

Protokoll fört vid enskild föredragning

Regeringskansliet
Allmänna byrån, Rk1

Beslutande
Lantråd
Veronica Thörnroos

Föredragande
Förvaltningschef
John Eriksson

Justerat
Omedelbart

Nr 13

Gemensamt brev från 'Regions for EU Recovery' gällande en gemensam röst i Konferensen om Europas framtid (the Conference on the Future of Europe" (CoFoE)).

ÅLR 2021/3497

Beslöts att lantrådet Veronica Thörnroos undertecknar brevet för Ålands del enligt Bilaga 1.

Nr 14

Gemensamt brev från RLEG (Regions with Legislative Powers) gällande en gemensam röst i Konferensen om Europas framtid (the Conference on the Future of Europe" (CoFoE)

ÅLR 2021/3498

Beslöts att lantrådet Veronica Thörnroos undertecknar brevet för Ålands del enligt Bilaga 2.

Brussels, 3rd May 2021

To: Co-Chairs of the Executive Board of the CoFoE

Ms. Ana Paula Zacarias, Secretary of State for EU Affairs of the Government of Portugal Mr.
Guy Verhofstadt, MEP, European Parliament

Ms. Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President European Commission for Democracy and Demography

CC: Board Members

Regions are not only key actors in the multi-level governance framework, they are also the level with the closest connections to its citizens. They are also responsible for implementation of much EU policy. During the Covid-19 crisis, the local and regional level has been to the forefront when it comes to taking action to ensure an EU-wide sustainable recovery.

The undersigning regions have collaborated to ensure the regional participation in EU Recovery Funds. As regional decision-makers from across the whole EU, we consider it to be crucial that these voices are heard in the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE). This conference is an excellent opportunity to regain citizens' trust in the European Project and we believe that the joint vision of Europe's future can only be established with the active involvement of the regional level.

Multi-level governance was intended to be at the very core of the EU project, and subsidiarity was to be a fundamental principle in European policymaking. Yet, in practice, these values seem to be more and more forgotten. We see a worrying trend whereby EU legislation does not sufficiently take into account the role of regions, instead demanding centralised plans or implementations of policy at Member State level instead of allowing for regional differences. By doing so, decision-making is being moved further away from the citizens. We believe it is time for a renewed discussion about what a "Europe of Regions" really means!

The framework for the CoFoE should ensure that Regions have the opportunity to directly contribute in all the fora of the conference. Moreover, we suggest that the CoFoE includes a plenary session designated to discuss the role of Regions and multi-level governance. During this session, Regions and the EU institutions might openly debate the challenges and problems with the current situation. This would be an opportunity to together find collaborative solutions and form synergies. Many regional platforms, initiatives and networks share this goal. Regions are necessary for the recovery and future of Europe.

Thank you for taking our suggestions into consideration. We would like to assure you that we are committed to doing our part in ensuring a successful CoFoE that will make Europe an even better place to live. We look forward to working on that together with you.

SIGNATURES



Veronica Thörnroos
Head of the Åland
Government
Åland



Francina Armengol i Socias
President
Balearic Islands



Melanie Huml
State Minister for European and International
Affairs
Free State of Bavaria



Juraj Droba
President
Bratislava Region

LAND  KÄRNTEN

Peter Kaiser
Governor



Bernat Solé i Barril
Minister of Foreign
Action
Catalonia



Lucia Puttrich



Minister
of
European
and

Federal Affairs
Hessen

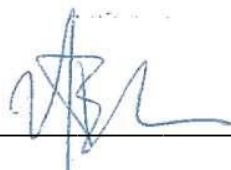


Attilio Fontana
President
Regione Lombardia



Johanna Mikl-Leitner

Governor
Lower Austria



Isabelle
Boudineau Vice-
President
Nouvelle-
Aquitaine



Agnès Rampal

Agnès Rampal
President Commission "Euro
Méditerranée" Région Provence - Alpes
- Côte d'Azur



Günther Platter

Günther Platter
Governor
Tyrol



Arno Kompatscher

Arno Kompatscher
President
Bolzano-Bozen / South
Tyrol



Ossi Savolainen

Ossi Savolainen
Regional Mayor
Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council



Radimir Čačić

Radimir Čačić
Prefect
Varazdin
County



Marek Woźniak

Marek Woźniak
President
Wielkopolska Region

DRAFT



Bilaga 2

Vitoria-Gasteiz, 3rd May 2021

President Ursula Von der Leyen President David Sassoli President Charles Michel President Antonio Costa

Dear Presidents,

The Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) will be an excellent opportunity to relaunch the discussions to build a more democratic EU where there truly is a place for each and every citizen.

RLEG is a network of governments of regions and autonomies with legislative powers, many representing peoples or nations within their Member States. We are strongly committed to the values and principles of the EU and we are ready to do our part in ensuring an effective multilevel governance in the Union and to further improve the application of the decentralized dimension of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

There is no European Union without regions. It is evident that there needs to be a significant involvement of regions with legislative powers in the CoFoE in order to make sure that all levels of government are represented when shaping the future of our Union. Hence, we request to be involved in the Conference on the Future of Europe by including representatives of Regions with legislative powers of our network in the plenary body, and in the decision-making and governance of the implementation process following the outcomes of the CoFoE.

When powers are transferred to the European level, it is often in policy areas where Regions have legislative powers. Therefore, in order to ensure adequate representation of all levels of Government, new channels need to be established to ensure a further involvement of the Governments of Regions with legislative powers in the EU policy cycle.

We, therefore, call for the organization of a high-level debate on effective multi-level governance and the setting up of a working group to analyse a unique status, such as "Partner regions inside the EU", for enhanced and structural cooperation with Regions with legislative powers.

The COVID pandemic has made the call for transformative policies to respond to the needs of European citizens more relevant than ever. In this sense, regions with legislative powers are essential when deliberating, making decisions and committing themselves as agents of political transformation, in the interests of the citizens to achieve the digital and sustainable transformations.



Looking forward to working together in making the CoFoE a success, Yours faithfully, the
undersigned

REGIONS WITH LEGISLATIVE



REGIONS WITH LEGISLATIVE

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José Manuel Cabral Dias Bolieiro
President of the Regional Government of the Azores



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BALEARS

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Francina ARMENGOL SOCÍAS President of the Balearic Islands Balearic Islands

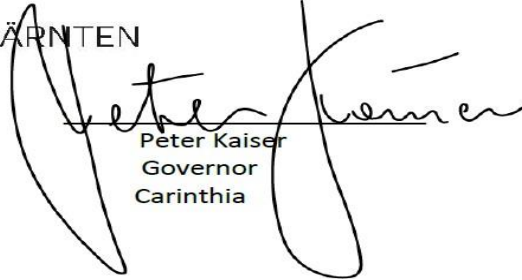


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LAND  KÄRNTEN



Peter Kaiser
Governor
Carinthia



Pere Aragonès
Vice-President, acting as President
Catalonia

Gil
Pre  CULLETTIVITÀ DI **CORSICA**
COLLECTIVITÉ DE **CORSE** of Corsica Corsica



Ja
M  **Government
of Flanders** ers Flanders





J. Mikl-Leitner

Johanna Mikl-Leitner
Governor
Lower Austria

Wolfgang Haider



W

LAND
SALZBURG

Salzburg



Günther Platter

President of the Tyrolean Government
Land Tyrol

Günther Platter



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Thom Governor of Upper Austria Upper Austria



REGIONS WITH LEGISLATIVE

 **GENERALITAT
VALENCIANA**
Ximo Puig
President of the Generalitat
Valenciana Valencia



Markus WALLNER Governor of
Vorarlberg Vorarlberg