

European Alliance Group

In a turbulent world, regional and local government can bring stability

by Nanette Maupertuis, President of the European Alliance Group,
President of the Corsican Assembly



President Maupertuis during last Plenary Session

The current turbulence around the world brings huge instability. Our friends in Ukraine are still battling against their aggressors, the terrible war in Gaza and now the turbulence with the onset of a trade war with the USA. We need to continue to support Ukraine in their

hour of need as their fight is one not only on behalf of themselves but on behalf of Europe.

For too many policies the local and regional perspective has been forgotten, I hope that this perspective is mainstreamed into all European Union policies, that we do not forget our citizens in our cities, villages, rural communities and our islands.

We have a new mandate, new leadership team in the European Alliance group and we will prioritise the needs of our specific regions. As the group who puts the language and culture of our regions to the forefront, I would also like us to ensure that we use those languages to communicate to regions who may not understand the EU 'jargon'. The beautiful and varied culture, history and traditions need to be protected and promoted.

Not all regions have equal social and economic development, therefore Cohesion policy and funding must be adapted to the needs of our regions. I would call for more decentralisation not recentralisation of Cohesion policy.

Working together, we can make a difference.

Karl Vanlouwe Incoming chair of the COR UK contact group

Karl Vanlouwe, former President and current member of the EA Group, will serve as the incoming Chair of the CoR's UK Contact Group. Established in 2020, the Contact Group has played a key role in maintaining dialogue between LRAs in the EU and UK, facilitating discussions on cross-border challenges, opportunities and the evolving impact of Brexit on regions and cities. Meeting twice a year, the Contact Group brings together delegations from the CoR and devolved governing bodies of the UK to address shared concerns and en-

hance cooperation. Prior to this role, Mr. Vanlouwe has been a strong advocate for sustained contact and cooperation between local authorities in the EU and UK after Brexit.



Mr. Karl Vanlouwe

Tadeusz Truskolaski elected VP of ECON

Tadeusz Truskolaski, Vice-President of the EA Group and Mayor of Bialystok, Poland, has been elected Second Vice-Chairman of the CoR's ECON commission. Mr. Truskolaski's election took place during the inaugural meeting of the ECON commission's eighth mandate, following the CoR's 164th plenary session in February. Mr. Truskolaski is a long-standing and active member of the ECON commission, for which he has acted as

rapporteur for five adopted opinions since 2015.



Mr. Tadeusz Truskolaski

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Maupertuis highlights Subsidiarity and Cultural Diversity in debate with Antonio Costa

'Europe must be united and strong to tackle challenges to its prosperity,' said European Council President António Costa at the CoR's 164th plenary session in February. He stressed that integration and cohesion are key to a resilient EU, highlighting defence and growth programmes as areas where local and regional authorities (LRAs) should be involved. Empowering LRAs and aligning cohesion policy with these priorities are vital to building trust in the EU and promoting fair, sustainable development across all regions.

EA Group President Nanette Maupertuis agreed that addressing Europe's geopolitical crises requires empowerment of its regions but emphasised the need for greater focus on subsidiarity and cultural diversity. President Maupertuis highlighted that Europe's cultural diversity is a source of strength and accordingly stressed the importance of amplifying local voices by more centrally involving LRAs in European-level decision-making processes. Ultimately, President Maupertuis promoted reinforced subsidiarity, balanced development and cultural diversity as essential to strengthening Europe on the basis

that the EU's potential can only be fulfilled when regional voices are heard and heeded.



President Maupertuis during the debate in the plenary

Truskolaski and Czarzyńska-Jachim Push for Affordable Housing for Young People



Mr Truskolaski and Ms Czarzyńska-Jachim in the debate

Addressing Europe's housing crisis, Dan Jørgensen Commissioner for Energy and Housing prob-

lematised the EU's failure to provide sufficient affordable housing to its residents and vowed to tackle the housing crisis through 'outreach, engagement and consultation' with regional authorities. Predicting that a centralised policy approach would fail to understand the complexities of the issue, Commissioner Jørgensen welcomed input from CoR members to address the problem holistically and effectively.

EA Group members Tadeusz Truskolaski and Magdalena Czarzyńska-Jachim responsively offered practical approaches to producing affordable housing for young people. Tadeusz

Truskolaski described an initiative within his home city, Białystok, where certain bands of affordable housing are offered exclusively to university graduates that guarantee their access to accommodation. Magdalena Czarzyńska-Jachim condemned the prevalence of long-term rentals in touristic cities as restrictive of young people's housing options, calling for more equitable balance between short- and long-term rentals to make central locations more accessible neighbourhoods for young people. Commissioner Jørgensen welcomed this point, affirming that rental regulation is a regionally complex problem that requires a tailored approach.

McDonnell and Pérez García call for a truly local Cohesion Policy that empowers regions

The first Opinion debate of the CoR's 164th plenary session was led by Raffaele Fitto, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for Cohesion and Reforms, on the theme 'Local and regional authorities at the heart of a renewed cohesion policy'. Emphasising the need to modernise Cohesion Policy to tackle Europe's economic and security challenges, he proposed a performance-based model rooted in partnership, shared management, multi-level governance, and a place-based approach. Mr Fitto pledged to listen to regional voices and foster closer collaboration with regional authorities.

Declan McDonnell and Sergio Pérez García responsively called for a 'truly local and practical' cohesion policy that 'leaves no one behind', with Declan McDonnell stressing that local and regional authorities must play a central rather than partnership role in shaping the new policy. Regional actors must be able to shape their own development, stressed Mr. McDonnell, who advocated for full participation of local authorities in designing and implementing a renewed cohesion policy. Sergio Pérez García affirmed this statement and emphasised that local and regional authorities must be empowered

to adaptively implement European cohesion policies and thereby facilitate equitable development across Europe's regions.



Cllr McDonnell and Mr Pérez García during the debate

EA Coordinators Outline the Priorities of their Commission



Mr. René Jansen

ECON

ECON Commission, emphasises the need for strengthening local and regional economies through smart investments, SME support, and sustainable growth. A key focus is ensuring EU economic policies foster innovation and investment across all regions, not just major urban centres. Following the Draghi report, Europe must act decisively to regain competitiveness and secure long-term prosperity.

Mr Jansen, the newly elected European Alliance (EA) Group Coordinator in the

The EA Group supports a place-based industrial policy to keep Europe attrac-

tive for investment. SMEs, as key innovators and economic drivers, deserve equal attention alongside multinationals. The European Semester remains crucial, especially as the EU moves toward national single plans in the next MFF. Municipalities, often excluded despite implementing reforms, need better coordination. Public procurement must simplify procedures while supporting green and socially responsible investments without adding administrative burdens.



Ms. Cosmina Pandeale

COTER

In 2025, the COTER Commission will continue driving forward the debate on cohesion policy, the future EU budget, just transition and sustainable transport, areas where local and regional authorities play a key role in delivering EU priorities on the ground. With major proposals expected on the post-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, cohesion reform and transport investment, our group will work to ensure that territorial realities

and local needs are fully reflected in EU policymaking.

Our new EA COTER Coordinator Cosmina-Ramona Pandeale, Mayor of Berceni, Romania brings valuable hands-on experience and a strong commitment to strengthening the role of municipalities in shaping effective, place-based policies. She will lead our work to ensure that cohesion, subsidiarity and fair access to funding remain at the heart of the EU agenda.



Ms. Magdalena Czarzyńska-Jachim

CIVEX

In its 8th mandate, the CIVEX Commission will focus on priorities such as the rule of law, EU enlargement, migration, and strengthening democratic governance. With the evolving and increasingly challenging political landscape in the EU and beyond, local and regional authorities can play a key role in supporting the principles of subsidiarity, multilevel governance, and democratic resilience.

The new EA CIVEX Coordinator is Ms Magdalena Czarzyńska-Jachim, mayor of the town of Sopot, Poland. She brings a strong commitment and expertise in decentralisation and subsidiarity. She is an ardent advocate for empowering local authorities and we are sure that she will steer our group's work to ensure that local voices are heard across EU debates. We wish her all the success in this endeavour!



Mr. Adam Banaszak

NAT

As the newly appointed European Alliance (EA) Group Coordinator in the NAT Commission, Mr Adam Banaszak is committed to strengthening rural development, food security, and environmental sustainability. His priority is ensuring EU policies support farmers and rural communities by promoting sustainable agriculture while maintaining competitiveness. He advocates for a fair CAP that balances environmental goals with economic viability.

Food security and resilience are crucial, requiring stronger regional food systems, short supply chains, and reduced external dependency. The green transition in rural areas must be fair, enhancing biodiversity, sustainable forestry, and renewable energy. Better coordination between local and regional authorities is essential for effective EU rural policies. Investing in smart rural development, digital connectivity, and innovation is key to ensuring a thriving, resilient, and sustainable countryside.



Ms. Karolien Grosemans

SEDEC

Newly elected EA Group Coordinator for SEDEC, Karolien Grosemans, Member of the Flemish Parliament, stressed the need for stronger regional involvement in key EU priorities. SEDEC rightly focuses on education and youth, particularly digital skills and STEM. The EA Group urges greater recognition of local and regional authorities (LRAs) in closing the digital divide, especially in rural areas. We advocate stronger school-business partnerships, increased investment in digital training, and better infrastructure.

In social policies and employment, targeted support for rural and peripheral regions is crucial. LRAs should play a key role in implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting SMEs. We also emphasise smart communities, interregional cooperation, and cultural diversity, including multilingualism. Strengthening these priorities will ensure all citizens benefit from digital innovation, economic growth, and inclusive social policies.



Mr. Andries Gryffroy

ENVE

This mandate, the ENVE Commission will face key challenges as the EU shifts its Green policies towards a stronger focus on competitiveness and clean industries. The European Commission aims to secure energy supply and accelerate the growth of clean industries through various legislative proposals, all while maintaining the goal of climate neutrality by 2050. Our priorities remain clear: sustaining ambition in wind power and energy communities while strengthening support for

Europe's circular industry, particularly in green energy production.

New EA ENVE Coordinator Andries Gryffroy, Member of the Flemish Parliament, brings extensive experience in green policies. Over the years, he has contributed to several CoR opinions on renewable energy and its impact on local and regional authorities, and, already as ENVE Coordinator, has actively participated in multiple COP climate conferences as part of the CoR delegation.

Newly elected EA Bureau



Nanette Maupertuis
President



Tadeusz Truskolaski
Vice-President



Karl Vanlouwe
2nd Vice-President



Declan McDonnell
Vice-President and Treasurer



Emil Drăghici
Bureau member



Bronius Markauskas
Bureau member