs localisation, the European Parliament and the European Commission announced that there will be a follow-up to REGIONS2030 with the next steps consisting in focusing on implementation and reachout to all EU regions, not just 10 regions.

The CoR also worked closely with the Spanish Presidency and was regularly invited to speak at the Council Working Party. The Spanish Presidency put forward a request for an opinion on SDGs localization to provide input to the Council Conclusions on SDGs localization which the CoR responded to in the form a resolution *SDGs in EU regions and cities following the EU Voluntary Review and 2023 UN discussions*²⁶. This is already an achievement in itself that the Council has elaborated Conclusions on SDGs at local and regional level specifically. The Council Conclusions which were adopted on 27 November 2023²⁷ took on board the CoR's lines on the European Semester, the need for an EU SDGs strategy and the need for a multi-stakeholders' platform. It gave prominent recognition to the role of the CoR as a key driver in boosting SDGs localization and referred to its role 3 times in the Conclusions. The Council Conclusions together with three participations in less than 5 months in the Council Working Party meetings paved the way for increased cooperation with the Council on SDGs.

3.1.4 Out-reach and communication activities

In line with the Communication Plan and priorities of the 2020-2025 mandate, the outreach and communication activities in 2023 with the greatest potential for political impact, relate to:

- European Week of Regions and Cities ;
- YEPs
- EU Councillors
- Traditional media and social networks

3.1.4.1 European Week of Regions and Cities

Main impact:

- The 21st edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities involved over 8.418 registered participants on site and over 3.000 online, including some 600 elected representatives, 244 sessions and 210 workshops, confirming itself as the largest event dedicated to cohesion themes across the EU.
- The event was a stepping stone to address several key priorities, such as the future of Cohesion policy and the EU budget, as well as democracy and the future of Europe ahead of European elections.
- More than 1200 media mentions from the Week (including the CoR Plenary Session) have been recorded so far, including in prominent EU affairs sources like POLITICO as well as national broadcasters such as Belgium's RTBF, Italy's RAI, Spain's RTVE, Poland's TVP, Portugal's RTP, Germany's MDR.

²⁶ RESOL-VII/030 - SDGs in EU regions and cities following the EU Voluntary Review and 2023 UN discussions - COR-2022-03638-00-00-RES-TRA

²⁷ Council Conclusions 15939/23: [Developing the 2030 Agenda to reach the goals: Accelerating the localization of the SDGs](#)
COR-2023-04735-15-00-NB-REF 20/60

- In addition to media reports, 142 interviews were facilitated with members and 32 interviews with YEPs and other speakers for a total of 174.

The EURegionsWeek provided an impactful platform to continue to mobilise all regions, cities and other stakeholders around the Cohesion Alliance, and to share ideas based on the CoR own-initiative Opinion on the future of Cohesion Policy post-2027, as the pillar of regions' and cities' input for the future programming period beyond 2027. The Week offered the best possible platform for the CoR President's annual speech on the state of Europe's Regions and Cities and for the presentation of the EU Annual Report on the state of regions and cities. The programme included 210 partner sessions (organised by 450 partners from 29 countries), among which 38 were hosted at the CoR. Next year comes with the challenges of renewing the EU's strategic agenda, the European elections and the institutional renewal of politicians in all three main institutions. These challenges will not bypass the European Week of Regions and Cities. CoR efforts will focus on conceiving and implementing a successful EURegionsweek in 2024 and for the years to come.

3.1.4.2 YEPs

Main impact:

- The 2023 YEP cohort involved 156 YEPs covering all EU member states and, for the first time, all EU candidate countries, bringing the total amount of participants in the YEP programme to 836.
- YEPs impact also included direct contributions to the CoR activities through consultations with CoR Commissions as well as participation in Commission meetings. CoR activities were communicated to the YEPs through events, newsletter, social media, videos as well as through a dedicated platform and through community management. Their participation in the EU Regions Week and the work done for the Charter on Youth and Democracy were key highlights of this programme and contributed to maximise the visibility of the CoR, thus increasing the reach-out to the over 1 million regional and local representatives across the EU.

The Young Elected Politicians programme (YEPs) is a network of politicians who are no older than 40 and hold a mandate at regional or local level in the EU. YEPs get in contact with other young politicians through the YEP Community, attend trainings on EU topics, and participate in activities organised by the CoR, including meetings with rapporteurs, events and seminars organised by the CoR, and communication activities. The key impact of the YEPs programme has been to promote the exchange of best practices among local and regional politicians; provide networking opportunities with fellow young elected politicians from the EU in real life and online; help understanding and seizing opportunities offered by the European Union for local and regional areas; offer opportunity to speak for EU regions and municipalities in the European legislative process.

3.1.4.3 EU Councillors

Main impact:

- In 2023, the Network of Regional and Local EU Councillors has been swiftly gaining participants and keeps growing at a steady pace, reaching 3000 participants in October (to be updated).
- It now gathers local and regional politicians from all 27 EU Member States (the most represented countries being Romania, Germany, Spain, Italy and France). It is generating relevant impact by bringing Europe closer to local communities and encouraging local and regional councillors to organise EU-related activities within their regions, cities and villages.

The network is proving a successful tool to trigger local politicians' interest and proves that local representatives are keen to learn more about EU actions and policies and to bring this knowledge to their communities. It is also a key tool to cooperate with the European Parliament in view of the next EU elections. Efforts are already ongoing to build on its success and make sure that the network continues to grow also in the years to come, also by offering new products, services and networking initiatives, in coordination with the parallel project 'Building Europe with Local Councillors' (BELC) run by the European Commission.

3.1.4.4 Traditional media and social networks

Main impact:

- In 2023, media and social media communication activities have generated a consistent impact and have maximised the visibility and credibility of the CoR. In particular, they resulted in 12.926 media mentions.
- On top of the large coverage registered in regional and local media, 2023 has been marked by large quality coverage in main national and European outlets **leading to significantly increased reach**. The number of followers on CoR's social media channels stand at more than 188 000 - up by 15%. Of these, there are 56 718 followers on Twitter (+7%), 59 121 on Facebook (+5), 60 022 on LinkedIn (+34%), and 12 176 on Instagram (+46%). 1203 of CoR's own social media posts received 28 592.
- In addition to that, 218 Instagram stories generated 45 000 engagements, proving the high visibility of this format compared to other posts. It is important to highlight the level of additional engagement gained through paid social media, which reached 2.8 million engagements.
- The CoR website had over 347k visitors and over 1M pageviews.

In 2023 media and social media efforts institutional communication have been focusing on the work of the CoR as a consultative body of the EU institutions, on communicating to local and regional leaders to bring Europe closer to citizens and on presenting the way the EU is functioning on the ground, in particular via Members' success stories. The increased presence of the CoR and its Members in traditional media and social networks is a key element to ensure widespread impact at local, regional, national and EU level. Increased support has been provided to Members' and Political groups' activities via the standard support services for Rapporteurs, enhanced support to CoR Commission Chairs, increased efforts to promote gender equality, social media trainings, journalist workshops, technical briefings, interview support, events' organisation, audiovisual and infographic products. This was complemented by social media toolkit on selected events with multi lingual translations, social media training and personal audio-visual coaching, web-streaming of statutory, non-statutory meetings and key events. Efforts are already ongoing to maintain a strong CoR level of impact also in traditional

media and social networks by renewing the already existing communication products and services for Members, while at the same time introducing new innovative tools.

3.2 Building resilient regional and local communities

3.2.1 Cross-Border obstacles

Main impact:

- After years of stalemate on the European Cross-Border Mechanism (ECBM) Regulation, which was proposed in 2018, the CoR successfully restarted the political debate on it, with the European Parliament adopting a report and a proposal for a new approach to the ECBM. The European Commission is expected to present a revised proposal for the Regulation in 2024.

Cross-border legal and administrative obstacles limit the economic growth of border regions and make life in those regions considerably more complicated than in other parts of the European Union. The ECBM Regulation was proposed to resolve these issues with a bottom-up approach, but encountered strong opposition among EU Member States.

Thanks to the work of the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) Platform, the European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance, and following several CoR opinions²⁸ as well as a resolution on the Future of Cross-border Cooperation²⁹ over the past five years, in 2023, the CoR successfully relaunched the debate at the EU level on the ECBM Regulation at its spring conference on "Living in Border Regions – Tackling the challenges", increasing Member States' understanding of the difficulties that cross-border obstacles pose to many citizens and businesses in the European Union.

Consequently, the CoR launched the preparation of its opinion on the ECBM 2.0³⁰, and in parallel the European Parliament adopted a Report on ECBM 2.0 and proposed a new version of the Regulation at the 14 September 2023 Plenary Session.

The European Commission is expected to present a revised, or a new proposal, in early 2024. During the Belgian Presidency of the European Council, in the first half of 2024, it is expected that the discussions will restart in Council, with the new proposal possibly presented for adoption by the co-legislators during the Hungarian Presidency in the second half of 2024. The CoR will follow-up on this work.

3.2.2 Cross-Border Cooperation with neighbouring countries

²⁸ COTER-VI-023 - People-to-people and small-scale projects in cross-border cooperation programmes – rapporteur: Pavel Branda (CZ/ECR) - COR-2017-01527-00-00-AC-TRA;
COTER-VI-048 - Cross-border mechanism – rapporteur: Bouke Arends (NL/PES) - COR-2018-03596-00-00-AC-TRA;
COTER-VII/005 – Cross-border public services (CPS) in Europe – rapporteur Pavel Branda (CZ/ECR) – COR-2020-02615-00-00-AC-TRA

²⁹ RESOL-VII/14 – Resolution on a vision for Europe: future of cross-border cooperation – COR-2021-02499-00-01-RES-TRA.

³⁰ COTER-VII/025 - European Cross-Border Mechanism 2.0 – rapporteur: Magali Altounian (FR/Renew Europe) - COR-2022-06083-00-00-AC-TRA

Main impact:

- Contributing to the European Parliament's work on the current and future challenges regarding cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries

At its plenary session of 29 November, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) adopted an opinion on Boosting lasting and effective cross-border cooperation with our neighbours³¹. In this opinion, CoR members ask that more attention be given to land and maritime cross-border cooperation at Europe's external borders, which has been negatively affected by the recent crises.

Cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries contributes to sustainable development by improving living standards and reducing welfare gaps on both sides of the border, while enabling the relevant countries to address shared challenges together.

The 2021 European Court of Auditors' special report³² underlines that the full potential of Interreg programmes has not yet been fully unlocked, the Court observed that the cooperation programmes have fallen behind schedule due to successive crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, severely impacting EU border regions and areas bordering Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. This CoR opinion outlines a number of proposals to address this situation.

In the process of drafting the opinion, the CoR rapporteur Maupertuis worked closely with MEP Daniel Buda (EPP/RO) on his Report "on the current and future challenges regarding cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries"³³ and presented her opinion on the same topic at the EP REGI Committee meeting. Consequently, the CoR rapporteur actively contributed to the REGI Committee work, proposing concrete compromise amendments with MEP Buda, and in this way directly influencing the content of the Report.

3.2.3 Green Deal Going Local

Main impact:

- Launch of the CoR Green Deal 2.0 reflection and first ever foresight exercise;
- Leading CoR role in proposing a revision of EU Green Deal initiatives for cities and regions;
- Release of Green Deal Going Local (GDGL) Handbook and upscale of Members' Green Deal best practices valorisation;
- Strong reference to LRAs role in EU mandate for UNFCCC COP28;
- First-ever meeting of CoR delegation with UN Secretary General Guterres at High Level Political Forum in New York.

Launch of the CoR Green Deal 2.0 reflection and first ever strategic foresight exercise

The CoR has started an analysis of the state of implementation of the European Green Deal with a view to formulating the CoR position on the future of the Green Deal (Green Deal 2.0), as a contribution to

³¹ COTER-VII/031 – Boosting lasting and effective cross-border cooperation with our neighbours– rapporteur: Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis (FR/EA) – COR-2023-03418-00-00-PAC-TRA

³² [Special Report 14/2021: Interreg cooperation: The potential of the European Union's cross-border regions has not yet been fully unlocked | European Court of Auditors \(europa.eu\)](#)

³³ Report (2023/2076(INI))

the EU strategic agenda. This work has been developed in **close cooperation with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC)**, which is developing the European Commission assessment of the Green Deal and its future evolution with a view to preparing the handover dossier on the Green Deal for the new mandate of the European Commission. The CoR is contributing to the EC analysis through the outcomes of a dedicated RegHub consultation on the future of the Green Deal. The reflection on Green Deal 2.0 had a high-level kick-off during the European Week of Regions and Cities with over 100 participants and the presence of **Maroš Šefčovič**, European Commission Executive Vice-President in charge of European Green Deal, Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight. The reflection was further enriched using innovative methodologies. The ENVE commission as part of the activities of the Green Deal Going Local working group organised the first ever in-person strategic foresight session on the future of the Green Deal. The session took place on 15 November 2023 with the participation of 20 CoR members. This session represented a key milestone in the CoR process to develop its position on the future of the Green Deal also in view of the change of the EU mandate. The outcome of the session will be a central part of the report on the Green Deal 2.0.

On the policy side, the work on Green Deal 2.0 is also fed by a dedicated opinion on "[A multilevel governance for the Green Deal: towards the revision of the Governance Regulation](#)"³⁴.

The work on Green Deal 2.0 will culminate in 2024 with the release of the CoR political position on the subject, which will feed into the Belgian Presidency activities in the field.

Leading role in proposing a revision of EU Green Deal initiatives for cities and regions

The European Commission is financing multiple EU initiatives targeting cities and regions in various areas of the Green Deal. The analysis³⁵ done by the CoR will serve to align these initiatives to the interest of LRAs. The CoR has taken a **frontrunner role in the debate on the future of the EU Green Deal initiatives for cities and regions involving 8 directorate generals of the European Commission** and many associations of local and regional authorities. This work has been developed around a dedicated opinion on *Fostering the potential and synergies of EU Green Deal initiatives for regions and cities*³⁶. With the release of the new [tender for the management of the European Covenant of Mayors](#), it was confirmed that the CoR proposals were vastly taken on board by the European Commission. This work is also feeding the above-mentioned cooperation with the incoming Belgian Presidency of the Council in the field of the implementation of the Green Deal.

Release of GDGL Handbook and upscale of Members' Green Deal best practices valorisation

With the release of the GDGL **handbook**, the CoR has given a significant contribution to the understanding of what implementing the Green Deal means at local and regional level. After the launch of the Adaptation chapter in English in 2022, in 2023 the CoR released the **translation of the Adaptation chapter in all languages** and launched **the chapter on Renovation Wave and the one on**

³⁴ ENVE-VII/037 – Towards a multilevel green deal governance: the revision of the governance of the energy union and climate action regulation – rapporteur: Joško Klisović (HR/PES) – COR-2023-00903-00-01-PAC-TRA

³⁵ "The impact of EU climate and energy initiatives on cities climate transition" available at <https://cor.europa.eu/en/engage/studies/Documents/The%20impact%20of%20EU.pdf>

³⁶ ENVE-VII/036 – Fostering the potential and synergies of eu green deal initiatives for regions and cities – rapporteur: Andries Gryffroy (BE/EA) – COR-2023-00229-00-00-AC-TRA

Biodiversity. These tools are being referenced in several third party's websites and studies, including European Environment Agency and European Parliament Research Service.

The continuous **reinforcement of Members+** combined with a continued push for Members to submit their Green Deal best practices, the CoR can now count on a sound database of Green Deal stories that are proving to be a powerful tool for CoR communication and beyond. This collection has reached **400 best practices collected**, with more than 45 individual posts promoting best practices on social media, and constantly increasing attention of Members. Some of these best practices on energy efficiency, climate adaptation or renewable energy have been published by European Parliament Research Service (EPRS) in briefings on the Fit for 55 implementation.

The CoR secretariat has also released **monthly Green Deal funding alerts**, to support Members and LRAs in identifying funding mechanisms and initiatives to support the implementation of Green Deal legislation and targets.

Strong reference to LRAs role in EU mandate for UNFCCC COP28

The CoR position is formally enshrined in the opinion on "UNFCCC COP28: the role of subnational authorities in keeping climate ambition on track"³⁷, serving as the foundation for the CoR delegation participation in COP28 in Dubai in December 2023.

The **Environment Council conclusions and the EU negotiating position on the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP28) adopted on 16 October 2023 incorporated the CoR key proposals** ahead of the negotiations. The conclusions included the CoR proposal to recognize the leadership of Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) in accelerating and broadening climate action and the need for increased involvement of LRAs in the process of implementing nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and long-term strategies.

The CoR increased its engagement with the **European Parliament ahead** of COP28. The CoR delegation met several EP delegates to COP28 ahead of the conference (Lidia Pereira, Maria Spyraki and Bas Eickhout) and met the full [EP delegation](#) in Dubai. The European Parliament **Resolution for COP28**³⁸ was also very much aligned with the CoR position for COP28. The final text, adopted on 21 November, included 15 proposed amendments on key topics including specificities of vulnerable regions and a call for better inclusion of the local level in climate decision-making.

2023 also saw the **first -ever common position of the UNFCCC Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency for COP28**, whose drafting was led by the CoR secretariat, based on the CoR opinion on COP28.

This stronger engagement was also mirrored in the framework of UNFCCC preparatory work, **with CoR successfully participating in pivotal pre-COP28 negotiating events** and being able to **submit contributions to the work of UNFCCC preparatory bodies**, leading to significant influence in shaping Global Stocktake documents.

In 2024 the CoR will capitalise on this work in preparation for a EU-based COP29, where the institution is expected to have a reinforced presence.

First-ever meeting of CoR delegation with UN Secretary General Guterres at High Level Political Forum in New York.

³⁷ ENVE-VII/038 – UNFCCC COP28: the role of subnational authorities in keeping climate ambition on track – rapporteur: Rafał Kazimierz Trzaskowski (PL/EPP) – COR-2023-00904-00-00-AC-TRA

³⁸ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0407_EN.html

Building on the success of the insitutionnal work in UNFCCC COP and UN CBD COP, the CoR's ENVE commission has also **stepped up its engagement in the Sustainable Development Goals Summits**: this work leverages on the increasing synergies of CoR work on climate, environment and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and culminated with the **successful participation in the High-Level Political Forum on SDGs in New York, July 2023**, including a **bilateral meeting with UN SG Antonio Guterres**. The participation in the High-Level Political Forum on SDGs included also bilateral meetings with New York Mayor Eric Adam and granted a prominent CoR presence in the presentation of the EU Voluntary Review and the EU side event with Commissioners Jutta Urpilainen and Paolo Gentiloni.

The CoR will continue developing this integrated approach in 2024, also boosting its internal reflection on the crosscutting dimensions of the Green Deal.

3.2.4 Environment policy

Main impact:

- Formal recognition of the CoR as key partner to implement UN COP 15 and other relevant activities on biodiversity;
- Leading role in the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform (ZPSP) and influencing zero pollution legislation;
- Active role in relevant circular economy initiatives.

Formal recognition of the CoR as key partner to implement UN COP 15 and other relevant activities on biodiversity

A CoR delegation attended the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The [Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), the main outcome of this conference, reflects and recognizes the importance of involving subnational authorities to effectively achieve its goals. The CoR was explicitly mentioned in one of the decisions of this UN body, as a key partner to support the implementation of the [Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity](#). The role of subnational and local governments was a "game changer" at COP 15 in Montreal.

The work on biodiversity was also developed in the legislative field, with an opinion³⁹ on nature restoration targets. In this field, the EP and Council agreed on the possibility for Member States to take into account, in their national restoration plans, the diversity of situations in various regions related to social, economic and cultural requirements, regional and local characteristics and population density, as the CoR requested. This includes the specific situation of the EU's outermost regions, such as their remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography and climate, as well as their rich biodiversity and the associated costs for protecting and restoring their ecosystems. The position of both institutions also noted the CoR's call for comprehensive technical support and sufficient funding to properly implement the EU Nature Restoration Law.

³⁹ ENVE-VII/030-EU Nature Restoration Law - rapporteur: Roby Biwer (LU/PES)- COR-2022-04206-00-00-AC-TRA

The revised Pollinators initiative includes many elements in line with the CoR opinion⁴⁰ and explicitly foresees an active role for the CoR in its implementation.

The CoR has been an active partner in the **BiodiverCities project**, a participatory guide to building biodiverse urban futures that sets up a consultative culture in public institutions. The BiodiverCities Atlas has also contributed to the mapping of urban biodiversity and ecosystems services.

ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Centre and the European Committee of the Regions hosted and led a series of five webinars that opened a space for knowledge building and sharing on biodiversity issues towards COP 16 in Türkiye in 2024 and to reach the 2030 targets and 2050 goals.

At a global level, United Nations Biodiversity Conference, COP16, planned to take place in 2024, will offer an opportunity to focus on resource mobilisation and capacity-building.

Leading role in the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform (ZPSP) and influencing zero pollution legislation

The Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform (ZPSP), a joint initiative of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the European Commission (EC), co-chaired by DG ENV and the CoR and which secretariat is also co-managed, has organized a number of activities in 2023 (2 Platform meetings, 3 Talks and 2 workshops). With this work, the institution promoted the local and regional dimension and increasing the visibility of CoR opinions, in particular on ambient air quality⁴¹, urban waste water⁴² and soil monitoring and resilience⁴³. The CoR has actively advocated for local solutions supporting the Zero Pollution agenda. The institution led a ZPSP Talk dedicated to soil and the role of regional and local authorities and stakeholders.

Considering the important work on the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform, the high interest on air, water and soil opinions (including a Talk on soils), the CoR will reinforce the communication and visibility related to these activities. The co-drafting of the ZPSP newsletter is a good example of inter-institutional cooperation and full involvement of the Communication Directorate.

On the legislative side, the CoR has released several opinions⁴⁴ in the field, which had a clear impact on the interinstitutional negotiations:

- Parliament's position on the Industrial Emissions Directive⁴⁵ includes two CoR proposals: access to justice for sub-national public authorities and compensations for local communities.
- The Parliament's position on Ambient Air Quality⁴⁶ is very close to the CoR's opinion on the key issue of pollution limits. It includes other elements in line with the CoR position and proposes additions referring to the local and regional level.

⁴⁰ 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

⁴¹ ENVE-VII/035- Revision of the EU Ambient Air Quality Legislation - rapporteur: Una Power (IE/The Greens)- COR-2022-06180-00-01-AC-TRA

⁴² ENVE-VII/034-Revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive - rapporteur: Åsa Agren Wikström (SE/EPP) - COR-2022-06179-00-01-AC-TRA

⁴³ ENVE-VII/042-Soil Monitoring and Resilience - rapporteur: Frida Nilsson (SE/Renew Europe) - COR-2023-03680-00-00-PA-TRA

⁴⁴ ENVE-VII/035- Revision of the EU Ambient Air Quality Legislation - rapporteur: Una Power (IE/ The Greens)- COR-2022-06180-00-01-AC-TRA

ENVE-VII/034-Revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive - rapporteur: Åsa Agren Wikström (SE/EPP)- COR-2022-06179-00-01-AC-TRA

ENVE-VII/032- Industrial Emissions Directive - rapporteur: Jean Noel Verfaillie (FR/Renew)- COR-2022-02951-00-00-AC-TRA

⁴⁵ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0259_EN.html

⁴⁶ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0318_EN.html

- As regards Urban Waste Water Treatment, the EP and Council positions followed the CoR opinion which strongly supports a system of extended producer responsibility, limiting exemptions and facilitating enough financing to ensure the affordability of vital products. Both institutions agreed on postponing the deadlines for complying with the obligation of providing with collecting systems for small agglomerations, and sufficient flexibility in implementation while ensuring a high level of protection for human health and the environment.

Active role in relevant circular economy initiatives

The CoR is an associated partner in the European Commission **Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI)**. This initiative extended circular economy good practices to cities and regions. The CoR was actively involved in the preparation of CCRI's first Annual General Conference in November 2023. In 2023 the CoR cooperated with the European Commission on several activities in synergy with the CoR rapporteurs on the Circular Economy package II⁴⁷.

3.2.5 Energy and Climate Action

Main impact:

- Strong role of the CoR in the European Covenant of Mayors initiative;
- Successful follow up of the Fit for 55 package, including pilot action to influence trilogues negotiations;
- Influencing the revision of the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action regulation;
- Increased cooperation with the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change.

Stronger role of the CoR in the European Covenant of Mayors initiative

In 2023 the CoR managed to strengthen its position within the Covenant of Mayors initiative.

The **ENVE Chair Rafał Trzaskowski (PL/EPP) has taken an increasing leadership within the Covenant of Mayors Political Board**, with the CoR coordinating the drafting of some key position papers from the Political Board and hosting some of the key meetings.

The **27 CoM national ambassadors are becoming key interlocutors to provide insights from the different Member States to the European Commission** leading managers especially during the energy crisis: they have actively participated in meetings with EU Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson, EU Commissioner for Transport Adina Vălean, Executive-Vice president for the Green Deal Maroš Šefčovič, Director General for DG ENER Ditte Juul Jørgensen, Director General for DG CLIMA Kurt Vanderberghe, Director General for DG REGIO Themis Christophidou. In 2023 the CoR political leadership in the Covenant has also reinforced the link between the Covenant of Mayors and the Mission on Climate Neutral and Smart Cities and is steering towards new dialogues on the green transition with active involvement from local and regional authorities.

⁴⁷ The OECD in collaboration with the CoR and the European Parliament held in Tallin the [5th OECD Roundtable on the circular economy in cities and regions](#), 5-6 June 2023.

[Luca Menesini \(IT/PES\)](#), President of the Province of Lucca and CoR rapporteur on the EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles joined the 14th edition of the European Week for Waste Reduction and was member of the Jury of the European 2022 awards ceremony.

Successful follow up of the Fit for 55 package, including pilot action to influence trilogue negotiations.

After the significant legislative effort to cover the whole Fit for 55 package, the CoR has made an active follow up during the interinstitutional negotiations. In this context, the CoR also carried out a pilot action to **follow up on the trilogue negotiations** on the Renewable Energy Directive, with the rapporteur⁴⁸ taking a leading role in the exercise.

Thanks to this, several CoR proposals have been included in the final legislative texts, namely an enhanced support to the local energy production via renewable energy communities and strengthened multi-level governance (RED)⁴⁹, and the inclusion of one-stop-shops for energy efficiency (EED)⁵⁰ and the recognition of energy sharing schemes in the reform of the EU electricity market design⁵¹.

The revised legislation on the Land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) file⁵² is close to the CoR's position⁵³ on the ambition level and, in line with the CoR's position to not include the non-CO2 GHG emissions from agriculture.

With the key Fit for 55 files now having reached the finish line, the CoR will look at the implementation of the Green Deal policies to ensure that targets and commitments set on paper have adequate resources and support on the ground.

Influencing the revision of the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action regulation

Thanks to its early positioning on the subject with the opinion on "[A multilevel governance for the Green Deal: towards the revision of the Governance Regulation](#)"⁵⁴, the CoR has become a key player in the discussion on the revision of the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action regulation, taking part to the kick-off meeting of the revision between the European Commission and the representatives of Member States on 20 April 2023. This participation has been followed up by a set of high-level events and bilateral meetings, which set the ground for an open discussion at the very early stages of the revision of this cornerstone regulation. The work done at political level was supported by a dedicated study on "Local and regional authorities in the governance of the energy union"⁵⁵.

In 2024, the work in the field will be further developed, trying to ensure the CoR key messages be included in the proposal of the European Commission.

Increased cooperation with the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change

⁴⁸ The pilot project aimed to gather information from co-legislators about any modifications made to the initial proposal to update the Renewable Energy Directive at every stage of the legislative procedure, encompassing trilogue negotiations. The CoR rapporteur, Andries Gryffroy (BE/EA), lead this project.

⁴⁹ 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

⁵⁰ 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

⁵¹ ENVE-VII/039- Reform of the EU electricity market design - rapporteur: Josef Frey (DE/ The Greens)- COR-2023-02118-00-00-AC-TRA

⁵² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023R0839>

⁵³ ENVE-VII/025- Revision of LULUCF and Effort Sharing regulations - rapporteur: Åsa Ågren Wikström (SE/EPP)- COR-2022-00061-00-01-AC-TRA

⁵⁴ ENVE-VII/037-Towards a multilevel Green Deal governance: the revision of the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action Regulation-Rapporteur: Joško Klisovic (HR/PES)- COR-2023-00903-00-01-PAC-TRA

⁵⁵ https://cor.europa.eu/en/engage/studies/Documents/Local%20and%20regional%20authorities%20in%20the%20governance%20of%20the%20energy%20union/LRAs%20in%20energy%20governance_draft%20study%20with%20cover.pdf

The CoR has increased its cooperation with the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change including the **participation of the CoR in the second Forum on the Mission in Sweden in June 2023**, participation in a side event during European Week Regions and Cities and co-organization of a side event at COP28. The CoR members have also secured the institutional involvement in the European Urban Resilience Forum in Portugal in October 2023. The CoR joined the European Resilience Partnership which will establish a structured dialogue for the complementary needs of partners initiatives and programmes on resilience to increase their reach and impact.

The European Commission has announced the launch of a strand of work on water resilience, which carries a strong subnational component and will therefore be followed up by the CoR commission as well, in cooperation with upcoming presidencies and relevant partners.

3.2.6 Agriculture and food policy

Main impact:

- The role of the LRAs was introduced in the legislative proposals on geographical indications system and on carbon removal certification;
- Several NAT opinions were highly reported in the European, national and local press (88 articles for the CoR opinion on food security and food systems) as well as the organic awards ceremony which social media campaign generated 1 912 engagements on social media.

Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food system

To address challenges affecting the production of food - from the COVID pandemic and the war in Ukraine to climate change-induced droughts and floods - the CoR adopted an opinion on food security and resilience of food systems⁵⁶ in November 2022, after the rapporteur presented it at the EP AGRI committee meeting. A debate on food security was organised during the CoR Plenary session, where this opinion was adopted, with high level speakers such as Janusz Wojciechowski, Commissioner for Agriculture.

Further dedicated events were organised, before the EP adopted its resolution on ensuring food security and long-term resilience of EU agriculture in June 2023⁵⁷, including a TV debate held in May 2023 in the AGORA studio of the European Parliament with the CoR opinion rapporteur, Piotr Całbecki, the MEP Jarosław Kalinowski, and Adam Struzik, Marshall of the Mazowieckie Region, and a successful NAT external meeting and conference on food crisis hosted by the CoR rapporteur in June 2023. MEP Marlene Mortler and Christina Borchmann, Director for Common Agriculture Policy Strategic Plans, European Commission, DG AGRI attended the debate alongside other speakers from FAO, EEB, to ICLEI and CEJA.

Both the CoR and EP reports underline the need to strengthen food security in the European Union and enhance the strategic autonomy and resilience of its agricultural sector while reducing our dependence on imports from third countries and diversifying the supply of critical imported products such as fertilisers, animal feed and raw materials. The recommendations formulated in this opinion were relayed by 88 articles, mainly in Poland, Spain, Germany and Portugal.

⁵⁶ NAT-VII/026 - Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food system – rapporteur: Piotr Całbecki (PL/EPP) - COR-2022-02101-00-00-AC-TRA

⁵⁷ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0238_EN.html

Sustainable food legislative framework

The CoR adopted an opinion on the framework law on sustainable food systems⁵⁸ in May 2023 ahead of the publication of the legislative proposal, expected by the end of the mandate. The proposal is expected to position sustainable food public procurement as one of the key enablers for the transition towards more sustainable food systems.

This is a result of the year-long pleading by the CoR, starting with its opinion on sustainable food in 2017⁵⁹, from the Farm to Fork strategy in 2020⁶⁰ to the Framework law opinion in 2023⁶¹. The CoR is calling for the recognition of the key role of food public procurement in making our food systems more sustainable, in line with sustainability policies and the Sustainable Development Goals, pointing out its relevance for local and regional authorities. Specifically, the CoR made a request to eliminate existing constraints within public procurement rules to apply sustainability criteria. Regional best practice examples and know-how were shared during several EURegionsWeek workshops on the topic of public procurement.

In October 2023, during EURegionsWeek, a workshop on [Promoting social innovation through public canteens](#) was co-organised with ICLEI and IFOAM organics Europe. The CoR rapporteur Joke Schauvliege opened the session. During this event, a petition for healthy school meals and food education was handed over to the MEPs Manuela Ripa and Michaela Šojdrová.

Geographical indications

The CoR's opinion on the reform of the geographical indications system⁶² was adopted well in advance (in November 2022) of the European Parliament's report adoption in AGRI Committee⁶³ (in April 2023) and with the support of the AREPO (Association of European Regions for Products of Origin) network. The CoR rapporteur, Karine Gloanec Maurin, was invited to present the CoR opinion during the Agri Committee meeting in November 2022. She worked very closely with her former colleague, Paolo De Castro, the EP rapporteur who indicated that his report took on board most of the CoR proposals. Indeed, both the CoR opinion and the EP report:

- support the establishment of a single set of procedural rules for all sectors, with a view to ensuring consistency and making the geographical indications (GI) system clearer
- consider that the technical assistance to the European Commission provided by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) should be limited to intellectual property rights (IPR) and in a manner to be clearly defined in the legislative proposal. DG AGRI should continue to handle the scrutiny of applications for registration, opposition and cancellation of GIs, as well as amendments to the specifications
- approve of the inclusion of voluntary sustainability undertakings in GIs

⁵⁸ NAT-VII/033 - Legislative framework for sustainable food systems – rapporteur: Joke Schauvliege (BE/EPP) - COR-2022-05930-00-01-AC-TRA

⁵⁹ [OJ C 272, 17.8.2017, p. 14–18.](#)

⁶⁰ [OJ C 37, 2.2.2021, p. 22–27.](#)

⁶¹ [OJ C 257, 21.7.2023, p. 23–27.](#)

⁶² NAT-VII/025 - Reform of the geographical indications system – rapporteur: Karine Gloanec-Maurin (FR/PES) - COR-2022-03736-00-00-AC-TRA

⁶³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2023-0173_EN.html

- welcome the European Commission's ambition to encourage GI producers to work together effectively within producer groups and to give such groups more powers

Moreover, 19 legislative CoR amendments were taken on board in the EP report. The role of LRAs in the application process for the registration of geographical indications was added in the final agreement reached in trilogue. Following the recognition of the essential role in the application process for the registration of geographical indications of the regional authorities (recital 21 of the new regulation), the CoR rapporteur reached an agreement with the EUIPO director to set up a new EUIPO advisory board dedicated to the geographical indications with regions' representatives.

The opinion of the CoR was also reported in the main European agricultural newsletter and in local press⁶⁴.

Pesticides

The CoR's opinion on the sustainable use of pesticides⁶⁵ was adopted well in advance (in January 2023) of the European Parliament's report (not yet adopted). Our rapporteur, Heinz-Joachim Höfer, was invited to present the CoR opinion at various high-level events in the European Parliament:

- the Public Hearing organised jointly by 3 commissions of the European Parliament, ENVI, AGR and PETI in November 2022 with Pascal Canfin, ENVI Chair, Benoît Bateau, AGR Vice-Chair, Ana Miranda, PETI Vice-Chair, Věra Jourova, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Values and Transparency and Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS, Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries;
- the event on the revision of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides directive in February 2023 co-hosted by a group of MEPs ;and the European Food Forum;
- a conference organised by MEP Mrs Christine SCHNEIDER in March 2023;
- the PEST special committee in April 2023 co-hosted by a group of MEPs;
- a conference in July 2023 co-hosted by MEP Mr. Bogovič and MEP Mrs. Müller and EP intergroup on biodiversity.

Most of the CoR legislative amendments were taken on board in the report of the main European Parliament rapporteur Sarah Wiener. Several CoR legislative amendments and political recommendations were taken on board in the report adopted by the ENVI Committee in October 2023, however the EP rejected the proposal in Plenary Session in November 2023.

The opinion of the CoR was also widely reported in the European, national and local press with more than 70 articles and presented at various conferences⁶⁶.

Carbon Farming

⁶⁴ A dedicated article on the CoR opinion was published on 2/12/2022 in AGRA facts, and on 10/11/2022 and 3/12/2022 in Agence Europe

⁶⁵ NAT-VII/031 - Sustainable use of pesticides – rapporteur: Heinz-Joachim Höfer (DE/PES) - COR-2022-04989-00-01-AC-TRA

⁶⁶ Joint final conference "Agroecology Living Labs and Research Infrastructures in Europe – experiences from ALL-Ready & AE4EU" on 27 September 2023; Innovative natural fumigants for a sustainable Europe. LIFE Next Fumigreen project and its benefits on 7 November 2023.

An own-initiative opinion on regional adaptation strategies for low-carbon agriculture⁶⁷ was adopted in February 2023 to influence the European Commission Proposal establishing a Union regulatory framework for the certification of carbon removals, adopted in November 2022.

The rapporteur was invited to present the CoR opinion during a conference on Carbon farming in February 2023 co-hosted by a group of MEPs.

The opinion of the CoR was also widely reported in the European, national and local press with more than 30 articles.

The CoR's request to involve regional authorities in the governance of EU carbon removals certification to ensure projects are adapted to local needs and do not threaten food security in Europe was taken on board in the report of the EP adopted on 21/11/2023. The role of the regional authorities has been introduced in 5 articles of the EC proposal (Articles 10.4, 11.4, 13.2, 13.3 and Recital 22).

Organic Awards

The finalists for the second edition of the [EU Organic Awards](#), co-organised with the European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee, IFOAM, COPA-COGECA, the European Parliament and the Council to reward excellence along the European organic value chain, were announced in September 2023, EU Organic Day, during a special ceremony with EU commissioner for Agriculture, Janusz Wojciechowski. Kirstine Helene Bille, the CoR member was in the organic awards jury

The media results of the EU Organic Awards' media promotion are excellent: The social media campaign generated 1 912 engagements on social media and the press media campaign generated 140 articles in the national, regional and local press.

Joint NAT/AGRI Hearing on the territorial implementation of the CAP

In its 2023 work programme, the CoR NAT Commission committed to closely follow the implementation of the Common agricultural policy (CAP) at regional level and to show the added value of regional interventions. The NAT Commission launched a first consultation of its regional network to assess the contribution of the local and regional level to the drafting of the CAP Strategic Plans, as well as the weight of the regional dimension in these plans. The result of this first consultation was presented to a joint hearing of the CoR's NAT Commission, the AGRIREGIONS Coalition and the EP AGRI committee on the territorial implementation of the CAP in October 2023.

3.2.7 Civil Protection

Main impact:

- In its follow-up report the European Commission largely echoed the CoR position and calls made in the opinion "Preparing for and dealing with crises: strengthening the resilience of the Union, its regions and cities";

⁶⁷ NAT-VII/027 - Regional adaptation strategies for low carbon agriculture – rapporteur: Loïg Chesnais-Girard (FR/PES) - COR-2022-03978-00-00-AC-TRA

- The CoR collaboration with the JRC outcome is the development and publication (by JRC) of a vulnerability dashboard consisting of social, economic, political, and environmental vulnerability indicators and capturing vulnerability to disasters across administrative levels.

The CoR's opinion on "Preparing for and dealing with crises: strengthening the resilience of the Union, its regions and cities"⁶⁸<https://webapi2016.cor.europa.eu/v1/documents/COR-2021-04928-00-00-AC-TRA-EN.docx/content> was adopted in May 2023 Plenary. Janez Lenarčič, EU Commissioner for Crisis Management, took part in Plenary debate on the topic and shared CoR objectives of enhancing social preparedness, better understanding risks and vulnerabilities and building a cross-border culture of preparedness and prevention, while also highlighting the need to focus on the local level, since the EU is only as resilient as its cities and regions.

In its follow-up report published in September 2023, the European Commission largely echoed the CoR position of and calls made in this opinion, such as: the call to strengthen the common security of supply across Europe, including by identifying critical strategic dependencies and providing the Single Market mechanisms needed to bolster the security of supply; the importance of the social dimension in building up resilience against disasters and crises; the fact that disasters and extreme events have the potential to increase disparities between regions and citizens - reducing these inequalities is at the core of cohesion policy; the importance of Interreg programmes in crisis management. One of the main calls in the opinion was for the development of the territorial vulnerability scoreboard in close collaboration with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in order to better understand and take account of the risks related to the vulnerabilities of local areas and populations to disasters and crises. A tangible outcome of the collaboration with the JRC is the development and publication (by JRC) of a vulnerability dashboard consisting of social, economic, political, and environmental vulnerability indicators and capturing vulnerability to disasters across administrative levels (Country, NUTS2 and NUTS3), facilitating a more comprehensive understanding of vulnerability in Europe.

Vulnerability of regions could become an important criterion for redesigning future cohesion policy and making it more responsive to current crises and climate adaptation. The index and territorial vulnerability scoreboard are seen as crucial to start a debate on how to use future cohesion policy (and funds) to respond to such vulnerabilities.

In October 2023, during EU Regions Week, a session on *Bridging the Gap in Cross-border Cooperation: Societal Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction* was co-organised with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for Europe and Central Asia, with the participation of the rapporteur as one of the panellists.

3.2.8 Digital policy

Main impact:

⁶⁸ NAT-VII/032 - Preparing for and dealing with crises: strengthening the resilience of the Union, its regions and cities – rapporteur: Christophe Clergeau (FR/PES) - COR-2022-05928-00-00-PAC-TRA

- The CoR was involved in all the stages of drawing up the legislation on Interoperability of cross-border digital services; being it through RegHub consultation⁶⁹ or its opinion on Interoperable Europe Act (IEA)⁷⁰.
- In the European Commission's subsequent⁷¹ proposal many of the recommendation of this Fit 4 Future opinion were taken on board.
- Many of the points of the CoR opinion⁷², reiterating points that had not been addressed in the European Commission proposal, were taken up by the Council and the European Parliament.
- The Council and the European Parliament are in agreement that the CoR should be a member of a newly created Interoperable Europe Board, in order to ensure that the interests of local and regional public administration are effectively taken on board thereby achieving a real impact on operative policymaking.

The digital transformation of public administrations is among the top priorities of the Digital Decade⁷³, and Member States are investing intensely in the digitisation of their public administration. Since more and more services provided by the EU public sector become digital and their level of interoperability is insufficient, the objective of the CoR is to reflect interests of local and regional public administrations in a newly set-up interoperability governance framework.

The CoR, from the onset of European Commission's consultations on the existing European Interoperability Framework⁷⁴, was closely involved in shaping a newly created system of a European interoperability governance. In order to feed into a Fit 4 Future Platform opinion leading to drawing up a new Interoperable Europe Act, the CoR conducted a separate consultation through its network of Regional Hubs (RegHub network). In addition, the CoR participated, at administrative level, in meetings of the Expert Group on interoperability of public services, which also was tasked to contribute towards drafting the content of the actual legislative proposal.

Further to the European Commission's proposal in November 2022⁷⁵, the CoR proceeded to draw up a legislative opinion⁷⁶, established good contacts with the respective rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs in the European Parliament ITRE committee and conducted a dedicated stakeholder's consultation to bring in input from relevant stakeholders.

The legislative proposal took on board a number of recommendations from the CoR Fit 4 Future opinion, namely:

- To set-up an Interoperability governance system with well-defined roles at EU and national levels;

⁶⁹ [Fit For Future Platform opinion on Governments interoperability strategy n. 2022/SBGR3/10](#), rapporteur Anne Karjalainen (FI/PES)

⁷⁰ ECON-VII/029 – Interoperable Europe Act - rapporteur: Michele Pais, (IT/ECR) - COR-2023-00152-00-00-AC-TRA

⁷¹ Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL laying down measures for a high level of public sector interoperability across the Union (Interoperable Europe Act) – [COM\(2022\) 720 final](#)

⁷² ECON-VII/029 – Interoperable Europe Act - rapporteur: Michele Pais, (IT/ECR) - COR-2023-00152-00-00-AC-TRA

⁷³ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/europes-digital-decade> <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/europes-digital-decade> <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/europes-digital-decade>

⁷⁴ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2c2f2554-0faf-11e7-8a35-01aa75ed71a1.0017.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

⁷⁵ Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL laying down measures for a high level of public sector interoperability across the Union (Interoperable Europe Act) – [COM\(2022\) 720 final](#)

⁷⁶ ECON-VII/029 – Interoperable Europe Act - rapporteur: Michele Pais, (IT/ECR) - COR-2023-00152-00-00-AC-TRA

- The proper involvement of subnational authorities in the interoperability governance, with the CoR having a seat in a proposed Interoperability Europe Board⁷⁷;
- Effective system guaranteeing integration of Interoperability by design;
- Existing Join-Up platform to promote and organize an exchange of national good practice and solutions to become an Interoperable Europe Portal.

In addition, good contacts with the ITRE rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs allowed the ITRE committee to insert five CoR amendments into its report⁷⁸ taking up exact wording from the CoR Opinion on IEA:

- LRAs to conduct direct consultations with citizens on interoperability;
- Financial support opportunities to assist the implementation of interoperability solutions within Policy implementation support projects;
- List of training initiatives to be supported by the Act – (including from the RegHub consultation);
- Interoperable Europe Community to provide support in carrying out interoperability assessments;
- Appropriate funding and guidance to national competent authorities to support performance of related tasks;

The same CoR Opinion also inspired the report with three key requests related to the role of the LRAs in the interoperability governance, namely:

- No disproportionate additional burden to LRAs;
- Advice to LRAs as to when interoperability assessments are obligatory;
- Focus on subnational authorities in establishing of and participation in innovation sandboxes.

Furthermore, the Council, in its position for trilogue negotiations, put forward a number of amendments to the original text also inspired by the CoR opinion on IEA, in particular:

- Financial support opportunities to assist the implementation of interoperability solutions within Policy implementation support projects – exact wording;
- List of training initiatives to be supported by the Act – exact wording (including from the RegHub consultation);
- The role of the Interoperable Europe Board to also inform on relevant EU-funded projects and networks – exact wording;
- Proportionality in the approach to conduct interoperability assessments - key message taken up;
- The role of the Interoperable Europe Board to propose to the European Commission Policy implementation support projects, including funding support – key message taken up.

Given the consenting wording of both the European Parliament and the Council on the composition of a newly created Interoperable Europe Board, the CoR may have a key role to play in representing the interests of local and regional administrations in such a body. Practical arrangements of its functioning,

⁷⁷ As per the European Commission Communication accompanying the proposal for an Interoperable Europe Act "Adequate involvement and representation of regional and local communities is a prerequisite, not only because they constitute the 'first and last mile' of public service delivery, but also in order to be able to tap into the considerable innovation capacity of cities and regions" – [COM\(2022\) 710](#)

⁷⁸ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2023-0254_EN.html

including guidelines on interoperability assessments, are currently in development, which implies the setting-up of internal procedures for CoR representation in the Board and internal arrangements for conducting consultations on different aspects of documents adopted by the Board with LRAs.

3.2.9 Single Market, Industrial Policy and Economic Governance

Main impact:

- Influence of CoR opinion on Critical Raw Materials Package⁷⁹ on the European Parliament position for trilogues and follow up into trilogues by establishing close relation with European Parliament rapporteur's team and the Council secretariat;
- Crucial long-standing CoR demand with regards to economic governance reform taken up by the European Parliament rapporteurs;
- Single Market Emergency Instrument: the European Parliament adopted amendments from the CoR opinion⁸⁰ in its report.

The green and digital transformation of the European economy have great impact on LRAs. The Green Deal Industrial Plan set out a framework of several legislative files that will shape the transformation. Two of them were subject to opinions by the CoR: Critical Raw Material Package (CRMA)⁸¹ and Net-Zero Technology Act (NZIA).⁸²

Both acts will have great impact on LRAs as they outline conditions for strategic projects to secure the flow of raw materials or create new clean technologies. They also envisage new wide scoped alliances to achieve its goals. As the EU gives greater focus to industrial policy one key objective of the CoR has been to involve the LRAs in policy development and implementation, this is why the CoR has requested a place for the CoR in managing/monitoring bodies of relevant policies and by taking part in the Industrial Forum plenary meetings and working groups.

Several amendments from the two above mentioned have been taken on board by EP Rapporteurs on CRMA and the NZIA for EP position for trilogues.

The amendments from the CoR Opinion on the CRMA taken on board by EP and the Council concern the following:

- recognising LRAs as the voice of people affected by planned Strategic Projects and involving LRAs in the planning phase of those projects;
- increasing the efficiency on the usage of primary raw materials along value chains, as in both co-legislators' positions;
- increasing the target of recycling of the CRMs up to 20%, as in the Council position and aiming at full circularity in the future as in the Parliament position;
- minimising the impact of mining, production and processing of CRMs on climate, societies and environment as in the European Parliament position;
- recognition of the role of the standard set up by the International Labour Organization in securing high quality jobs;

⁷⁹ ECON-VII-031 Critical Raw Materials Package - rapporteur: Isodle Ries (DE/PES) COR-2023-02188-00-01-AC-TRA

⁸⁰ ECON-VII/027 - Single market emergency instrument - rapporteur: Muhterem Aras (DE/The Greens) - COR-2022-04234-00-00-AC-TRA

⁸¹ ECON-VII-031 Critical Raw Materials Package -rapporteur: Isodle Ries (DE/PES) COR-2023-02188-00-01-AC-TRA

⁸² ECON-VII-032 Net Zero Industry Act - rapporteur: Mark Speich (DE/EPP) COR-2023-02189-00-01-AC-TRA

- securing the role of the LRAs in communication with local population during planning phase of strategic projects;
- securing rights of indigenous people in Europe and in common projects planned in third countries.

The CoR's main concerns for the trilogues on CRMA, as underlined in letters sent to the Council, the Parliament, the European Commission and the Presidency, is to safeguard the role of local and regional authorities in the processes that are affected by the regulation: land development, spatial planning, communication with the local population, and permitting. These come under the remit of LRAs, and at the end, local and regional authorities will have to implement the new law and take responsibility for its proper enforcement.

The EP report on the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA)⁸³, adopted on 6 November 2023, takes on board several key concerns from the CoR opinion on the same subject as follows:

- The EP's streamlined definitions of net-zero technologies, of components and innovative net-zero technologies which propose a wider definition and deletion of the reference to technology readiness level.
- The EP support for an expanded scope that encompasses the entire supply chain of net-zero technologies, a key point of the CoR opinion.
- The introduction of the concept of Net-Zero Industry Valleys, aimed at fostering industrial symbiosis and encouraging Member States to make targeted investments in specific areas across Europe. It also takes up the CoR's suggestion regarding a specific focus on coal regions in transition.
- The potential of carbon capture and storage (CCS) solutions to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.
- The emphasis on the scarcity of skilled employees and a lack of understanding within local administration in certain regions of the Union. Exact wording of the CoR opinion has further been taken up regarding putting into place measures to attract, retain, upskill or reskill a workforce required for net-zero technologies.
- The removal of the reference to the work of the International Energy Agency.

Feeding into the trilogue negotiations, an in-depth analysis of the EP, Council and CoR positions was provided.

In the trilogues of the above-mentioned files the CoR aimed to build a visible position through the promotion of its opinions and by influencing the co-legislators targeting the future involvement of LRAs and thereby strengthening their voice in EU policy making. Securing a seat for the CoR, as the LRAs' representative, in relevant managing/monitoring bodies for CRMA and NZIA would ensure the CoR an active role in the shaping and evaluation of two crucial strands of industrial policy.

If the CoR successfully secures a place in these relevant Boards monitoring the flow of CRMs and the creation of new clean technologies, the CoR will have a key role to play in representing the interests of local and regional administrations in such bodies. It will require the setting-up of internal procedures for

⁸³ [REPORT on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's net-zero technology products manufacturing ecosystem \(Net Zero Industry Act\) | A9-0343/2023 | European Parliament \(europa.eu\)](#)

CoR representation in the Board and internal arrangements for conducting consultations on different aspects of documents adopted by the Board with LRAs.

Economic Governance

Regarding the economic governance framework, in 2023 the European Commission put forward legislative proposals for reform in April 2023. They follow an extended period of debate on the EU's economic surveillance framework which was initially launched in February 2020. but delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The reform proposals represent the most comprehensive reform of the EU's economic governance rules since the aftermath of the financial crisis, the two key objectives being the strengthening of public debt sustainability and promotion of sustainable and inclusive growth in all Member States through reforms and investment.

The CoR had been actively making its case on behalf of local and regional authorities even before the beginning of the review process launched by the European Commission, and continued throughout it. This took place through opinions and outreach, notably towards the EP. Back in 2015, the CoR was already expressing through an opinion⁸⁴ its concerns regarding the Stability and Growth Pact, and asking for support for public investment, notably through a favourable treatment of co-financing expenditure. During the review process itself, the CoR adopted three opinions⁸⁵, The third opinion⁸⁶ was based on the November 2022 European Commission "orientations for reform" and on the April 2023 legislative proposals.

During the Plenary debate for the adoption of this third opinion on 10 October 2023, guest speaker MEP Margarida Marques⁸⁷ highlighted her good cooperation and discussions with the CoR rapporteur through the long review process, and stressed that this had strongly influenced her own work. She recognised the local and regional relevance of this reform and stated that many of the EP's priorities are in line with those of the CoR, particularly in terms of facilitating public investments and reforms in the green and digital transitions. Importantly, the draft EP report of Ms Marques and Ms De Lange⁸⁸ proposed to amend the European Commission's proposal as regards the definition of next expenditure, notably adding an exclusion for expenditure on co-financing of programs funded by the EU (capped at 0.25% of GDP).

Single Market

On 19 September 2022, the European Commission adopted the proposal for a Single Market Emergency Instrument (SMEI), designed to support the single market in times of crisis. The SMEI includes a

⁸⁴ ECON-VI/002 - Making the best use of the flexibility within the existing rules of the Stability and Growth Pact - rapporteur: Olga Zrihen, (BE/PES) - COR-2015-01185-00-01-AC-TRA

⁸⁵ ECON-VII/005 - Economic governance review - rapporteur: Elio Di Rupo, (BE/PES) - COR-2020-01370-00-01-AC-TRA;
ECON-VII/0020 - The EU economy after COVID-19: implications for economic governance - rapporteur: Elio Di Rupo, (BE/PES) - COR-2022-00194-00-00-AC-TRA; and
ECON-VII/0030 - Reform of the EU economic governance framework - rapporteur: Elio Di Rupo, (BE/PES) - COR-2022-00157-00-00-AC-TRA

⁸⁶ ECON-VII/0030 - Reform of the EU economic governance framework - rapporteur: Elio Di Rupo, (BE/PES) - COR-2022-00157-00-00-AC-TRA

⁸⁷ Co-rapporteur for the EP report on economic governance reform together with Esther de Lange

⁸⁸ [PR\(2023\)754668](#)

governance structure and frameworks for contingency planning, vigilance and emergencies. It also provides for exceptional measures to ensure the availability of crisis-relevant goods.

The objective of the CoR's opinion on Single Market Emergency Instrument⁸⁹ was to ensure that the regional and local perspectives are taken into account, given that local and regional authorities are often responsible for taking and implementing measures to counter the consequences of crises that can affect the integrity of the Single Market. The frailty of the Single Market in times of crisis is very much felt both in border regions and cities and in local and regional economies that depend on cross-border activities and EU wide travel.

Four amendments that were tabled in the EP's IMCO Committee had a very singular justification: *"The amendment stems from the Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions on the Single Market Emergency Instrument. It does not reflect political ownership of the co-signatories or their groups and is added by the authors to formally introduce it into the legislative process."*⁹⁰ This justification was a first of a kind and thus, together with eight additional CoR inspired amendments, the EP adopted its first reading position on 13 September 2023 that included the CoR's calls for more CoR/LRA involvement in the governance of the SMEI and a stronger focus on border and outermost regions in the implementation of the SMEI. More specifically the EP picked up the following points that were impacted by the CoR opinion:

- Include input from the local and regional level in the coordination and compilation mission of the central liaison offices and include LRAs in the cooperation for the management of the internal market vigilance and emergency modes
- Invite, where appropriate, representatives of the CoR as observers to the relevant meetings of the emergency and resilience board
- Provide LRAs with relevant information and assistance from the Union level single point of contact
- Develop, when relevant, European Commission guidance on knowledge dissemination and the implementation of different tasks at regional and local level
- Oblige Member States to pay particular attention to the situation and needs of the border regions when providing information on crisis response measures
- Add an assessment of the specific situation of border regions and outermost regions in the decision criteria for the activation of the vigilance mode and conduct stress tests covering comprehensive Union-wide stress tests or specific geographical areas or border regions
- Take into account cross-border effects the impact on particularly vulnerable or exposed geographical areas such as the outermost regions to define the crisis affected proportion of the internal market

This result of a close cooperation with the EP rapporteur and shadows across political groups can be considered a recognition of the CoR's consultative legislative work, and an example of good cooperation between the EP and the CoR.

3.2.10 New European Innovation Agenda

⁸⁹ ECON-VII/027 - Single market emergency instrument - rapporteur: Muhterem Aras (DE/The Greens) - COR-2022-04234-00-00-AC-TRA

⁹⁰ [AM Com LegReport \(europa.eu\)](#)

Main impact:

- The joint Horizon Europe and Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) call on Regional Innovation Valleys was launched by the European Commission on 17 May 2023, responding to the CoR's appeal for better synergies between the regional policy funds and the Horizon programme in support of regional innovation.
- The European Parliament is currently preparing its contribution for the continuation of the Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRI) in 2024, which will allow for more regions to become involved, as the CoR has been requesting.

The CoR's political work in the context of the New European Innovation Agenda (NEIA) has been focused on mobilising the regional innovation strategies and ecosystems for the green and digital transition, while simultaneously addressing the persistent innovation gap among the EU regions.

The CoR has been trying to achieve these objectives within the context of the Joint Action Plan (JAP) that it has in place with the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and other services reporting to the same European Commissioner. Dedicated events – both high-level political and technical – have been organised in cooperation with the European Commission and with participation at Commissioner level.

The CoR's call⁹¹ for better synergies between the regional policy funds and the Horizon programme in support of regional innovation has been heeded by the European Commission, which announced a joint call by the Directorates-General for Research and Innovation (DG R&I) and Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) for proposals for regional innovation valleys (RIVs). The call ended in October 2023 and the submissions will be assessed by approximately March 2024.

Building impact in this area in future will entail continuing with the PRI approach in cooperation with the European Parliament, at least in 2024, in order to mobilise further regions and enable them to participate. Moreover, since there will only be enough RIVs funding in the first round for the best applicants, the CoR will need to explore with the European Commission how to address the expectations of other deserving high-quality applications from European regions.

3.2.11 Strategic foresight⁹²

Main impact:

- In October this year, the CoR adopted its first-ever opinion on foresight as an instrument of EU governance and better regulation, focusing on the relevance of foresight for the local and regional levels. The opinion was widely consulted among institutional partners and shared within the ESPAS network, contributing to linking the levels.
- During the same month, the CoR co-organised with the European Commission a participatory lab on foresight for cities and regions, with speakers coming from EU institutions, OECD, EURADA and four regions ("foresight champions"), aiming at sharing good practices with dozens of participants. This has raised the attention of other institutions on the local and regional

⁹¹ SEDEC-VII/032 – A New Innovation Agenda for Europe – rapporteur: Markku Markkula (FI/EPP) – COR-2022-04105-00-00-AC-TRA.

⁹² Strategic foresight is a better regulation instrument that helps to build resilient communities. It is a structured and systematic way of using ideas about the future to anticipate and better prepare for change.

foresight practices, and shed light on the growing interest from regions on foresight tools and methods.

- A foresight exercise for Members was organised in November by the Green Deal Going Local Working Group feeding into the CoR's Green Deal 2.0 proposals (see point 3.2.2.).
- A foresight dimension was included in all relevant studies commissioned by the CoR to support preparation of opinions in 2023 in order to guarantee their orientation to the future.
- The CoR "Ideas Paper" on digital cohesion was published by ESPAS, bringing this topic to the fore with the interinstitutional foresight partners.

3.3 Cohesion as a fundamental value

3.3.1 Cohesion policy

Main impact:

- The elaboration of the own-initiative opinion on *The future of Cohesion policy post-2027*⁹³ allowed the CoR, as the first institution working on the matter, to assume a **pro-active and leading role on the future of cohesion policy** that was triggered by the publication of the 8th cohesion report the year before, and is assumed to impact the 9th cohesion report next year.
- The **Council conclusions on the future of cohesion policy**⁹⁴ adopted by the General Affairs Council on 30 November took on board many aspects that have been put forward by the (draft) CoR opinion as adopted by unanimity at the COTER meeting of 26 September and Plenary on 29 November. In particular, the Council conclusions and the CoR opinion fully concur on the "Do no harm to cohesion" principle, the role of cohesion policy as a long-term policy, the need to ensure a place-based approach in the design and programming of cohesion policy, as well as on the importance of the principles of shared management and partnership.
- The work of the **renewed Cohesion Alliance** including its high-level political events increased the visibility of the CoR and helped to strengthen the cooperation with key partners in the debate.
- **The CoR work on Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA) is increasingly recognised.** The Spanish Presidency invited the CoR to present its work at the Better Regulation Council working group meeting on 13 September 2023. The presentation was well received by Member States' delegates. The Council conclusions on the future of cohesion policy also included an invitation to the European Commission to make wide use of Territorial Impact Assessments while preparing legislative proposals.
- The CoR secured future ESPON support on Territorial Impact Assessment in the context of the new ESPON 2030 programme.

Among the first European institution, the CoR started in early 2023 its work on post-2027 cohesion policy with the elaboration of an own-initiative opinion on *The future of Cohesion policy post-2027*⁹⁵, with the objective of putting forward its political recommendations in advance of the 9th cohesion report, the publication of the report of the High Specialists Group on the Future of cohesion policy and the subsequent Strategic Agenda of the European Union, which are both expected in spring 2024.

By taking an early stance on the future of cohesion policy with this opinion, the CoR assumed a pro-active role in the various discussions on the matter, thereby significantly influencing the discourse.

In particular, the high-level conference on "Cohesion, our fundamental value for the future of Europe: regions and cities for a Strong Recovery and a Just Transition" on 22 June 2023 in Sibiu (Romania), which was organised by the CoR together with the Ministry of European Investments and Projects of Romania at the occasion of the external COTER commission meeting, brought together ministers and

⁹³ COTER-VII/030 – The future of Cohesion policy post-2027 – co-rapporteurs: Vasco Alves Cordeiro (PT/PES) and Emil Boc (RO/EPP) – COR-2023-02250-PAC-TRA.

⁹⁴ [Council conclusions on the future of cohesion policy, approved by the Council \(General Affairs/Cohesion\) at its 2989th meeting 30.11.2023](#)

⁹⁵ COTER-VII/030 – The future of Cohesion policy post-2027 – co-rapporteurs: Vasco Alves Cordeiro (PT/PES) and Emil Boc (RO/EPP) – COR-2023-02250-PAC-TRA.

high-level representatives of 23 Member States, the European Commission and the CoR members for an unprecedented exchange on the impact of cohesion policy and investments.

The future of cohesion policy was also at the centre of the debate at the joint REGI-COTER meeting in October 2023, where MEPs highlighted the value of CoR opinions for legislative work. The positive feedback was also the result of the enhanced cooperation of CoR rapporteurs with MEPs throughout the year, including through the active participation of CoR rapporteurs in REGI meetings to exchange views on their opinions.

Moreover, thanks to the early work of the CoR on the matter, the CoR President and the COTER chair as co-rapporteurs for the opinion were able to assume a prominent role and put forward the views of the CoR at a number of high-level events, including the informal meeting of ministers responsible for cohesion policy on 29 September 2023 in Murcia (Spain).

Throughout the year, the work of the CoR on this issue has been complemented by the activities of the renewed Cohesion Alliance, which conducted a reflection process on the future of cohesion policy and which discussed several key aspects at its high-level events on 16 March and 12 October 2023, thereby not only providing invaluable input to the CoR's work, but also helping to amplify its political messages and to strengthen the cooperation with its key partners, including the main European Associations of local and regional authorities.

The CoR also adopted an opinion on the "Do no harm to cohesion" principle⁹⁶ introduced in the 8th cohesion report, which stressed the need for a systematic *ex ante* assessment of potential differentiated territorial impacts of all new EU policies with a territorial dimension in their design phase. The CoR secured future ESPON support on Territorial Impact Assessment in the context of the new ESPON 2030 programme.

3.3.2 Reconstruction and recovery of Ukraine

Main impact:

- The guiding principles of involving LRAs and embedding decentralisation reform in Ukraine's reconstruction process, as well as and the role of the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine as a vehicle to map local and regional needs in Ukraine were recognised by the European Parliament and highlighted in its [resolution](#);
- The European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine, launched in 2022 by the CoR in partnership with EU and Ukrainian associations of LRAs, experienced continuous growth, with new partners joining the Alliance on a regular basis;
- The CoR promoted further the Summer camps for Ukrainian children initiative by increasing coordination efforts and reaching out to partners, thus contributing to welcoming more than 3000 children in 2023, as compared to 1250 in 2022, in diverse cities and regions all over the EU.

The European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine, launched in June 2022 by the CoR in partnership with the EU and Ukrainian associations of LRAs with the aim to coordinate

⁹⁶ COTER-VII/026 - Do no harm to cohesion - A cross-cutting principle contributing towards cohesion as an overall objective and value of the EU – rapporteur: Michiel Rijsberman (NL/Renew Europe) - COR-2023-00137-00-00-AC-TRA.

joint efforts directed towards helping the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine, has experienced continuous growth, with new partners joining the Alliance on a regular basis, thus strengthening cooperation among partners and expanding the collective impact of their action. The Alliance had five working-level meetings to coordinate partners' joint activities, and one political-level meeting to take stock of recent Alliance-related events and discuss the way forward in the context of Ukraine's accession to the EU.

The guiding principles of involving LRAs in the reconstruction and embedding the success of decentralisation reform in the overall architecture of Ukraine's repair, recovery and reconstruction processes, and the role of the Alliance as a vehicle to map local and regional needs in Ukraine were recognised by the European Parliament and highlighted in the [European Parliament Resolution of 15 June on the sustainable reconstruction and integration of Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic community](#).

In the context of the targeted revision of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, the European Commission's draft proposal to allocate EUR 50 billion to the Ukraine Facility included provisions intended to bolster the capacity of local authorities and recognised LRAs' role as promoters of a territorial approach to local development, including decentralisation processes, participation and accountability.

The [CoR opinion on the Ukraine Facility](#)⁹⁷, adopted in October 2023, reinforced further the message that it is essential to involve Ukrainian LRAs from the outset in the Ukraine Plan, which was also stressed in [President Zelenskyy's interview](#) in August 2023.

In February 2023, the CoR adopted a [10 points support package](#), with 10 concrete measures for Ukrainian LRAs and their role in Ukraine's reconstruction, recovery and accession to the EU. The CoR already hosted the representations in Brussels of All-Ukrainian Association of Communities, Dnipropetrovsk regional council, Lviv city council, and Vinnitsya city council, and created the conditions for accommodating additional requests. The support package started with the opening up of the CoR traineeships' programme to study visitors from Ukraine.

The CoR's strong support to Ukraine's reconstruction and recovery was further demonstrated with the organisation of the workshop on '*Strengthening the role of Local and Regional Governments in Ukraine's Recovery and Reconstruction Process*', in cooperation with the Ukrainian, UK and Swiss governments, the OECD and the European Commission. [The recommendations from this workshop](#) were presented by the CoR at the [2023 Ukraine Recovery Conference](#) and fed into the debate on the role of regions in the recovery of Ukraine.

The joint flagship initiative of the CoR and the Association of Ukrainian cities – the [Summer camps for Ukrainian children initiative](#), has been successfully carried on in 2023. Launched in 2022 in the aftermath of the war in Ukraine, it aims at welcoming Ukrainian children in cities and regions across Europe and providing them with a safe place to enjoy diverse cultural, educational and recreational activities and experience respite from the brutal reality of war. Building upon its experience from the first year of implementation, the CoR has invested further in promoting the initiative, coordinating efforts and negotiating with partners, thus contributing to welcoming more than 3000 children in 2023, compared to 1250 in 2022, in diverse cities and regions all over the EU. The initiative has inspired other private and public stakeholders and served as an example for several summer camp projects launched

⁹⁷ CIVEX-VII/025 - The Ukraine Facility – rapporteur: Dario Nardella (IT/PES) - COR-2023-03816-00-00-AC-TRA.

by national governments, private organisations and public-private partnerships, carried out in close cooperation with EU cities and regions.

Building the future impact on Ukraine's reconstruction and recovery entails enhancing the CoR's cooperation with Ukrainian stakeholders at national, regional and local level to ensure that LRAs participate fully in the country's reconstruction, promoting the principles of the Ukrainian reconstruction process in the run-up to the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2024, mobilising efforts in support of Ukraine and leading the discussions on the role of regions and cities in the country's reconstruction and recovery with a focus on reforms, decentralisation and good governance at all levels. The CoR will continue to invest in the coordination and negotiation process with its members, associations and Ukrainian partners in order to extend the summer camps initiative throughout 2024.

3.3.3 Monitoring of the European Pillar of Social Rights

Main impact:

- In 2023, reflecting the CoR own-initiative opinion on the issue of reintegrating the long-term unemployed into the labour market⁹⁸, the European Commission launched a programme through ESF+ funds to reintegrate in the labor market the long-term unemployed.
- The CoR supported the European Commission in providing grants to promote capacity and knowledge building and mutual learning for members of the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness.
- The CoR's outlook opinion on *Creating an enabling environment for the social economy*⁹⁹, requested by European Commission, helped to kickstart collective efforts to give the social economy higher priority, not only on the EU interinstitutional agenda, but also in the Member States. The [Council Recommendation](#) on developing social economy framework conditions, on which the EPSCO Council reached a political agreement on 9 October, now includes several references to the CoR opinion mentioned above and to many of its key points, highlighting the potential of the social economy to generate inclusive and sustainable local growth.
- The CoR renewed its commitment to promoting gender equality, strengthening cooperation with the European Institute for Gender Equality (institutionalising cooperation by a meeting between the CoR secretary-general and the EIGE director), issuing an own-initiative opinion on *Stopping gender-based violence*¹⁰⁰, developing the new CoR Gender Equality Action Plan, and stepping up the exchange of good practice with the European Parliament on this matter. Moreover, a new training course on (gender) equality mainstreaming was offered, for the first time, to CoR staff.

In relation to the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market the CoR adopted an own-initiative opinion, asking for "zero long-term unemployment" projects in the Member States to be supported, mapped and monitored, and potentially for a dedicated sum to be earmarked for such projects. The European Commission has earmarked 23 million in 2024 euros for EU projects based on the concept of zero long-term unemployment.

⁹⁸ SEDEC VII-037 – Zero long-term unemployment: the local and regional perspective – rapporteur Yonnc Polet (BE/PES) – COR-2022-05490-00-00-AC-TRA

⁹⁹ SEDEC VII-033 – Creating an enabling environment for the social economy – rapporteur Ricardo Rio (PT/EPP) - COR-2022-05492-00-00-AC-TRA.

¹⁰⁰ SEDEC-VII/039 – Stopping gender-based violence - cities and regions leading the way – rapporteur: Donatella Porzi (IT/ Renew Europe) – COR-2023-02488-00-00-PAC-TRA

The CoR rapporteur on homelessness¹⁰¹ represented the CoR in the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness (EPOCH) and hosted a conference in Tampere entitled "Homelessness: prevention measures, European support and the Finnish experience".

In 2023 the CoR adopted an outlook opinion on [Creating an enabling environment for the social economy](#)¹⁰² based on a referral from the European Commission. This opinion helped to kickstart collective efforts to give the social economy higher priority, not only on the EU interinstitutional agenda, but also in the Member States. The subsequent [Council Recommendation](#)¹⁰³ on developing social economy framework conditions, on which the EPSCO Council reached a political agreement on 9 October, includes reference to the CoR opinion mentioned above and re-iterates several of its key points.

The CoR, responding to a Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation, adopted a *Resolution on the initiative for strengthening social dialogue*¹⁰⁴, which fed into the recommendation adopted by EU ministers during the EPSCO meeting of the Swedish Presidency on 12 June 2023¹⁰⁵. Additionally, for the first time the CoR presented its official position on social dialogue at an informal EPSCO Council meeting of the Spanish EU Presidency paving the way to closer cooperation with the Council in this very important issue.

Finally, the CoR stepped up efforts to improve gender equality by adopting a Gender Equality Action Plan. The CoR also contributed for the first time in the European Parliament's Gender Equality Week.

3.3.4 Implementing the New European Bauhaus

Main impact:

- The European Parliament's New European Bauhaus (NEB) Pilot Project (PP) on the voucher scheme was an EU action initiated by the CoR.
- The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) will be implementing authority of the EP PP partnering with the CoR..
- The CoR's work on the NEB is fostering innovation in policymaking. This encompasses the development of strategies aimed at inspiring a generation of new ideas and mobilising the necessary support and resources for effective implementation.

On the basis of its opinion *New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, sustainable, together*¹⁰⁶, the CoR has been acknowledged as a key partner in the successful implementation of the NEB. Commissioner Elisa Ferreira invited the CoR to participate in a high-level panel discussion on the "New European Bauhaus

¹⁰¹ SEDEC VII-023 - Eradicating homelessness in the European Union: The local and regional perspective – rapporteur Mikko Aaltonen (FI/PES) - COR-2021-03911-00-00-AC-TRA

¹⁰² SEDEC VII-033 – Creating an enabling environment for the social economy – rapporteur Ricardo Rio (PT/EPP) - COR-2022-05492-00-00-AC-TRA.

¹⁰³ [Council Recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions](#)

¹⁰⁴ RESOL-VII/029 – Resolution on the initiative for strengthening social dialogue– COR-2023-00774-00-01-RES-TRA

¹⁰⁵ [Proposal for a COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on strengthening social dialogue in the European Union](#)

¹⁰⁶ SEDEC-VII/025 – New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, sustainable, together – rapporteur : Kieran McCarthy, (IE/EA) – COR-2021-05640-00-01-AC-TRA

in regions and cities" ahead of the NEB prize ceremony in June 2023, to provide insights about the NEB initiative at local and regional level.

One of its main points is a proposal for a NEB Lab voucher scheme whereby interested cities and regions could receive such a voucher entitling them to get the necessary support for organising a NEB Lab in their constituency. The CoR's NEB voucher idea was presented to the MEP Marcos Ros Sempere, who expressed an interest in implementing this idea via European Parliament Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions (PPPAs). At the European Week of Regions and Cities, the CoR held a workshop involving MEP Ros Sempere and Ruth Reichstein, advisor to the European Commission President on the NEB, to discuss the pilot project proposal. The joint press release by Mr Ros Sempere and the SEDEC chair emphasised the CoR's important position as a driving force behind the promotion and implementation of the NEB initiative at local and regional level.

The EP pilot project on the NEB "Stimulating local and regional New European Bauhaus grassroots projects" (including the NEB voucher idea proposed by the CoR), was presented at the EP REGI Committee and adopted at the EP plenary in November 2023¹⁰⁷. The voucher scheme is a concrete proposal tying into the Commission's working method on the NEB and the results are expected to promote changes in citizens' daily lives. The results and learnings from this project could feed into the work on long-term NEB financing. The operational activities under this Pilot Project would be implemented by the JRC, partnering with the CoR.

3.3.5 Transport policy

Main impact:

- The **Automotive Regions Alliance (ARA)** of the European Committee of the Regions has been identified in Regulation (EU) 2023/851 on strengthening the CO₂ emission performance standards for new passenger cars and new light commercial vehicles as a key partner for the European Commission in drafting the report on a transition towards a climate-neutral automotive industry. **The CoR has been referred to explicitly in a legal text of the EU.**
- For the opinions *Towards zero emission road transport*¹⁰⁸ and *Guidelines for the development of the trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)*¹⁰⁹ the CoR has requested **access to the documents of the interinstitutional negotiations ("trilogues")** and was able to present its views in this crucial stage of the legislative process.

The Automotive Regions Alliance (ARA), established at the initiative of the European Committee of the Regions, is a political network of regions where the automotive industry plays a crucial part for the regional economy.

The proposal to phase out cars with traditional internal combustion engines in the EU as of 2035 was published in July 2021. The CoR identified the missing in-depth impact assessment and the lack to address the need for a just transition for such a profound transformation.

In response to this, the ARA was officially launched at the CoR Plenary in June 2022, and since then, the ARA and the CoR have been recognised by the European Commission, through the inclusion into

¹⁰⁷ The EP Pilot Project will receive 1.450.000 euros on commitments and 362.500 euros on payments.

¹⁰⁸ 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.

¹⁰⁹ 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.

Regulation (EU) 2023/851, as key partners for the regional dimension of the transformation (e.g. in the "transition pathway of the mobility eco-system" and in the "Route35" Platform established by Commissioner Thierry Breton).

The co-legislators adopted Regulation (EU) 2023/851 in March 2023 and identified the shortcoming of transition planning, which should be addressed by the European Commission in a report to be published by the end of 2025, with an analysis identifying funding gaps in this transition process with a consultation of the ARA of the CoR.

Therefore, not only the main objectives of the CoR opinion, such as the need for policy and budgetary measures for a just transition,¹¹⁰ have been taken on board, but the CoR has also been referred to explicitly in a legal text of the EU.

The CoR had several times requested access to the documents of the interinstitutional negotiations ("trilogues"). The objective is that the development in the negotiations is of crucial interest to the CoR to fulfil its obligations under the Treaty and represent regional interest in the European legislative process.

On 16 February 2023, the Council officially granted the CoR access to the key trilogue document for the first time. This concerns the CoR opinion covering the proposal for a regulation on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure. The CoR analysed the state of the negotiations and suggested concrete proposals for several issues that were still in negotiations, bringing in the regional dimension based on the relevant opinion.

A similar request for access to the trilogue negotiations on the "Guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T)" was made and access to the trilogue document was granted in July 2023. However, no further trilogue documents on this file were sent and therefore the CoR reminded the Council in October 2023 of the need to receive updated negotiation positions for each trilogue.

3.3.6 Rural development

Main impact:

- At the High-Level Policy Forum under the Spanish presidency, the EP rapporteur on Long-term vision for the EU's rural areas publicly acknowledged the importance of the CoR's input to her report: this report contains several CoR positions;
- The CoR's work was mentioned by the German minister during the orientation debate in the AGRIFISH Council.

The CoR adopted opinions on *A Long-term vision for the EU's rural areas*¹¹¹ and on *Targets and tools for a Smart Rural Europe*¹¹² in 2022 and 2023 respectively. The European Parliament's report¹¹³ on the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas from November 2022 contained several CoR positions such as the demand for a holistic approach for rural development using all existing EU funds, the demand for reconsidering the solutions for rural development in the future Multiannual Financial Framework

¹¹⁰ 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.

¹¹¹ NAT-VII/021 - A long-term vision for the EU's rural areas – rapporteur: Juan Manuel Moreno Bonilla (ES/EPP) - COR-2021-03533-00-01-AC-TRA

¹¹² NAT-VII/030 - Targets and tools for a smart rural Europe – rapporteur: Radim Sršeň (CZ/EPP) - COR-2022-04320-00-00-AC-TRA

¹¹³ [REPORT on a long-term vision for the EU's rural areas – Towards stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas by 2040 | A9-0269/2022 | European Parliament \(europa.eu\).](#)

(MFF) and earmarking in the future cohesion funds, questions about detaching the EAFRD from the common provisions regulation, and the strong confidence of EU citizens in regional and local governments. The CoR also was actively involved in the High-Level Policy Forum in Sigüenza in September 2023, organised by the Spanish presidency for an in-depth discussion in preparation of the Council conclusions. At this forum, the EP rapporteur publicly acknowledged the importance of the CoR's input to her report.

The rapporteur for the opinion on Targets and tools for a smart rural Europe was invited to several conferences to present the CoR's positions, namely final conferences of the Horizon 2020 research projects' DESIRA and SHERPA, Rural Pact Conference, Conference of Local Action Groups across the European Union and Neighbourhood Countries, European Innovation Camp, 6th Latvian Rural Community Parliament meeting, 19th Salzburg Europe summit.

When Spanish Council presidency was working on reaching Council conclusions on the long-term vision in the second half of 2023, the CoR's work was mentioned by the German minister during the orientation debate in the AGRIFISH Council.

Finally, the CoR is represented by a NAT and a COTER member in the Rural Pact's Coordination Group, providing strategic guidance to the work of the Pact and thus the implementation of the long-term vision.

4. Conclusions – Outlook

2023 marked the fourth year of the implementation of the CoR's five-year political mandate. This year's **Impact Report shows the highlighted role of the CoR** in addressing topics such as the Future of Cohesion policy and the Charter on Youth and Democracy, feeding into 2023's European Year of Skills, as well as in gaining the recognition at a global level (UNFCCC COP28) of the leadership of Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) in accelerating and broadening climate action for a sustainable society and in the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The local and regional levels contributed also to topics such as COP28, the implementation of the European Green Deal, the legislative process on industry, digitalisation-related topics, as well as migration and resilience, with the development, in cooperation with the European Commission, of a territorial vulnerability dashboard, which could be the basis of a policy of anticipation of systemic risks.

Due to the ongoing **Russian war against Ukraine**, issues related to food and energy prices, on top of the immense human suffering for the local population had an increased impact in the EU in 2023. The CoR supported Ukrainian municipalities and regions through several initiatives such as the Summer camps for Ukrainian children. **The fourth edition of the EU Annual Report on the State of Regions and Cities 2023** showed that regions and cities in the EU are providing direct humanitarian relief to Ukrainian cities and regions and develop projects and partnerships for the future reconstruction of the country. The Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine, which is coordinated by the CoR, helps to strengthen local and regional capacity in Ukraine, boosting peer-to-peer cooperation, assisting local authorities in Ukraine to get familiar with the *acquis* and advising on the implementation of the decentralisation process.

Overall, the fourth edition of the EU Annual Report on the State of Regions and Cities 2023 presented, as in previous editions, a consistent and coherent assessment of the state of the local and regional level in the EU.

In 2023, the CoR continued its involvement in the implementation of the proposals of the Conference on the Future of Europe across all nine thematic policy areas. Furthermore, the CoR has developed its strategy for the **upcoming European elections** and the new methods for citizens' panel consultations that are carried out by the European Commission. Implementation of this strategy will continue in 2024, notably in the 10th European Summit of Regions and Cities in Mons and the follow-up of the Mons declaration which should, among others, set clear expectations from the newly re-constituted European institutions.

2024 will be a crucial year for the European Union and its local and regional authorities. The year to come, will require a continued CoR response to the challenges created by conflicts in Europe and the Middle East as well as other global challenges. On top of this, for the CoR, 2024 will be the last year of its current term of office and will be marked by the **30th anniversary of the institution**. This will be a great opportunity to take stock of our institutional achievements and launch new objectives for the years to come. In 2024, it will also be important to combine the long-term political priorities of the CoR, which are set at the beginning of each term of office, with regular dialogue and cooperation with the other EU institutions, notably after the EU elections of June 2024 and instalment of the new college of commissioners. It will be important for the CoR to ensure that the main EU institutions include regional

and local authorities' concerns in their priorities and in **the new strategic agenda 2024-2029**; but also consider granting an upgraded role for the CoR within the EU institutional architecture.

Throughout 2023, the CoR has sought to reinforce interinstitutional cooperation and relaunched the process to revise its cooperation agreements with the European Commission and the European Parliament in order to increase its legislative impact. This work is expected to be finalised in 2024. Also, the CoR will continue improving its cooperation with the co-legislators to provide timely input within the trilogue negotiation process.

Outreach activities towards the other EU institutions, cooperation with the European associations of local and regional authorities, enhanced cooperation between rapporteurs across all six CoR commissions in cases where initiatives affect multiple policy areas, and cooperation with key partners such as the EPRS, ESPON, the JRC and the OECD, contributed positively to the CoR's legislative work in 2023 and will continue to do so in 2024. In 2024, it will be important to maintain this positive dynamic, particularly through measures aimed at:

- strengthen **cooperation between rapporteurs and across CoR commissions**, given that many policy initiatives (such as the Green Deal or the digital transition) affect many policy areas;
- continue our **outreach activities towards the other 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 just a few;
- ensure the quality and consistency of the EU Report on the State of Regions and Cities 2023 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 the **success 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.

Against this background, the CoR continued its institutional approach (adapted in 2022) 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. 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.

5. Appendices

5.1 Appendix 1: List of opinions adopted in 2023

CIVEX

- CIVEX-VII/019– The future of the eastern partnership from a local and regional perspective – rapporteur: Alin-Adrian Nica (RO/EPP) – COR-2022-05113-00-00-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/020 – European media freedom act – rapporteur: Mark Speich (DE/EPP) – COR-2022-05388-00-01-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/021 – Eu enlargement package 2022 – rapporteur: Anna Magyar (HU/ECR) – COR-2023-00018-00-01-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/022 – Strategic foresight as an instrument of eu governance and better regulation– rapporteur: Giorgio Magliocca (IT/EPP) – COR-2023-01562-00-00-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/023– The role of local and regional authorities in countering disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference – rapporteur: Gustaw Marek Brzezini (PL/EPP) – COR-2023-01564-00-02-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/024 – The EU anti-corruption framework – rapporteur: Jean-Luc Vanraes (BE/Renew Europe) – COR-2023-03805-00-01-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/025 – The Ukraine facility– rapporteur: Dario Nardella (IT/PES) – COR-2023-03816-00-00-AC-TRA

COTER

- COTER-VII/023 - Putting people first, securing sustainable and inclusive growth, unlocking the potential of the eu's outermost regions– rapporteur: Pedro De Fariae Castro (PT/EPP) - COR-2022-04073-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/025 - European cross-border mechanism 2.0 – rapporteur: Magali Altounian (FR/Renew Europe) - COR-2022-06083-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/026 - Do no harm to cohesion - a cross-cutting principle contributing towards cohesion as an overall objective and value of the eu - rapporteur: Michiel Rijsberman (NL/Renew Europe) - COR-2023-00137-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/027 - Mid-term review of the multiannual financial framework: the regional and local viewpoint– rapporteur: Thomas Harbermann (DE/EPP) - COR-2023-00138-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/028 - A drone strategy 2.0 – rapporteur: Władysław Ortyl (PL/ECR) - COR-2023-01050-00-01-AC-TRA
- COTER–VII/029 - A just and sustainable transition for automotive regions– rapporteur: Sven Schulze (DE/EPP) - COR-2023-01449-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/030 - The future of cohesion policy post-2027 – co-rapporteurs: Emil Boc (RO/EPP) Vasco Alves Cordeiro (PT/PES) - COR-2023-02250-00-01-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/031 – Boosting lasting and effective cross-border cooperation with our neighbours– rapporteur: Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis (FR/EA) – COR-2023-03418-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/032 – Review and proposal for the revision of the MFF 2021-2027– rapporteur: José Manuel Ribeiro (PT/PES) – COR-2023-03512-00-00-AC-TRA

ECON

- ECON-VII/026 - Review report on the implementation of the recovery and resilience facility - rapporteur: Rob Jonkman (NL/EPP) - COR-2022-04212-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/027 - Single market emergency instrument - rapporteur: Muhterem Aras, (DE/The Greens) - COR-2022-04234-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/028 - Progress in the implementation of SDGs- rapporteur: Ricardo Rio (PT/EPP) - COR-2022-04274-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/0029 - Interoperable europe act - rapporteur: Michele Pais (IT/ECR) - COR-2023-00152-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/0030 - Reform of the EU economic governance framework - rapporteur: Elio Di Rupo, (BE/PES) - COR-2022-00157-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/031 - Critical Raw Materials Package, rapporteur: Isoldre Ries (DE/PES) COR-2023-02188-00-01-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/032 - Net Zero Industry Act, rapporteur: Mark Speich (DE/EPP) COR-2023-02189-00-01-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/033 - 2022 annual report on competition policy, rapporteur: Antonio Mazzeo (IT/PES) COR-2023-02190-00-01-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/034 – Eu cyber solidarity act and digital resilience, rapporteur: Pehr Granfalk (SE/EPP) COR-2023-02191-00-01-AC-TRA

ENVE

- ENVE-VII/030 – EU nature restoration law – rapporteur: Roby Biwer (LU/PES) – COR-2022-04206-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/034– Revision of the urban waste water treatment directive – rapporteur: Åsa Agren Wikström (SE/EPP) – COR-2022-06179-00-01-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/035 – Revision of the eu ambient air quality legislation – rapporteur: Una Power (IE/The Greens) – COR-2022-06180-00-01-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/036 – Fostering the potential and synergies of eu green deal initiatives for regions and cities – rapporteur: Andries Gryffroy (BE/EA) – COR-2023-00229-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/037 – Towards a multilevel green deal governance: the revision of the governance of the energy union and climate action regulation – rapporteur: Joško Klivovic (HR/PES) – COR-2023-00903-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/038 – Unfccc cop28: the role of subnational authorities in keeping climate ambition on track – rapporteur: Rafał Kazimierz Trzaskowski (PL/EPP) – COR-2023-00904-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/039 – Reform of the eu electricity market design – rapporteur: Josef Frey (DE/The Greens) – COR-2023-02118-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/040 – The European Hydrogen Bank – rapporteur: Arianna Censi (IT/PES) – COR-2023-03286-00-00-AC-TRA

NAT

- NAT-VII/027 – Regional adaptation strategies for low carbon agriculture – rapporteur: Loïg Chesnais-Girard (FR/PES) COR-2022-03978-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/028 – European Health Data Space – rapporteur: Daniela Cîmpean (RO/EPP) – COR-2022-03754-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/029 – Balancing local communities', entrepreneurs' and travellers' needs linked to short-term rentals – rapporteur: Roberto Ciambetti (IT/ECR) – COR-2022-04144-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/030 – Targets and tools for a smart rural europe– rapporteur: Radim Srsen (CZ/EPP) – COR-2022-04320-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/031 – Sustainable use of pesticides– rapporteur: Heinz-Joachim Höfer (DE/PES) – COR-2022-04989-00-01-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/032 – Preparing for and dealing with crises: strengthening the resilience of the union, its regions and cities – rapporteur: Christophe Clergeau (FR/PES) – COR-2022-05928-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/033 – Legislative framework for sustainable food systems– rapporteur: Joke Schauvliege (BE/EPP) – COR-2022-05930-00-01-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/035 – The common fisheries policy on the ground: towards sustainable and resilient coastal communities in the eu – rapporteur: Jesús Gamallo Aller (ES/EPP) – COR-2023-01876-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/036 – Consumers' protection package – rapporteur: Dan Boyle (IE/The Greens) – COR-2023-02019-00-01-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/037 – The role of cities as health promoters – rapporteur: Adam Banaszak (PL/ECR) – COR-2023-02951-00-00-AC-TRA

SEDEC

- SEDEC - VII/033 – Creating an enabling environment for the social economy – rapporteur Ricardo Rio (PT/EPP) - COR-2022-05492-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC VII/034 – Amending the directive on asbestos – rapporteur Hanna Zdanowska (PL/EPP) - COR-2022-05655-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC VII/035 – European care strategy – rapporteur Heinrich Dörner (AT/PES) - COR-2022-05488-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC VII/036 – Adequate minimum income for social inclusion: the local and regional perspective – rapporteur Anne Karalainen (FI/PES) - COR-2022-05495-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC VII/037 – Zero long-term unemployment: the local and regional perspective – rapporteur Yondec Polet (BE/PES) – COR-2022-05490-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/038 – Mentoring: a powerful and meaningful tool for the Europe of tomorrow – rapporteur: Anne Rudisuhli (FR/Renew Europe) – COR-2023-01537-00-01-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/039 – Stopping gender-based violence - cities and regions leading the way – rapporteur: Donatella Porzi (IT/Renew Europe) – COR-2023-02488-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/040 – Building a values-based, bottom-up european sports model: a vehicle for encouraging inclusion and social wellbeing among young europeans – rapporteur: Roberto Pella (IT/EPP) – COR-2023-02588-00-01-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/041 – Promoting cultural policies in rural areas within the framework of development and territorial cohesion strategies and the 2030 agenda.– rapporteur: Csaba Borboly (RO/EPP) – COR-2023-03454-00-00-AC-TRA

RESOLUTIONS

- RESOL-VII/027 – Urgent resolution on the cities and regions responding to the energy crisis: towards a real european energy union – COR-2022-06156-00-00-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VII/028 – Harnessing talent in Europe's regions – COR-2023-00574-00-00-PRES-TRA
- RESOL-VII/029 – Resolution on the initiative for strengthening social dialogue– COR-2023-00774-00-01-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VII/030 - SDGs in EU regions and cities following the EU Voluntary Review and 2023 UN discussions - COR-2022-03638-00-00-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VII/031 - Urgent draft resolution on the 2023 state of regions and cities in the european union and proposals in view of the next strategic agenda 2024-29 - COR-2023-03807-00-01-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VII/032 - Urgent draft resolution on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh after Azerbaijan's attack - COR-2023-04454-00-00-RES-TRA

5.2 Appendix 2: List of opinions included in this report

CIVEX

- CIVEX-VII/005 - New Pact on Migration and Asylum - rapporteur: Antje Grotheer (DE/PES) - COR-2020-04843-00-01-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/020 – European Media Freedom Act - rapporteur: Mark Speich, (DE/EPP) - COR-2022-05388-00-01-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/023 – The role of local and regional authorities in countering disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference - rapporteur: Gustaw Marek Brzezina, (PL/EPP) - COR-2023-01564-00-02-AC-TRA
- CIVEX-VII/025 - The Ukraine Facility - rapporteur: Dario Nardella (IT/PES) - COR-2023-03816-00-00-AC-TRA

COTER

- COTER-VI-023 - People-to-people and small-scale projects in cross-border cooperation programmes – rapporteur: Pavel Branda (CZ/ECR) - COR-2017-01527-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VI-048 - Cross-border mechanism – rapporteur: Bouke Arends (NL/PES) - COR-2018-03596-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII-005, Cross Border Public Services in Europe – rapporteur: Pavel Branda (CZ/ECR) - COR-2020-02615-00-00-AC-TRA
- 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/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-VI-023 - People-to-people and small-scale projects in cross-border cooperation programmes – rapporteur: Pavel Branda (CZ/ECR) - COR-2022-04073-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/025 - European Cross-Border Mechanism 2.0 – rapporteur: Magali Altounian (FR/Renew Europe) - COR-2022-06083-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/026 - Do no harm to cohesion - A cross-cutting principle contributing towards cohesion as an overall objective and value of the EU – rapporteur: Michiel Rijsberman (NL/Renew Europe) - COR-2023-00137-00-00-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/030 - The future of Cohesion policy post-2027 – co-rapporteurs: Vasco Alves Cordeiro (PT/PES) and Emil Boc (RO/EPP) – COR-2023-02250-00-01-AC-TRA
- COTER-VII/031 - Boosting lasting and effective cross-border cooperation with our neighbours – rapporteur: Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis (FR/EA) - COR-2023-03418-00-00-AC-TRA

ECON

- ECON-VI/002 - Making the best use of the flexibility within the existing rules of the Stability and Growth Pact - rapporteur: Olga Zrihen, (BE/PES) - COR-2015-01185-00-01-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/005 - Economic governance review - rapporteur: Elio Di Rupo, (BE/PES) - COR-2020-01370-00-01-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/014 - Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 - rapporteur: Ricardo Rio (PT/EPP) - COR-2022-04274-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/0020 - 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/028 - Progress in the implementation of SDGs - rapporteur: Ricardo Rio (PT/EPP) - COR-2022-04274-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/029 – Interoperable Europe Act - rapporteur: Michele Pais, (IT/ECR) - COR-2023-00152-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/0030 - Reform of the EU economic governance framework - rapporteur: Elio Di Rupo, (BE/PES) - COR-2022-00157-00-00-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/031 - Critical Raw Materials Package, rapporteur: Isidre Ries (DE/PES) COR-2023-02188-00-01-AC-TRA
- ECON-VII/032 - Net Zero Industry Act, rapporteur: Mark Speich (DE/EPP) COR-2023-02189-00-01-AC-TRA

ENVE

- 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/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/030-EU Nature Restoration Law - rapporteur: Roby Biwer (LU/PES)- COR-2022-04206-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/032- Industrial Emissions Directive - rapporteur: Jean Noel Verfaillie (FR/Renew Europe)- COR-2022-02951-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/034-Revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive - rapporteur: Åsa Ågren Wikström (SE/EPP) - COR-2022-06179-00-01-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/035- Revision of the EU Ambient Air Quality Legislation - rapporteur: Una Power (IE/ The Greens)- COR-2022-06180-00-01-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/036 – Fostering the potential and synergies of eu green deal initiatives for regions and cities – rapporteur: Andries Gryffroy (BE/EA) – COR-2023-00229-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/037 – Towards a multilevel Green Deal governance: the revision of the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action Regulation - rapporteur: Joško Klisovic (HR/PES) - COR-2023-00903-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/038 – Unfccc cop28: the role of subnational authorities in keeping climate ambition on track – rapporteur: Rafał Kazimierz Trzaskowski (PL/EPP) – COR-2023-00904-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/039- Reform of the EU electricity market design - rapporteur: Josef Frey (DE/ The Greens)- COR-2023-02118-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/040 – The European Hydrogen Bank – rapporteur: Arianna Censi (IT/PES) – COR-2023-03286-00-00-AC-TRA
- ENVE-VII/042 - Soil Monitoring and Resilience - rapporteur: Frida Nilsson (SE/Renew Europe) - COR-2023-03680-00-00-PA-TRA

NAT

- NAT-VII/021 - A long-term vision for the EU's rural areas – rapporteur: Juan Manuel Moreno Bonilla (ES/EPP) - COR-2021-03533-00-01-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/026 - Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food system – rapporteur: Piotr Całbecki (PL/EPP) - COR-2022-02101-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/027 - Regional adaptation strategies for low carbon agriculture – rapporteur: Loïg Chesnais-Girard (FR/PES) - COR-2022-03978-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/030 - Targets and tools for a smart rural Europe – rapporteur: Radim Sršeň (CZ/EPP) - COR-2022-04320-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/031 - Sustainable use of pesticides – rapporteur: Heinz-Joachim Höfer (DE/PES) - COR-2022-04989-00-01-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/032 - Preparing for and dealing with crises: strengthening the resilience of the Union, its regions and cities – rapporteur: Christophe Clergeau (FR/PES) - COR-2022-05928-00-00-AC-TRA
- NAT-VII/033 - Legislative framework for sustainable food systems – rapporteur: Joke Schauvliege (BE/EPP) - COR-2022-05930-00-01-AC-TRA

SEDEC

- SEDEC-VII/025 – New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, sustainable, together – rapporteur : Kieran McCarthy, (IE/EA) – COR-2021-05640-00-01-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/032 – A New Innovation Agenda for Europe – rapporteur: Markku Markkula (FI/EPP) – COR-2022-04105-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC VII-033 – Creating an enabling environment for the social economy – rapporteur Ricardo Rio (PT/EPP) - COR-2022-05492-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC VII-037 – Zero long-term unemployment: the local and regional perspective – rapporteur Yonnc Polet (BE/PES) – COR-2022-05490-00-00-AC-TRA
- SEDEC-VII/038 – Mentoring: a powerful and meaningful tool for the Europe of tomorrow – rapporteur: Anne Rudisuhli (FR/Renew Europe) – COR-2023-01537-00-01-AC-TRA

RESOLUTIONS

- RESOL-VII/014 - Resolution on a vision for Europe – the Future of Cross-border Cooperation - COR-2021-02499-00-01-RES-TRA
- RESOL-VII/026 – European Year of Skills 2023 – COR-2022-05216-00-00-PRES-TRA
- RESOL-VII/028 – Harnessing talent in Europe's regions – COR-2023-00574-00-00-PRES-TRA
- RESOL-VII/030 - SDGs in EU regions and cities following the EU Voluntary Review and 2023 UN discussions - COR-2022-03638-00-00-RES-TRA

5.3 Appendix 3: References of the 6 Committee commissions' contributions to the Impact Report 2023

Commission	Presentation of the document (meeting date)	Reference number of the document
CIVEX	21 November 2023	COR-2023-04546-00-00-TCD-TRA
COTER	17 November 2023	COR-2023-04370-00-00-TCD-TRA
ECON	6 December 2023	COR-2023-05077-00-01-TCD-TRA
ENVE	22 November 2023	COR-2023-04374-00-01-TCD-TRA
NAT	23 November 2023	COR-2023-03883-00-00-TCD-TRA
SEDEC	8 December 2023	COR-2023-04649-00-00-TCD-TRA