

European Alliance Group

Let all our regions come together to say NO to the National finance packages for Cohesion policy. It must remain people and place-based in our Regions

says Nanette Maupertuis, President of the EA Group

The proposal for the new MFF post 2027 extraordinarily ignores the huge importance of Cohesion and indeed Agriculture policies to our Regions. The European Commission proposal to merge all shared management funds into a single national plan per Member State, eliminating regional programmes and removing enforceable partnership obligations, the Commission is in effect renationalising EU funding.

This would remove any obligation for national governments to involve regions, cities and local communities in shaping and delivering investments. Such a structural shift destroys subsidiarity and multilevel governance. It is precisely through regional programmes that citizens see the impact of Europe in their daily lives.

We call on all Regions to join forces to reject this proposal. The next few months are crucial and in particular we hope that 'common-sense' will prevail in the European Council and European Parliament and send the Commission President



EA President with Commissioner Serafin

back to the drawing board to change this proposal. It is an issue we will be vocal on as it is important to our citizens and to the development of the different regions across the EU.

This point was clearly made during our external meeting in Berceni on the economic and social development of villages in close proximity to cities which was hosted by our great Mayor Cosmina Pandele and You can read more on this meeting in our newsletter. Thank you Cosmina.

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CoR Conference of Presidents calls for more action on Regional resilience preparedness and Cyber security

The CoR's Conference of Presidents met on Thursday 18 September in Copenhagen with Torsten Schack Pedersen, Minister for Resilience and Preparedness of Denmark. Our EA group President

Nanette Maupertuis says that regional resilience and being prepared for all eventualities including unexpected disasters is essential in ensuring the effects on citizens are minimised. The EA Pres-

ident also called for more security in the area of Cyber Security in particular the threats which are emerging from certain third countries.



EA President in Copenhagen

Banaszak appointed as the Rapporteur in NAT Commission

The EA Group coordinator for the NAT Commission has been nominated as Rapporteur for the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), a key European Union framework designed to strengthen collective disaster response and cooperation. Established in 2001, the UCPM enhances the EU's capacity to respond effectively to natural and man-made disasters both within and outside Europe.

The mechanism provides a coordinated channel for member states and participating countries to request and deliver assistance when national

resources are overwhelmed. Support can include relief items, technical expertise, and specialized equipment, all managed through the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC). Beyond emergency response, the UCPM also plays a crucial role in disaster prevention, preparedness, and knowledge sharing, fostering stronger resilience across Europe and beyond. The appointment of the EA Group coordinator as Rapporteur underscores the importance of collaborative leadership in guiding the future direction of this vital EU mechanism.



Mr. Adam Banaszak

The EA Group welcomes the launch of the Working Group on Defence

On 22 September 2025, the Committee of the Regions launched its new Working Group on Defence, a major step in embedding local and re-

gional perspectives into EU Defence and security policy. The move comes as Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine and rising hybrid threats continue to reshape Europe's security landscape. The European Alliance Group will be represented by Mr Tadeusz Truskolaski as a full member, with Mr Mantas Varaška as alternate.

At its inaugural meeting, members shared experiences and best practices on defence and security policy in their respective regions. The Working Group also adopted its 2025-2027 roadmap, focusing on investments in defence capabilities, the ongoing negotiations on the next MFF, en-

hanced civil protection mechanisms, dual-use transport infrastructure, and closer cooperation to counter hybrid threats.

Mr Truskolaski is very pleased that the Working Group has been launched: "Defence is more important than ever, as the EU finds itself in a turbulent geopolitical landscape. Many of our members come from regions particularly close to the Russian border, so we know better than anyone the dangers facing us. It is therefore essential that the EU develops a fit-for-purpose defence policy, fully involving local and regional authorities."



Participants to the first WG on Defence

EA Members gather in Berceni to put Europe's Villages close to Cities on the map



Picture of the Participants of the EA Seminar in Berceni

The last 12th September 2025, members of the European Alliance Group met in Berceni, near Bucharest, for a seminar hosted by EA member Cosmina Pandeale, mayor of Berceni. For one day, this small but growing commune became the stage for a debate on the future of villages located in close proximity to cities. The meeting was described as historic for Berceni, giving visibility and a voice to communities too often overlooked in European and National policymaking. Speakers underlined both the pressures and the potential of peri-urban areas. EA President Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis defended subsidiarity and warned against centralisation in EU funding, while Mayor Pandeale called on Europe to listen more to its villages.

Romanian National and European leaders added their perspectives including: Marin Ţole, State Secretary at Romania's Ministry of Development; Sebastian-Ioan Burduja, former Minister of Energy and adviser to

the Prime Minister; Daniel Nicodim, Prefect of Prahova County; and Adina-Ioana Vălean, Member of the European Parliament and former Commissioner for Transport and Ramona Chiriac, Head of the European Commission Representation in Romania. They addressed balanced development between cities and villages, Romania's demographic decline and the need for administrative reform, the progress and challenges of communes like Berceni, and the importance of investing in mobility, digital networks and public services, while also underlining the transformative role of EU funds. Finally, EA members also shared their experiences: Marc Hendrickx pointed to Flemish best practices in a presentation, and Kieran McCarthy who made a presentation based on his previous work as CoR rapporteur on Small Urban Areas, and the New European Bauhaus.

The debates led to the adoption of the Berceni Declaration, a text that recognises

peri-urban villages as bridges between urban and rural areas. It calls for stronger local services, better public transport, fairer access to EU funds and the preservation of cultural identity. By placing peri-urban villages firmly on the European map, the declaration sends a clear message: these communities are not commuter towns but vibrant places with their own future.

The day before, EA members had already explored Berceni and its surroundings. They visited the EU-funded Antonel Kindergarten, enjoyed a concert from schoolchildren, toured a Housing for Humanity project providing affordable homes to families in the need, met local investors, the town hall, and ended the day at an ecological farm. These visits showed in practice how European support and local action can improve daily life. For Berceni, it was an opportunity to showcase its achievements, its ambitions, and its role as an example for peri-urban villages across Europe.



The new Working Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina meets for the first time in Brussels



The Working Group, which couldn't meet during the last Enlargement Days, finally constituted its first session on Monday, 22 September in Brussels. The meeting brought together representatives to open a new platform of dialogue dedicated to Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a focus on the EU accession process and the challenges the country faces in advancing reforms.

The EA Group is represented by Adam Banaszak, member of the Working Group, and Tadas Bartkus, acting as Alternate member. During the discussions, participants discussed the current state of relations between the European Union and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and also addressed the situation of the country's internal conflict dynamics, underlining that sustainable progress requires political stability and genuine commitment to reform. Mr Banaszak highlighted the role of Croatian Government in promoting a rapid integration of the country. This first meeting marked the launch of a group that will follow closely the developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, exchange with local actors, and keep Enlargement high on the Committee of the Regions' agenda.

Cross-Border Cooperation Driving Growth at the EA Seminar

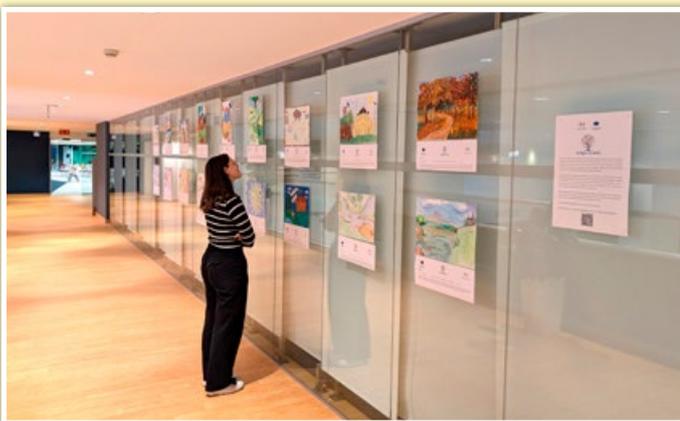
During the EU Regions Week, the European Alliance Group will hold its seminar "The importance of fostering cross-border economic and social development". The event will explore how cross-border cooperation can strengthen economic resilience, foster social cohesion, and provide innovative solutions to shared challenges.

The discussion will be introduced and concluded by EA President Ms Marie-Antoinette Mau-

pertuis. The panel discussion will count with the participation of Mr Moray Gilland, Head of Unit at DG REGIO at the European Commission, Ms Monia Sanna, Head of the European Territorial Cooperation Department of the Collectivity of Corsica, and Mr Aodhán Connolly, Director of the European Division of the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels. The event will take place at JDE 60, the 14th October, from 9h30 to 11h00.



The EA Group launches its annual Primary School Competition



The EA Group is excited to launch this year's edition of its annual primary school art competition, titled "My Region, My Life". The competition invites children from across Europe to submit drawings or paintings that explore their identity through the lens of their region — including its people, landscapes, culture, and traditions — and how these connect to the wider European Union. This year's theme highlights how regions shape our lives, values, and sense of belonging, forming the foundation of a strong and diverse Europe.

All artworks will be exhibited at the European Committee of the Regions in Brussels during the December Plenary Session. Each entry should include a short description of the student's hopes and dreams for their region within Europe. These will be published in a booklet showcasing young people's visions of their place in the EU.