

THE

ReppORTER

May 2018

Activity report of the EPP Group in the European Committee of the Regions



Enlargement Days

EU Green Week

**The road to
European Elections 2019**



European Committee
of the Regions

Foreword

by **President Schneider**

The future of Europe has been the talk of the town recently. In the beginning of May, the European Commission presented its proposal for the next EU budget after 2020. We, as the EPP Group in the Committee of the Regions, will continue defending our vision for the new multiannual financial framework, which should see more results orientation and greater European added value. We must also ensure an adequate level of financing of current policies and making sure we have enough flexibility to finance new priorities.

We can be proud of our work in the Cohesion Alliance, which calls for a strong continued funding for EU cohesion policy for all regions. The fruits of our labour were recognised by ministers in the General Affairs Council in April, thanks to strong cooperation with the Bulgarian Presidency and Günther Oettinger, Commissioner for Budget & Human Resources, who will join us to present his vision in the Plenary Session.

However, we must not forget that the future of Europe is about more than just budgets; it is about citizens. The CoR's Enlargement Days and the EU's Green Week are just two good reminders of the strong EU values that we stand by and defend on the ground. As representatives of cities and regions, our EPP CoR members are actively involved in bringing Europe closer to citizens. I therefore encourage you to organise an EPP Local Dialogue in your own region or city so we can share the voice of local communities with the wider EPP family and our Spitzenkandidat in the coming months.



Michael Schneider
President of the EPP-CoR Group



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Members on the field

A smarter industrial policy for Europe



Heinz Lehmann hosted an ECON seminar in Dresden on 2-3 May with the aim of defining the role of regions in shaping a holistic industrial strategy for the EU, particularly with regard to innovation, digitalisation and global competition. Through a smart, sustainable and inclusive industrial policy, innovative ecosystems are to be promoted in the regions, entrepreneurship encouraged, and jobs created, his CoR opinion underlined. The example of Saxony was used to demonstrate the progress made towards "Industry 4.0" in the fields of microelectronics, e-mobility, material efficiency/resource technologies and advanced manufacturing. As part of the CoR's "Reflecting on Europe" initiative, he also hosted two citizens' dialogues with young people in his region of Saxony. **Michael Murphy** and **Sören Herbst** were also involved.

Educate to Create

Markku Markkula, 1st Vice-President of the CoR, took part in the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union's flagship conference on education in Sofia on 19 April, underlining that Europe needs to be ready to face digital transformation the changing role of cities. "For that we need forerunners" he underlined. "Pioneering best



practices are based on a bottom-up approach towards new, city driven solutions with motivated citizens and committed industries" One week later, on 24 April, he hosted an event entitled "Helsinki Region Carbon Neutral 2035" on the Talanoa Dialogue process in Espoo. He was joined for a citizen's dialogue by **Dimitrios Kalogeropoulos** and **Nikos Chiotakis**, CoR Covenant of Mayors Ambassadors.

Reaching the EU's biodiversity targets for 2020

As a follow up to his opinion, **Csaba Borboly** hosted a local event on the



"Protection of habitats and species in Europe" on 19 April in Hargita County, alongside **József Ribányi**. He also joined a Structured Dialogue on the use of digital tools to foster youth engagement in policy-making at the CoR on 24 April. ALDA - the European Association for Local Democracy, together with 6 other associations from across Europe, implemented the European Union funded project YouthMetre - a tool for forward looking youth participation, which was also presented at the EPP Winter University in 2016.

The future of Europe: what role for regions?

"This is our opportunity to enhance subsidiarity and the way we work together in the EU" **Michael Schneider** (EPP/DE), President of the EPP Group in the CoR, member of the Subsidiarity and Proportionality Task Force, underlined during a conference on the future of the European Union and the role of regions

on 10 April. "Involving cities and regions better in European decision making is the key to making future EU legislation more citizen-friendly, effective and efficient" he added.

Michael Murphy, **Olgierd Geblewicz** and **Apostolos Tzitzikostas** also took part in this conference. President Schneider also addressed participants at an event on the Mid-Income Regions on April 18th at the EU Committee of the Regions.

REGI mission to Slovenia

At the invitation of **Franc Bogovič**, MEP, a delegation from the European Parliament's Regional Development Committee paid a three-day visit to Slovenia. On Thursday 5 April 2018, in the Knights' Hall in Slovenska Bistrica Castle, the Slovenian delegation to the Committee of the Regions, led by **Ivan Žagar**, PhD, Chair of the Development Council for the Cohesion Region of Eastern Slovenia, together with MEP **Franc Bogovič** and the European Parliament Information Office in Slovenia, held a discussion with Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the Government, Cohesion Regions and local communities on the "Challenges of the Cohesion Policy in the New Financial Perspective" with the aim of defining the future direction of the European Cohesion Policy and its effects on the next Financial Perspective. Lambert van Nistelrooij and Franc Bogovič joined Andrej Engelman, Deputy Director of the Slovenian Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, Lilijana Madjar, MSc, Chair of the Development Council for the Cohesion Region of Western Slovenia for the discussion, which attracted wide public attention. It was attended by more than a hundred people, including numerous mayors from Slovenia's municipalities.





“The European perspective for the Western Balkans is a geostrategic investment in stability and security. There can be no stability and prosperity in Europe while parts of the continent face instability and insecurity. We would like to bring tangible benefits to the citizens of the Western Balkan countries, but also to the EU citizens and business. That is why the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU has placed the focus on connectivity – transport, digital, education, energy, culture. Thus we believe that connectivity within the region and with the EU is vital for developing closer ties, bringing our peoples closer together, and for enhancing political stability, economic prosperity and social development.”

Lilyana Pavlova,
Minister for the Presidency of the EU Council, Bulgaria



“In its Strategy for Western Balkans from February 5th 2018 the European Commission announced a flagship initiative for a Digital Agenda for the Western Balkan countries, including a roadmap to facilitate lowering the cost of roaming and to support the deployment of broadband. It is also important for eGovernment, eProcurement and eHealth services. The development of the EU Digital Single Market in the Western Balkans is essential for developing businesses, creating growth, boosting productivity, promoting innovation, transforming public services and improving citizens' quality of life. In its opinion on Western Balkans Enlargement strategy the CoR welcomes the fact that the Commission has made the digital economy one of the priorities and supports all efforts to link infrastructure between Western Balkan countries and the EU in the areas of transport, energy and digital services.”

The 3 and 4 May was marked by the 4th edition of the EU Enlargement Days in Brussels, with co-operation from the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU. On 3 May (afternoon), local and regional representatives from the EU and the enlargement countries meet in country-specific Joint Consultative Committees and Working Groups for thematic debates. **Lilyana Pavlova**, Minister for the Presidency of the EU Council, Bulgaria and **Johannes Hahn**, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations joined the Plenary Session on the second day to take a critical look at the state and future of the EU enlargement process. The closing remarks were made by Prof. **Dr Franz Schausberger** (AT/EPP), Chairman of the Committee of the Regions' Working Group on Western Balkans, Rapporteur-General on the CoR opinion on “Enlargement: Inclusion of Western Balkans Local and Regional Authorities in the EU's Macro-Regional, Cross-Border and Other Transnational Cooperation Initiatives” and Special Advisor to Commissioner Hahn. The main theme running throughout the whole event was that a country joining the EU will need to prepare not just its central government and administration,

but also the local and regional level – as that level will eventually implement much of the EU legislation.

“Circular economy being dealt on high level in the enlargement countries (for example as national policy in Serbia) not only preserves favourable environment/ ecosystem endowments, but gives impetus to innovation in product and service development also. In some cases it is based on already proved to be successful good practices such as the biogas power plant co-financed by the Cohesion Fund in Pécs, South Transdanubia, Hungary.”

József Ribányi, who will participate in the JCC with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia dedicated to waste management



Franz Schausberger, chair of WG Western Balkans and rapporteur on the CoR opinion on the Western Balkans Enlargement Strategy, will participate in a meeting of the working group dedicated to the Digital transformation of the Western Balkans



By 2020 it is estimated that almost 80% of EU citizens will be living in cities. By dedicating the 2018 edition of the EU Green Week to cities, the European Commission aims to demonstrate that green cities are healthy - with clean air, green spaces, safe drinking water, they offer a great quality of life to the people that live there. Green cities also give better value to its businesses, stimulating economic growth, innovation and creating jobs. Lastly, green cities are inclusive, with all actors having a say and co-creating them.

The political importance of the urban dimension of environment and climate change policy is demonstrated by its inclusion in the 7th Environmental Action Programme and an objective aimed at creating sustainable cities. The overall objective of this policy drive is to enhance the sustainability of EU cities to achieve by 2050 that all Europeans are "living well,

within the limits of the planet". Specifically the Action Programme states that by 2020, "... a majority of cities in the Union are implementing policies for sustainable urban planning and design..." With a little under two years to go before this deadline, the EPP-CoR expresses concern and urges support for local and regional authorities to be able to implement environmental policies on the ground.

Urban areas concentrate most of the environmental challenges facing our society but also bring together commitment and innovation to resolve them. A number of EPP-CoR members will actively participate in the 2018 edition of EU Green Week, which is taking place on 21-25 May 2018, to share their local experiences, including;

- **Cor Lamers** on the future 8th Environment Action Programme
- **Sławomir Sosnowski** on the Reuse

and Valorisation of Agricultural Buildings

- **Michel Lebrun** on Cities needs in transition to a Circular Economy
- **Mark Weinmeister** on Sustainable urban water planning

Last but not least, if Europe is to continue to be a global climate champion, local and regional leaders need the right funding. Cohesion policy funds local climate and energy action plans, invests in energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable public transport in our regions and cities. This is another reason why the EPP-CoR is calling for EU cohesion policy - which currently commits more than 25% of its budget to climate action - which remains strong and effective.

#EUGREENWEEK

21 > 25 May 2018

TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019 & THE EPP GRASSROOTS ENGAGEMENT

Procedure and timetable for the election of the EPP Spitzenkandidat

From 6 September to 17 October at 12:00, Presidents and Secretaries General of EPP ordinary member parties can nominate candidates, who must be members of an ordinary member party and who must be endorsed by no more than two other member parties, from two member countries different from their own. The candidatures will be reviewed by

the Political Assembly on 6 November 2018 and submitted for a vote at the EPP Congress on 8 November.

"We strongly believe that only by continuing to work together as a strong and united EPP family can we strengthen trust and guarantee a bright future for the people of Europe."

Michael Schneider, President of the EPP-CoR Group



Delivering for citizens in Warsaw



"Engaging with citizens at the local and regional level is crucial to restore trust in the European project, as shown by the successful launch event of the EPP Grassroots Engagement in Sofia in March. Unfortunately, in Poland, there is a growing trend of centralisation of power in the hands of the national government. This common event of the EPP-CoR Group and the EPP Polish Member Parties, alongside the EPP Political Assembly in Warsaw, is an excellent occasion to underline our commitment to delivering a secure and prosperous Europe by showcasing the added value of EU membership for citizens living in Poland's regions and cities."

Rafał Trzaskowski,

Member of the Polish Parliament (Civic Platform) and Vice-President of the EPP.

The EPP-CoR Group is organising a side event at the EPP Political Assembly as part of its grassroots engagement in view of the European Elections in 2019. Entitled **"Strengthening Regions and Cities to Deliver a Secure and Prosperous Europe to the Citizens"**, the objective is two-fold:

1. to demonstrate the EU's added value for the citizens' life from two perspectives: security and investment
2. to stress the importance of taking decisions close to the people and rebuild their trust in democratic values

Taking place on Tuesday, 5 June in the Palace of Culture and Science, in Warsaw, Poland, the event will bring together speakers from the local, national and European levels of the EPP family. Approximately 300 local and regional, Polish guests are expected including Mayors, Presidents, Marshals and Councillors. With local and regional elections scheduled for the end of October/beginning of November 2018, this event aims to give strong EU-wide support to the Civic Platform and the Polish People's Party, the two EPP member parties.

"The Spitzenkandidat process has been carefully designed so that the EPP will select the best candidate to lead the European Commission at this crucial juncture for the European Union's history. The EPP-CoR will play an important role throughout the campaign in order to reach out to our citizens in all the regions across Europe. This campaign will allow members from our member parties and associations across Europe to take a leading role in the future direction of the EU, in a fashion that stays true to our parties' commitments to openness, transparency and democracy."

Joseph Daul,

President of the European People's Party



Sustainable and innovative cities in Helsinki

During the EPP Congress in Helsinki, the EPP-CoR Group will hold a side event entitled "EPP-led cities delivering sustainable and innovative solutions for citizens" on Wednesday 7 November from 11:00 am to 12:30

in the Messukeskus Helsinki Expo and Convention Centre, in cooperation with Kokoomus. Topics for discussion include delivering local solutions to climate change and how going digital can provide innovative services for citizens.

Following the launch of the EPP Grassroots Engagement in view of the 2019 European Elections on 9 March in Sofia, the EPP-CoR has been working continuously with its partners for the next steps on the road to Helsinki.

CALL FOR EPP LOCAL DIALOGUES

Europe Starts in YOUR Village/City/Region

The EPP Group in the CoR has launched a grassroots engagement to better listen, restore trust in the EU's political representatives and increase ownership of the EU on the ground. Under the motto "Europe starts in your village/city/region", the EPP wants to go into Europe's cities and regions to pass a message of unity in diversity. EPP local dialogues across all the EU Member States should bring together politicians from the local/regional, national and European level for an honest and open debate with on the opportunities that EU membership provides.

For support to organise an #EPPLocalDialogue in your region or city, please contact the EPP-CoR secretariat.



Voice of regions and cities in EU Europe starts in our cities and regions

EPP LOCAL DIALOGUES THROUGHOUT 2018-2019



EPP Spitzenkandidat
Influencing policies

Helsinki
November 7-8
EPP Congress

Sofia
March 9, launch
Collecting ideas

COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Organisation

- 350 members (regional and locally elected)
- from 28 member states
- 5 political groups
- 6 commissions

Plus EPP Local Dialogues taking place across Europe's regions and cities.

#EPPLocalDialogue



MAY PLENARY SESSION:



The 129th Plenary Session of the European Committee of the Regions will be kicked off on Wednesday 16 May with a thematic debate on culture. Participants scheduled include **Tibor Navracsics**, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport and **Audrey Azoulay**, Director-general of UNESCO. The following day,

CoR members will exchange views on the MMF with **Günther Oettinger**, Commissioner for Budget & Human Resources. This will also be the occasion to adopt the CoR's Resolution on Brexit. Two EPP Group MEPs are expected to join the Plenary: **Elisabetta Gardini** (IT/EPP), Member of the European Parliament will make a state-

ment on the review of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and **Lambertz van Nistelrooij** (NL/EPP), Member of the REGI committee of the European Parliament and Rapporteur on 7th Cohesion report, will speak about strengthening innovation in Europe's Regions.



FOCUS ON THE MFF



The EPP-CoR Group welcomed the results focused approach to the EU's long-term budget, which was adopted by the European Commission on 2 May 2018. Echoing the message from an EPP-Group meeting in December last year, the need to respond to citizens' demands and provide greater European added value based on the subsidiarity principle was underlined. "We welcome the new chapter in the budget entitled 'Cohesion and Values' and will oppose any possible reduction or centralisation of funds that affects investments in our regions and cities" President **Michael Schneider** said. Responding in his capacity as CoR rapporteur on the MFF post 2020, **Nikola Dobroslavić** added: "Nearly two thirds of the EU budget impacts regional and local

authorities. While welcoming the new chapters of the budget, we also want to look into how it responds to citizens' expectations in terms of security, prosperity, boosting innovation and empowering youth. This is the foundation to ensuring a bright future for all Europeans." This is just the start of a very long negotiating process and the EPP-CoR insists it should be finalised in time to start spending on 1 January 2021. The Council of the European Union debated the delivery and implementation of cohesion policy after 2020 during a meeting in Sofia on the 12 April. Following the adoption of the conclusions **Tomislav Donchev**, Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria, stressed:

"The debate on cohesion policy post 2020 is an essential part of the general debate about the future of Europe. Establishing the link between the two is very important – we cannot decide how to allocate money for cohesion without first having defined our priorities - without having envisaged the sort of Europe we want to have in ten years' time or, perhaps even the Europe we want for our children and their children"

The cohesion alliance as a grassroots initiative in support of cohesion policy was also welcomed on this occasion.

EPP-LED OPINIONS ON THE AGENDA

Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture



Own-initiative
SEDEC-VI/033

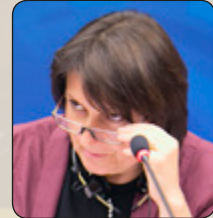
Tanya Hristova (BG/EPP), Mayor of
Gabrovo Municipality

“Education and culture are major factors in making Europe more resilient in the context of accelerating globalisation and current geopolitical trends.”

EU Leaders met in Gothenburg to explore how the EU's education and culture policies

can make a greater impact on the creation of jobs, economic growth and social fairness throughout the EU. Whilst welcoming the development, the CoR is concerned that the role of local and regional authorities is not sufficiently taken into account. Indeed, rapporteur insists that they continue to play a pivotal role in implementing and adapting the proposed measures and reforms in response to the European Commission's position on the way forward towards a European Education Area and a stronger focus on EU culture. On the topic of European identity and awareness of cultural heritage, the rapporteur calls for specific measures to preserve, develop and popularise Europe's traditional arts and crafts, as well as living heritage and living history initiatives, due to their interactive nature which facilitates learning by doing and cultural engagement. She also calls for the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage to be included in strategic initiatives supporting regional cultural development and opening up new opportunities for sustainable cultural tourism. When it comes to education, the opinion focuses on the potential of digitalisation, expressing

concern that “many schools do not yet have access to high-speed connectivity and digital equipment”. Investment in language and entrepreneurship education as well as media literacy should also be priorities for Europe.



“In our EP report on the News Skills Agenda we have highlighted the role of regions in providing vocational education and training. Regions have their individual labour market needs and these should be taken into account when adapting education programmes.”

Michaela Šojdrová, MEP

Quality of water intended for human consumption



ENVE-VI/028

Mark Weinmeister (DE/EPP), Secretary of
State for European Affairs, Land of Hesse

Access to drinking water is an important aspect of public service provision. It is local and regional authorities who, through monitoring as well as preventive and remedial measures, are responsible for guaranteeing a high quality of drinking water for citizens.

The opinion responds to European Commission's proposal for a revised Drinking Water Directive, which can be considered (in part) as a response to the European Citizens'

Initiative 'Right to Water'. The objective is to continue to ensure a high-quality of water intended for human consumption, taking into account the latest scientific and technical findings. In this draft opinion, the rapporteur criticises the Commission for setting lower health-related guideline values than those recommended by the World Health Organisation. In his view, this could create uncertainty and could provoke concerns amongst consumers – not just about basic levels of health protection, but also about what a substance's relevance to health means. Moreover, the opinion underlines that access to water for human consumption is an aspect of public service provision and therefore it often falls within the remit of local authorities to ensure its quality. They should therefore be involved in the decision-making, risk assessment and risk management activities. Micro plastics, which are defined as particles between 1 nm and 5mm in size with high polymer content, are also addressed giving the growing concern about their potentially harmful effects to human health. According to the rapporteur, methods of evaluating the risks of micro plastics need to be developed further. In order to improve the situation of

the quality of drinking water, the rapporteur calls for enhanced cooperation between local and regional authorities in the Member States and water supply companies in order to better recognise and prevent dangers linked to the use of drinking-water resources.



“With this opinion, the EU Committee of Regions makes important recommendations to improve Commission's proposal for a revision on the Drinking Water Directive with regard to local and regional realities. Roles and responsibilities between stakeholders are more clearly defined, implementation is enhanced and objectives strike balance between costs and benefits.”

Michel Dantin, MEP

Rules for the internal market in natural gas

ENVE-VI/026

Rapporteur: **Mauro D'Attis** (IT/EPP),
Member of Roccaflorita Municipal Council
(Messina)



It is essential for the EU to safeguard its own imports in general, although it must aim to avoid situations of excessive dependence, abuse by suppliers and risk for local communities.

This Directive seeks to address the remaining possible obstacles to the completion of the internal market in natural gas with a specific emphasis on the non-application of Union market rules to pipelines to and from third countries. Despite the EU Energy Union's aims to ensure secure, competitive and sustainable decarbonised energy, studies have shown that the EU is heavily

reliant on the import of natural gas and that this is combined with the prospect of increased domestic demand in spite of a decrease in EU gas production. The opinion therefore underlines that it is the EU's responsibility to address energy supply problems stemming from infrastructural initiatives that strengthen dominant positions in the natural gas market or which reduce the diversification of the third-country energy sources. Moreover, it is essential for the EU to safeguard its own imports in general, although it must aim to avoid situations of excessive dependence, abuse by suppliers and risk for local communities. The rapporteur calls on the EU to protect citizens against any risk to the security of supply and to ensure compliance with the EU's existing legal framework so that business activities can continue to provide jobs locally. The opinion also emphasises the efforts that the CoR – in performing its role in this area – intends to make to find EU solutions to the problems faced in local and regional communities, including the environmental impact from undersea pipelines.



Reliably supplied cities, villages, regions - this is what our Energy Union is about. We want it to be based on values and principles, not on exceptions. This is also the main aim of the Gas Directive revision, as proposed by the European Commission and approved by the European Parliament. All the pipelines from third countries have to fully comply, on the entire EU territory, including territorial waters and exclusive economic zones of the Member States, with existing EU rules, primarily the Third Energy Package. Such a legal clarity will ensure real competition, which is at the heart of a well-functioning gas market that should supply our regions, businesses and citizens with secure and affordable energy in a non-discriminatory way. I hope the Council will be ready soon to conclude inter-institutional negotiations on this important legislation

Jerzy Buzek, MEP

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) beyond 2020 – Investing in Europe's Coastal Communities

Own-initiative
NAT-VI/028

Rapporteur: **Alberto Nuñez Feijoo** (ES/EPP),
President of Galicia



We support the need for a new financial tool to promote shared governance and assistance for small coastal communities, to help create new businesses and support generational renewal, to enable maritime industries to diversify while retaining their

traditional character, to protect marine resources and to promote the competitiveness of the processing and marketing industry.

At a critical time for maritime Europe, which is facing major challenges such as the review of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) and Brexit, it is particularly important to launch a debate on the future of the EU maritime and fisheries sector. The rapporteur of the opinion stresses the need for continuity and better use of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund for the benefit of the maritime and fisheries sector, the Blue Economy and maritime employment. He believes that, given the European fisheries sector's considerable socio-economic impact, a specific fund is required in order to help meet its objectives. The opinion calls for a new financial tool to promote shared governance and assistance for small coastal communities, to help create new business-

es and support training and generational renewal, to enable maritime industries to diversify, to contribute to the conservation of marine resources and help improve environmental sustainability, to promote the competitiveness of the processing and marketing industry and to establish synergies with other European funds (EAFRD, ERDF and ESF). At the same time, the opinion points out that the new EMFF should be based on concepts such as administrative simplification and flexibility, the ability to adapt to the objectives and targets of the Common Fisheries Policy and opening up financial support to include all maritime and fisheries sectors, irrespective of their size or turnover. Finally, the opinion calls for the post-2020 EMFF to include and strengthen the territorial dimension of policies, to help European coastal communities build a marine economy, and support job and wealth creation relating to the sea.

Upcoming events

→ 22-23 May	External COP, Dublin, Ireland
→ 24-25 May	NAT external meeting, Pylos, Greece
→ 28 May	CIVEX seminar on "Hate speech, fake news, propaganda – shared foes of democracy", Szczecin, Poland
→ 5 June	EPP political assembly and EPP-CoR conference, Warsaw, Poland
→ 6-7 June	COTER and COR Bureau, Sofia, Bulgaria
→ 20 June	CAFA, Brussels
→ 21-22 June	ECON, Bucharest, Romania
→ 25-26 June	SEDEC, La Rioja, Spain
→ 28 June	ENVE external meeting, Balatonfüred, Hungary

Ongoing opinions

CIVEX

Reflecting on Europe: the voice of regional and local authorities to rebuild trust in the European Union –

Markku Markkula

(with **Karl-Heinz Lambertz**/PES)

Adoption foreseen October 2018

Eastern Partnership deliverables for 2020: The contribution of local and regional authorities–

Sören Herbst (EPP/DE)

Adoption foreseen July 2018

COTER

Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions

– **Ádám Karácsony**

Adoption foreseen July 2018

"Clean ports, clean seas" – **Spyros Spyridon**

Adoption foreseen October 2018

Multi-annual financial framework beyond 2020 –

Nikola Dobroslavić

Adoption foreseen December 2018

ECON

Public Procurement Package – **Adrian Teban**

Adoption foreseen July 2018

Fair Taxation Package – **Paul Lindquist**

Adoption foreseen October 2018

ENVE

Towards an 8th Environment Action Plan – **Cor Lamers**

Adoption foreseen December 2018

NAT

Local and regional incentives to promote healthy and

sustainable diets – **Nikolaos Chiotakis**

Adoption foreseen July 2018

SEDEC

'Mainstreaming sport into the EU agenda post-2020'

– **Roberto Pella**

Adoption at Plenary Session: 8-10 October 2018

The Digital Education Action Plan –

Domenico Gambacorta

Adoption foreseen October 2018

I am looking forward to welcoming the CoR's Conference of Presidents in Dublin to discuss Brexit and its consequences for Ireland with the EU affairs committee of the Oireachtas and then go to Northern Ireland. As highlighted by the ECON study, Ireland will be the country most impacted by Brexit. This is why it is so important to come to Ireland, discuss with members of national parliament and see for themselves the reality of the border.

Michael Murphy,

Tipperary County Councillor and head of the Irish delegation to the CoR





Europe Day

Europe Day, held on 9 May every year, celebrates peace and unity in Europe. The date marks the anniversary of the historical 'Schuman declaration'. At a speech in Paris in 1950, Robert Schuman, the then French foreign minister, set out his idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe, which would make war between Europe's nations unthinkable. His vision

was to create a European institution that would pool and manage coal and steel production. A treaty creating such a body was signed just under a year later. Schuman's proposal is considered to be the beginning of what is now the European Union.

World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it.

Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.

The pooling of coal and steel production... will change the destinies of those regions which have long been devoted to the manufacture of munitions of war, of which they have been the most constant victims.

To celebrate Europe Day, the European institutions in Brussels opened their doors to the public for the annual **Open Day on 5 May 2018 from 10.00 to 18.00.**

On this occasion, the European Committee of the Regions will celebrate Europe's diversity and culture with a festival of regions and cities.

Many citizens joined celebration and experienced Europe's diversity, and got an insight into the European Assembly of regional and local representatives!



Secretary General: **Heinz-Peter Knapp**
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