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**POLITICAL
PRIORITIES**
FOR 2020-2025



**WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT EACH STEP WE TAKE
LEADS US TO A STRONGER AND MORE UNITED
SOCIETY. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE WILL FOCUS
ON CREATING THE RIGHT FRAMEWORK FOR A
RECOVERY THAT IS GREEN, SMART AND INCLUSIVE.**

FRANÇOIS DECOSTER, PRESIDENT

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INTRODUCTION



Subnational government is responsible for two thirds of public investment in the EU, one third of public expenditure, and one quarter of tax revenue. This subnational level is made up of approximately one million democratically elected politicians who are represented at European level by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR).

In the past mandate (2015-2020), the CoR developed its capacity to bring to the European level a clearer picture of the situation "on the ground", in terms of evidence and policy experience. **One example of this is the Regional Hubs initiative which, in its first phase brought together 36 regions for targeted policy consultations,** functioning jointly with the European Commission and is now in phase 2, with 45 regions, contributing directly to the Fit for Future Platform.

In 2020, the CoR launched the **EU Local and Regional Barometer, an evidence-based snapshot of the situation of the Union's regions, cities and towns, which also includes a series of policy recommendations.**



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The members of the CoR represent first of all their region or municipality, and are tasked by the Treaty to advise the EU decision makers, and to bring Europe closer to the citizen. The best way to achieve this is for members to increase the knowledge of EU decision makers regarding the situation "on the ground" in terms of policy implementation, best practice, developments in governance, and emerging challenges. The more information EU decision makers have of what is happening in Europe's cities and regions, the clearer the picture they will have, and the better the legislation will be. This will help to identify what new legislation is needed, and how to revise existing legislation. The better the EU legislates and the more effective it is in delivering results for Europeans, the closer citizens will feel to the Union.

Nobody knows better than CoR members what is happening in their regions, cities and towns, and they are therefore uniquely placed to reveal how the Union is functioning on the ground. The members of the Renew Europe Group in the CoR therefore commit themselves to the following tasks in this mandate:

- 1 Contribute at every opportunity, orally and in writing, to debates and position papers with evidence and experience of decisions and actions taken in their region or municipality in relation to specific EU policy objectives.
- 2 Help to develop the CoR's contact with non-members, by informing their national parties, in particular colleagues active at subnational level, of the work they are doing at European level.
- 3 Inform their constituents of how they are bringing to the European level information about their region or municipality.
- 4 Propose and facilitate the nomination of EU correspondents in their regional or municipal council.
- 5 Organise activities to Celebrate Europe Day on, or around, 9 May.
- 6 Pursue actions in their region or municipality which help to achieve the following EU objectives:




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POLICY OBJECTIVES


• DECARBONISING THE ECONOMY AND RECOVERING FROM COVID-19




Efficiently communicate to
our citizens the need for a
green transition



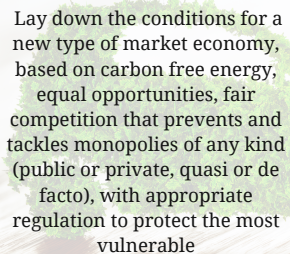
Implement the Green Deal
in a just manner providing
adequate financial support




Decarbonise the economy by
creating new opportunities for
business and employment



Help large industrial sectors,
such as the automotive
industry, to adapt smoothly
and creatively without laying
off large
numbers of workers



Lay down the conditions for a
new type of market economy,
based on carbon free energy,
equal opportunities, fair
competition that prevents and
tackles monopolies of any kind
(public or private, quasi or de
facto), with appropriate
regulation to protect the most
vulnerable



Facilitate a place-based
industrial policy,
assist strategic industries,
including re-skilling of
workers whose jobs are
disappearing



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Create sustainable local jobs, especially for our youth, by promoting and facilitating a local entrepreneurial spirit, the development and growth of SMEs, and their access to cross-border EU and international markets

Ensure a balanced biodiversity and the protection and proper management of our environment, our urban and rural areas, as well as our forests

Lead the call for an ambitious European Sustainable Forest Strategy

Strive to restore Europe's leading position in tourism, while making the EU tourism more sustainable, allowing citizens to experience all of our European tourist destinations sustainably

Design and implement ambitious research and innovation strategies at local and regional level

Create synergies between the needs of local economies and the realities of international trade



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**"WE PUT A LOT OF FOCUS ON DEVELOPING THE RIGHT
SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE, NOT ONLY FOR OUR YOUTH, BUT
FOR THE WHOLE WORKFORCE AS WELL AS FOR OUR
ELDERLY AND DISABLED PEOPLE IN ORDER TO BE READY
FOR THE FUTURE AND THE GREEN TRANSITION"**

ULRIKA LANDERGREN, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT



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POLICY OBJECTIVES

.. BUILDING RESILIENCE OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS

- Promote the strategic nature of the production of **necessary health and sanitary equipment** and help develop a real and effective partnership between local, regional, national and European leaders in the area of public health;
- Support the call for and the implementation of the **EU Health Emergency Mechanism** to assist regional and local leaders and promote better coordination between regions, the public and private sectors (including eHealth SMEs), research bodies and other players involved in eHealth;
- Ensure that **high-quality broadband** is brought to each household and to the smallest enterprises and that each citizen, no matter which age or gender is taught the right skills to use them, especially to have access to public and private services;
- Strengthen local democracy, both in terms of citizen participation, via digital tools, and in terms of the **quality of local democracy**, free from corruption, inclusive in its decision-making, with free local media and active civil society, and in which citizens make full use of the opportunities afforded them by EU membership;
- Promote EU values and the rule of law, **combat disinformation** and communicate the EU better to reduce the mistrust between citizens towards the EU;
- Help implement the new pact for Migration and Asylum, especially in the area of **successful integration of migrants**, in particular of women who are often the most marginalised;



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**TECHNOLOGY CAN BE OF USE, BUT IT WOULD BE NAÏVE TO
SUGGEST THAT AN APPLICATION OR A PLATFORM WILL SOLVE
EVERYTHING. I BELIEVE THAT IT'S A MORE FUNDAMENTAL
ISSUE: IT'S THE WAY WE PRACTICE POLITICS, THE WAY WE
COMMUNICATE, THE WAY WE ENGAGE**

**RAIT PHIELGAS, RAPPORTEUR ON "STRENGTHENING LOCAL DEMOCRACY
VIA DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES"**



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- **Close the gender pay and pension gap**, and tackle period poverty which can prevent women from reaching their full potential through absence from school or work, via communication campaigns and exchange of best practice;
- Pay particular attention to **demographic change** and ensure that future decisions are tailor-made to local needs and specificities;
- Maintain an active and constructive dialogue with subnational government in the **Balkan countries** aspiring to join the EU, helping them to converge with EU subnational government across the policy spectrum, and providing local stability;
- Ensure that we **communicate about the benefits of Europe** to all citizens, giving equal emphasis to those in rural areas as in urban and peri-urban areas;
- Ensure that **education** is not only focused on providing skills needed for the labour market, but also transmit European values and the knowledge about the Union;
- Protect the **local environment**, by implementing effective waste management, promote walking/cycling as green ways of transport, and ensuring public transport is clean, smart and accessible;
- Implement **cohesion policy** so that climate and sustainable development goals are at its core demonstrating the added value of the EU;
- Promote the sustainability of **local food systems** to guarantee EU food security;
- Contribute to creative solutions to the **rising cost of housing** across the EU.

renew europe CoR group

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