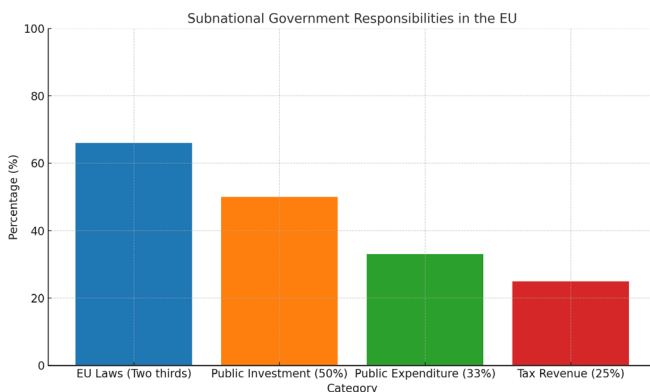


# **RENEW EUROPE GROUP PRIORITIES 2025-2030**

**renew<sup>ICoR</sup>  
europe.**

Subnational government is responsible for implementing two thirds of EU laws and is responsible for fifty percent of all public investment in the EU, one third of public expenditure, and one quarter of tax revenue. This subnational level is made up of more than one million democratically elected politicians who are represented at European level by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR). At a time when the geopolitical tectonic plates are shifting rapidly, and Europe is faced with an increasing number of hostile powers who threaten its peace, security, and values, the role of subnational leaders is even more important and makes the actions we take as described below even more essential to protect and strengthen our Union.



As members of the European Committee of the Regions, we [play a crucial role in bridging the gap](#) between the European Union, regions and local communities. We ensure that EU decision makers understand [how policies impact people](#) on the ground, making European legislation more responsive to real-world needs. At the same time, we communicate EU policy objectives and targets to our local and regional authorities (LRAs), helping them align with the Union's broader goals.

Beyond policy, we [strengthen the connection](#) between our citizens and the EU. By engaging with local communities and fostering dialogue, we build trust, raise awareness, and encourage participation in the European project. This document [outlines our key priorities](#) in fulfilling these responsibilities effectively.



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 citizens. 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:

- **Promoting and defending** the policy objectives outlined in this brochure through their statutory work in the European Committee of the Regions and vis-à-vis the European Parliament, the European Commission and the EU Presidencies of the Council of the EU.
- **Help to amplify** the CoR's voice by developing contacts with the wider networks of subnational leaders, by informing colleagues in their national or local parties of the work they are doing at European level and the opportunities for colleagues to contribute.
- **Inform their constituents** of how they are bringing to the European level information about their region or municipality.
- **Propose and facilitate** the nomination of members of regional or municipal councils to join the EU Local Councillors network in order to multiply the power of the CoR to connect the Union with local communities.
- **Organise activities** to Celebrate Europe Day on, or around, 9 May.
- **Pursue actions** in their region or municipality which help to achieve the EU objectives outlined in this brochure.



# A Prosperous and Competitive Europe

The choices we make now—how we invest in research, support small businesses, safeguard our environment, and equip our workforce with future-ready skills—will shape the prosperity and well-being of generations to come. This is why we will focus in the next 5 years on these building blocks of a more resilient, innovative, and sustainable future for Europe.

## Research and Innovation

Push for excellence in our research clusters and for the design and implementation of ambitious research and innovation strategies at local and regional level.

## Supporting SMEs

Ensure that EU regulations factor in small and medium enterprises (SMEs), providing targeted support at the local and regional levels. Our focus will be on helping SMEs scale into mid-sized businesses by addressing the barriers that hinder their growth strategies at local and regional level.

## Climate and Environment

Continue working toward a climate-neutral EU while ensuring the Clean Industrial Deal supports decarbonisation without excessive regulation. By strengthening local implementation through "Green Deal Going Local" and the Just Transition Mechanism, we aim to foster public engagement and ensure citizens and businesses take ownership of the transition.

Strengthen enforcement of EU environmental laws and adopt a cross-sector approach to safeguard biodiversity, as well as support those impacted by environmental transitions while ensuring sustainable economic growth.

Promote energy decentralisation, independence, and safety by supporting local renewable energy production, grid modernisation, and regional cooperation.





## Water

Advocate for improved resilience, efficiency, and quality of water resources through innovation, cross-border cooperation, and sustainable governance framework.

## Skills and Economy

Facilitate the transition to a decarbonised economy with financial aid, training, and access to sustainable farming technologies, ensuring economic viability while meeting Green Deal goals.

Implement cohesion policy so that climate and sustainable development goals are at its core, thus demonstrating the added value of the EU.

Champion upskilling and reskilling, better vocational education and training strategies and the importance of public-private partnerships to support skills development at the local and regional level. Special focus will be on digital skills fit for an AI enhanced economy.

## Agriculture and Rural Development

Promote a simplified and transparent Common Agricultural Policy with fair subsidies for small and medium-sized farms and support for young farmers; encourage diversification of the rural economy through digital and energy infrastructure, housing, mobility, tourism, commerce, industry and services to prevent rural exodus and improve the quality of life of rural residents.







# A Strong and Secure Europe

In a rapidly changing global landscape, Europe faces growing challenges to its security, cohesion, and values. As local and regional leaders, we prioritise building a 'Strong and Secure Europe'—strengthening resilience, protecting citizens, and defending democracy—ensuring EU policies respond to local realities while safeguarding our communities in an uncertain world.



## Defence

We want to rebuild a strong and autonomous defence industry that harnesses the full potential of our cities and regions, their innovation ecosystems, skills and industrial strengths to protect our democratic way of life against authoritarian threats.

## Resilient infrastructure

We want to build resilient transport, energy and digital infrastructure that responds to the challenges posed both by ever stronger climate events as well as security threats.

## Civil Preparedness

Pay special attention to: civil preparedness, protecting public services, border infrastructure, industrial supply chains, including a stronger defence industry, as well as social cohesion.



### EU Values and Disinformation

Promote EU values and the rule of law, combat disinformation and communicate the EU better to reduce the mistrust between citizens towards the EU.

### Migration Policy

Advocate for a responsible and effective EU immigration and asylum policy as a necessity to address the Union's imminent demographic decline, with long term economic consequences, as well as the alarming disappearance of rural communities, by building legal channels of entry, taking decisive action to eradicate people smuggling, robustly manage the Union's external borders, and promote effective policies of integration of migrants focusing as much on responsibilities as well as rights, both of newcomers as of host populations.

### Outside Threats

Continue contributing to tackling threats and better protect European citizens.






# A Democratic Union of Rights & Responsibilities, Equality & Inclusion

## **Based on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion**

We find ourselves today at a critical juncture for Europe—one where democracy, social cohesion, and economic resilience must be reinforced to keep our Union strong and help us meet the internal and external challenges of our time. By working together on these matters, we can turn commitments into action and ensure that no citizen, no community, and no region is left behind.



### European Democracy

Support the European Democracy Shield by reinforcing local democracy, promoting media plurality, and enhancing digital and media literacy.

### Demographics and Brain Drain

Keep demographic shifts high on the agenda and ensure that both overpopulated and depopulated regions have a strong voice. To address brain drain while safeguarding free movement, we will advocate for tailored solutions that empower communities and sustain democratic participation across all territories.

### Cohesion Policy

Continue championing cohesion policy as the key investment tool for delivering EU priorities locally and regionally. Its reform must streamline rules to prioritise funding recipients, enhance flexibility to address global challenges, and ensure all cohesion funding supports climate resilience.

### Housing and Urban Policy

Ensure that the Affordable Housing Plan enables cities and regions to implement diverse policy tools for building and renovating affordable, sustainable, and smart housing, reducing costs for all citizens.

Fight for a progressive and effective urban policy that responds to the challenges of cities and intra-urban cohesion.

### Public Transport and EU Resources

Promote integrated, user-friendly public transport while ensuring sustainable individual mobility remains affordable for citizens and businesses.







## EU Resources

Advocate for real own resources for the EU and a robust budget that does not use long term cohesion money for crisis response.

## Equality and Inclusiveness

Lead the effective implementation of existing European frameworks for an equal and inclusive society in cities and regions while pushing for additional measures that ensure Europe is a place where everyone can be themselves, love freely, and pursue their ambitions without limitations.

## Integration Policy

Drive successful migrant integration by supporting language learning, employment, and social connections that foster inclusion, ensuring migrants understand their responsibilities while safeguarding their rights and strengthening social cohesion with the host community.

## Enlargement

Support a merit-based but ambitious enlargement, assist local and regional authorities on their path to EU membership through concrete partnerships. We will strengthen liberal democracy and foster dialogue with local partners. Prioritise Ukraine's accession and reconstruction, ensuring EU cities and regions remain key players in rebuilding infrastructure and democratic society.

## Arctic Area

Promoting a specific attention to the Nordic and Arctic dimension, in order to support the development of sustainable and competitive communities, by tackling stagnation in population development, long transport distances, and loss of industry.

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