

**FORUM OF WORLD REGIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES:
“REGIONAL AND LOCAL REPRESENTATION FOR TRUE GLOBAL DEMOCRACY”,
ORGANISED BY CALRE**

23 OCTOBER 2015, 15.45, MILAN



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear President Cattaneo,

It is a great pleasure for me to contribute to this CALRE Forum on behalf of the European Committee of the Regions.

Global challenges need solid democratic structures and smooth processes enabling all levels of governance to **shape and implement** good legislation as well as to **target** global challenges.

The European Committee of the Regions plays an essential role in this context at the EU level. As the EU's Assembly of local and regional representatives, we bring the voice of regional and local representatives in the very heart of the EU decision-making progress. We are active and

official partner of the European Commission during the pre-legislative phase and consultation process in order to assure better law-making in the EU.

Indeed, we are active at all stages of the making and shaping of European decisions, from the scrutiny of the subsidiarity principle, to the territorial impact assessment (of current and future), and the implementation phase. Only through strong involvement and empowerment of regional parliaments in the subsidiarity scrutiny, alongside national parliaments, these goals are reachable. In this context, I am pleased to work with and invite CALRE support to further cooperate.

What are the activities of CoR beyond our borders?

From cross-border cooperation to neighbourhood and global vision, the **CoR is active to promote the European values such as: local democracy, Multi-Level governance, decentralisation and territorial development.**

We work toward more international cooperation to better address common challenges, such as development, climate change, migration flows, security and stability.

Within the context of the **European Neighbourhood Policy**, for instance, we work for creating the best conditions for enhance the institutional capacity of local and regional authorities in the neighbouring partner countries.

In this context, we have set up two joint bodies for each one of the external dimension of the EU, Eastern and Southern Mediterranean, which represent a "unique" tool within the international organisations due to its proximity to citizens and potentiality in terms of city diplomacy, local democracy and delivery on the ground.

Allow me now to envisage tackling this question under an even broader perspective. As you may know, the United Nations adopted last month the **Sustainable Development Goals** which replaced not only the Millennium goals, but which will also drive our policies during the coming 15 years. These goals are universal and have to be achieved everywhere in the world, at all levels of governance. Furthermore, the Sustainable Development Goals cannot be separated from the coming Paris COP 21 commitments, as our achievements and successes in these areas are closely interlinked: the CoR, will be presented at the negotiations in Paris within the EU delegation.

In this international context, we have to explain and affirm the need to **fully involve local and regional authorities in policy shaping and decision making**. "Localising" policies is essential if we wish successfully implement the Sustainable Development Goals. In this sense, we need to pursue our efforts in exchange good practices, coordination and cooperation in order to create synergies and propose harmonised or united positions within international negotiations.

As an example of CoR's commitment for global partnership, I would like to stress that I am currently having extensive dialogue with Chinese mayors who are seeking for sustainable models for urbanization and are interested in exchange our experiences and commitment in the field where we could imagine new tools - similar to the Covenant of Mayors - strengthening the partnership between European and Chinese cities.

For this reason, local authorities, regional legislative assemblies around the world must work in global partnership, possibly within the context of the United Nations where civil society has been already fully recognised, but where the sub-national level of governance is not yet structured on a permanent basis, as it is within the EU through the CoR.

Despite several very good initiatives - such as the Milan Charter on food adopted last week or the Turin initiative on Development and, again, the

involvement of local authorities in the COP 21- we still work on case by case with the risk to remaining isolated on a specific event, rather than permanently establishing more structured working methods.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is more unifying us than dividing us albeit our different roles and different circumstances, our bodies act within our respective countries.

Let's use our common ground - local democracy and good governance - to join forces and achieve concrete results.