



Conference of the Regional Legislative Assemblies of the European Union

RESOLUTION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE "BREXIT" REFERENDUM

Whereas

- the British people democratically expressed by a majority of 51.9% their wish to leave the European Union in the referendum held on June 23, 2016;
- according to the procedure foreseen by Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), the negotiations between the European Union and the United Kingdom will begin only after the notification of the intention of the latter to leave;
- only after the aforementioned notification by the United Kingdom, the European Commission will be responsible for preparing and conducting the negotiations, and the agreement will be concluded on behalf of the European Union by the Council, after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament;
- according to recent statements, this process should be completed by March 2017.

Considering that

- the outcomes of the referendum show that the proportion of people in favor of the LEAVE reside mainly in rural, coastal and peripheral areas, as well as in smaller cities, while the population of the large urban areas supported REMAIN;
- this division between urban and rural areas, and also between young and elderly voters, reflects a fracture that can be found as well in the regions that they represent; a steadily increasing lack of confidence is visible in all the other 27 Member States, both at local and regional level;
- even though the outcomes of the “Brexit” referendum vote certified the United Kingdom’s choice of isolation with reference to the European community, current epochal challenges such as the immigration, the fight against terrorism and the economic recovery, as well as the

climate change and the environmental sustainability, can not be addressed by a divided Europe, unable to take responsibility for the common destiny of its people.

Under this premise,

THE CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES

affirms

- that its mission is to deepen the democratic and participative principles within the European Union framework, to defend the values and principles of regional democracy and to strengthen the connection among the Regional Legislative Assemblies to each other and towards the European Institutions;
- the historical importance of the United Kingdom both in Europe and in the European Union and its key role for the future, as a European State and as a partner of prominent importance for the European Union;
- that this referendum shows with its result that the EU policies have estranged from common feeling and from citizens' confidence, and they are little detailed in their spread within the territories, even in the most peripheral ones;
- the need to evaluate the present situation and improve existing structures within the European Union: our home, the home of nations, territories and people that are aware of being part of a common history and a common future. We still need Europe and we still need a European Union, where a process can be realized, that involves all levels of government, including regional and local levels.

Calls

- on the European Commission, and consequently on all the EU Institutions, to make every effort to rebuild an inclusive Europe, able to hear the voice of the people and local communities, able to grasp and take into consideration the issues coming from its territories;

is committed:

- to maintaining a high level of engagement of the Conference with the United Kingdom's Regional Parliaments that are CALRE members, and to ensuring constant consultation and dialogue on European issues, especially on those topics that are strictly of regional interest;

- to promoting overall relationships and linkages between the territories, even the most peripheral ones, by establishing tighter connections:
 - among its members;
 - with the European institutions;
 - with other associations, active in the framework of the European regionalism and that have a prominent importance in Europe.