



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

# The Future of Europe

Draft programme

A debate at the European  
Committee of the Regions with  
national associations of local and  
regional authorities

Wednesday  
**4 July 2018**  
Hemicycle  
European  
Parliament  
**Brussels**

As the European Institution representing cities and regions, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) has prioritised engaging citizens in the discussions on the future of Europe.

In order to continue and deepen these discussions, this event is an opportunity for members of the CoR and other high-level leaders of EU towns, cities and regions to share their views on some of the main policy areas in the discussion on the Future of Europe.

The presidents of national associations of local and regional authorities are invited to an opening meeting with the president of the CoR and the president of the CEMR (Council of European Municipalities and Regions), followed by three round-table thematic discussions, focused on three policy areas and six sub-themes.

In the afternoon, they are invited with all the other presidents of the national associations to attend the plenary session of the European Committee of

the Regions in the Hemicycle of the European Parliament where major challenges of the towns, cities and regions in the European Union will be discussed.

All national associations are invited to submit, prior to the event, any documents or policy papers on the future of Europe they might have adopted.

Journalists from national media are invited to follow the event and report on the input of their national representatives.

# Programme

10.30 – 11.00h

## High-level meeting of the Presidents (VMA3)

Opening discussion with the Presidents of National Associations

- **Mr. Karl-Heinz Lambertz**, President of the European Committee of the Regions
- **Mr. Stefano Bonaccini**, President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions

11.00 – 12.45h

## Parallel thematic round-tables on the **Future of Europe**: Which policy challenges for the EU's cities and regions? (VMA1, VMA2, VMA3)

The three parallel working debates will be looking at the main challenges of cities, towns and regions in the EU and inviting participants to debate some of the following general questions:

- In which policy areas are cities, towns and regions expecting more from the European Union?
- What are the specific problems of cities, towns and regions with regard to the European Union?
- How do cities, towns and regions see the EU's financial support?

### Round-table 1: An inclusive Europe

**Moderator: Yoomi Renström**, CoR Member (SE/PES), Member of Ovanåker Municipal Council

- Making European cities and regions socially inclusive (including the challenges of integrating migrants)
- Bridging the rural-urban divide

### Round-table 2: A sustainable Europe

**Moderator: Cor Lamers**, CoR Member (NL/EPP), Mayor of Schiedam

- Climate change and adaptation/resilience
- The future of biodiversity in Europe

### Round-table 3: An innovative Europe

**Moderator: Annemieke Traag**, CoR Member (NL/ALDE), Member of the Council of the Province of Overijssel

- The transition to a circular economy and the future of industry
- Smart territories

12.45 – 13.30h

**Reception and Standing Lunch (VMA)**

15.00 – 16.30h

**“The Future of Europe as seen by regions and cities”** during the CoR Plenary Session at EP’s Hemicycle, with the participation of

- **Mr. Karl-Heinz Lambertz**, President of the European Committee of the Regions
- **Mr. François Baroin**, President of the French Mayors’ Association, Mayor of Troyes
- **Ms. Sari Rautio**, Vice-Chair of the Board of the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, Chair of city board in city of Hämeenlinna
- **Mr. Rafał Dutkiewicz**, President of the Union of Polish Metropolises, Mayor of Wrocław

Interventions by the CoR Members and the Presidents of European Associations of local and regional authorities.

13.30 – 15.00h

**Meetings of the National Delegations of the European Committee of the Regions**

**Information for Participants:**

Participants are asked to book their own accommodation and travel arrangements. The CoR cannot reimburse travel or accommodation costs for participants.

**Address of the Venue:**

European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard/  
Belliardstraat 101, 1040 Bruxelles/Brussel

**Morning session of the 4 July:**

Van Maerlant (WMA) building, CoR

**Afternoon session of the 4 July:**

Hemicycle, European Parliament



## **European Committee of the Regions**

Created in 1994 following the signing of the Maastricht Treaty, the European Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of 350 regional and local representatives from all 28 Member States, representing over 507 million Europeans. Its mission is to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the EU's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies. The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council are obliged to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union if its rights are infringed or it believes that EU law infringes the subsidiarity principle or fails to respect regional or local powers.

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

April 2018

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