



# **Governing in partnership**

## **United to build a stronger Europe**

### **DECLARATION OF THE PRESIDENTS**

**ASSEMBLY OF EUROPEAN REGIONS**  
**COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS**  
**CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS**  
**EUROCITIES**

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Vice-President of Ile-de-France Region,  
President  
Assembly of European Regions



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Lord Mayor of Stuttgart,  
President  
Council of European Municipalities and Regions



**Jean-Yves Le Drian**

President of Brittany Region,  
President  
Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions



**Frank Jensen**

Lord Mayor of Copenhagen,  
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EUROCITIES

Europe is shaken by an economic and financial crisis, which is reflected through the feelings of insecurity and lack of confidence in our political leadership and our future. The problems we are facing at European level find their expression at national, regional and local level. In order to face these challenges and work on solutions, the cooperation of all levels of governance is needed. Relevant documents, such as the Committee of the Region's 'White Paper on Multi-Level Governance' and the 'Barcelona Agenda' are milestones on the way to establish 'governance in partnership' and create a culture of multi-level governance.

**The Council of European Municipalities and Regions, the Assembly of European Regions, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions and EUROCIITIES promote a 'Governing in partnership' model to jointly build a stronger Europe.**

**Governing in Partnership** is the main way to:

- Promote the essential goals and measures in Europe through a multi-level governance system, based on coordinated responsibilities of each level and reliable and jointly decided rules, contracts and self commitments;
- Combine the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality through power sharing, partnership and participation at all political levels in Europe by voluntary decisions without changing the legal competences between the different political levels;
- Develop horizontal and vertical networks, which can include and mobilise citizens, business enterprises, NGOs and other partners for common goals and measures, which are essential for all Europeans, thus strengthening their identification with the European Union.

### **Governing in Partnership and the Europe 2020 Strategy**

**CEMR, AER, CPMR and EUROCIITIES as the representative organisations of local and regional government in Europe, wish to:**

1. Express their support to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy which aims at stimulating smart, sustainable and inclusive growth to overcome the economic crisis;
2. Emphasise that the Lisbon Strategy (2000 – 2010) was not successful, because it failed to engage adequately local and regional levels, only targeting the European and central government level;
3. Stress that constructive and effective horizontal and vertical cooperation has proven to be the best way to share ownership and commitment, which is needed to achieve tangible results;
4. Highlight that all actors at all levels of governance, in particular local and regional authorities, as well as other stakeholders need to be mobilised and cooperate in partnership to jointly design and implement measures to ensure that the Europe 2020 Strategy will achieve its goals.

## **Governing in Partnership and EU Policies**

### **CEMR, AER, CPMR and EUROCITIES call on the European institutions and the national governments to:**

5. Apply this model of 'governance in partnership' on any EU policy with a territorial dimension; thus contributing to implement the Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020, adopted at the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Territorial Cohesion in Gödöllő on 19 May 2011;
6. Further explore how this model can be put into practice in all relevant policy areas; aiming at the European Commission's objective to deliver 'smart regulation';
7. Take the new EU cohesion policy, with its objective to achieve social, economic and territorial cohesion in Europe in accordance with the Europe 2020 Strategy, as a concrete and crucial case to apply the 'governance in partnership' approach in line with the key principles of multi-level governance;
8. Actively involve regional and local authorities, cities, rural areas, functional areas, mountains, maritime, ultra-peripheral and sparsely populated areas in the preparation of the Partnership Contracts and the Operational Programmes, as well as in the monitoring of their implementation;
9. Cooperate in a constructive manner to prepare the *code of conduct* that the European Commission will adopt to ensure the involvement of the partners in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Partnership Contracts and Programmes;
10. Agree on common objectives, guiding principles and the role and function of the different partners; their application should be mandatory and enforced by the European Commission as a necessary prerequisite to the agreement of the Partnership Contracts and Programmes;
11. Recognise that local and regional public authorities, and in particular local and regional political representatives with a public mandate and democratic legitimacy, should be involved and treated as equal partners of the managing authorities and not be assimilated to economic, social and environmental stakeholders; being aware that the success of the programmes will benefit from their involvement, but acknowledging the differences of their legitimacy, roles, responsibilities and accountability.