



**European Committee
of the Regions**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of regional and local representatives.

We are a political assembly of holders of a regional or local electoral mandate serving the cause of European integration.

Through our political legitimacy, we provide institutional representation for all the European Union's territorial areas, regions, cities and municipalities.

Our mission is to involve regional and local authorities in the European decision-making process and thus to encourage greater participation from our fellow citizens

Our political action is based on the belief that cooperation between European, national, regional and local levels is essential if we are to build an ever closer and more mutually supportive union among the people of Europe and respond to the challenges of globalisation.

To this end, we work closely together with the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, and in the Member States with the various tiers of authority, in order also to promote multi-level governance.

We vote on political recommendations for European strategies and participate in the preparation of Community legislation.

Upstream, at the earliest stages, we propose political lines of approach and action drawn from the experience and expertise of the regional and local authorities, who are most often responsible for implementing legislation.

We want to see Europe, united in diversity in a globalised world, make the very most of its territorial, cultural and linguistic diversity, as this is the source of its strength and guarantee of its people's identity.

We play our part in promoting European democracy and citizenship and their values, and contribute towards the anchoring of fundamental rights and the protection of minorities.

We keep watch to ensure that the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality are upheld so the decisions are taken and applied as close to the citizens as possible and at the most appropriate level.

Thus, we ensure that common policies are implemented more effectively and at greater proximity.

We work to secure harmonious and sustainable development across all European territorial areas.

In this way, we champion the objectives of economic, social and territorial cohesion in the European Union in the interests of the principles of equity and solidarity.

We claim autonomy for regional and local authorities and their right to secure appropriate financial resources to enable them to carry out their duties.

We therefore promote the principles and mechanisms of good governance and encourage the process of decentralisation.

We encourage cooperation between the regional and local authorities of the Member States, but also, as part of enlargement strategy, neighbourhood policy and development policy, with those of candidate countries, potential candidate countries, neighbouring countries and third countries.

We set up platforms and networks, organise forums so as to facilitate cooperation and the pooling of experience between regions, cities and municipalities, and develop partnerships with their representative organisations.

We are ambassadors of Europe in the regions, cities and municipalities and speak for them in the European debate.

We have a direct dialogue with our fellow citizens on Europe's achievements and future challenges and we help to explain and expound the implementation and territorial impact of Community policies.

Let's build Europe in partnership!

Brussels, 21 April 2009