



Local & Regional
Europe

European elections
#EUElections2019

Manifesto

for a local & regional
Europe



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS 2019

Message from local and regional elected representatives: Involve local and regional governments for a stronger EU!

(Adopted on 11/12/2018 in Ludwigsburg)

1. We, mayors and leaders of local and regional governments from all over Europe, representing the 130,000 European local and regional governments that are members of our 60 national associations from 41 countries, believe in a strong and united Europe, founded on common and powerful values: democracy, human rights, solidarity, gender equality and respect for rule of law, which form the basis of the European Union. This approach lies on the principle of mutual commitment that serves the whole Union.
2. We acknowledge that the elections to the European Parliament take place at a crucial point in time when the EU faces many challenges. We call on the members of the future European Parliament and the next European Commission to engage with the same courage, dynamism and determination as our founders did, who called for the reconciliation and unity of our continent after World War II.
3. The future of Europe concerns all European citizens. It is time to reflect upon what kind of Europe citizens want in order to provide a sustainable, stable, inclusive and peaceful future to the next generations. Therefore, the response must be guided by the motivation to improve the functioning of the institutions, to reinforce transparency and a decision-making process based on dialogue between citizens and their elected representatives.
4. Considering the global dimension of today's challenges, the Sustainable Development Goals should become the guiding principles for the future European Strategy. To achieve the Paris Climate Commitments and comply with the 2030 Agenda, we need a profound transformation of our development model and the adaptation of the entirety of European policies. Europe should be a driving force for the world, showing the way towards a new model of development, mobilising all areas of economic and social intervention and supporting local governments to build decarbonised and resilient communities.
5. The challenges being faced by Europe can only be solved by action or contribution of local and regional governments, and financing of local public services. A strong partnership between all spheres of government is the way to succeed.
6. In this sense, the European Union should support the dynamics of growth, innovation and social promotion launched at local and regional level with the resources corresponding to its ambitions, and the appropriate legal framework.
7. The European Parliament¹ recognises the key role of local governments in preparing, designing, financing and implementing key European Union policies, as well as the important role of local governments in the Union's external development policies. It is convinced of the need to significantly strengthen their role in shaping future EU policies, and stresses the importance of their representative associations, such as the CEMR, to become key partners of EU institutions.
8. The European Commission² emphasises the need to significantly increase the involvement of local and regional governments in a structured way through the principle of subsidiarity, in all phases of the EU decision-making process, to enhance the added value of EU legislation for our citizens.

1 Resolution adopted on 3 July 2018, P8_TA -PROV(2018)0273.

2 Communication on Subsidiarity and Proportionality, adopted on 23 October 2018, COM (2018) 703- final.

We commit:

1. To promoting European debates in our constituencies so that citizens participate and vote consciously in the European elections in May 2019.
2. To engaging local and regional governments in building partnerships with European institutions to support a positive image of the European project and contribute to creating a democratic and visionary model of development throughout our continent.
3. To mobilising local and regional governments and their associations to cooperate with their peers in developing partner countries to address the 2030 Agenda and to mobilise efforts and fight climate change.

We propose:

1. To establish an innovative governance model based on a partnership which fully recognises local and regional governments' role in the European governance structure.
2. To give substance to article 4 of the Treaty on the European Union, which establishes local and regional governments as participants of European governance.
3. To work with EU institutions so that annual dialogues can take place locally, open to citizens to debate the link between their communities and the European Union.
4. To review the modalities of the European Civil Dialogue by introducing a specific status for organisations that represent local and regional governments and civil society.
5. To introduce more transparency into the decision-making process, European institutions should seek to better inform citizens about their activity, their positions in negotiations and the decisions they take.
6. That European policies be consolidated, by supporting projects promoted by local authorities, and contribute to the sustainable development of our regions. In this sense, Cohesion Policy must remain at the heart of the European Union's priorities. Furthermore, the future 'Rights and Values' programme and the Erasmus+ programme must be strengthened and an Erasmus of Territories programme must be created.
7. To promote the European Charter for Fundamental Rights and the history of the European Union in schools in all countries of the European Union, in order to facilitate better knowledge on the functioning of the EU institutions. The introduction of appropriate financial and legal conditions, allowing every pupil to have the opportunity to visit the European Institutions once during their schooling, is important.

We call on the European Union to ensure:

1. The application of the principles of local self-government in the context of the European Union legislation as enshrined in Article 4, paragraph 2 of the Treaty on the European Union and in the European Charter of Local Self-Government and to respect the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.
2. That beyond 2020, appropriate arrangements are put in place to ensure easier access for the United Kingdom's local and regional governments to cooperate with EU counterparts through EU cooperation programmes. This should be done in a similar fashion to countries such as Norway and Iceland, as well as through macro-regional strategies, Interreg and within EGTC³ frameworks.

CEMR

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions is the united voice of Europe's local and regional governments federated through 60 national associations.

CEMR is the European section of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), through which it represents European local and regional governments at international level.

Our mission

We promote the construction of a united, peaceful and democratic Europe founded upon local self-government and respect for the principle of subsidiarity.

Founded in
1951

60
associations

41
countries

130,000
local and regional
governments

CEMR member associations

Albania
SHBSH

Cyprus
UCM

Germany
RGRE
DStGB
LANDKREISTAG
STAEDTETAG

Kosovo
AKK*

North Macedonia
ZELS

Slovenia
SOS
ZMOS

Austria
GEMEINDEBUND
STAEDTEBUND

Czech Republic
SMO ČR

Greece
KEDE

Latvia
LPS

Norway
KS

Spain
FEMP
EUDEL

Belgium
BRULOCALIS
UVCW
VVSG

Denmark
KL
REGIONER

Hungary
TÖOSZ

Lithuania
LSA

Poland
ZMP
ZPP

Sweden
SKL

Bosnia and Herzegovina
SOGFBiH
ALVRS

Estonia
AECM

Iceland
SAMBAND

Luxembourg
SYVICOL

Portugal
ANMP

Turkey
TBB

Bulgaria
NAMRB

Finland
AFLRA

Ireland
LGMA*

Malta
LCA

Romania
ACOR
AMR
UNCJR

Ukraine
AUC
UAROR

Croatia
HRVZZ

Georgia
NALAG

Israel
MASHAM

Montenegro
UOM

Serbia
SKGO

United Kingdom
LGA
COSLA
NILGA
WLGA

Italy
AICCCE

Netherlands
VNG
IPO

Slovakia
ZMOS

* Associate, observer and invited members

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