



**DECLARATION OF CANARIAS**  
**Parlamento de Canarias (Parliament of the Canary Islands)**  
**26th November 2021**

1. The parliaments and assemblies of the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE) are renewing their commitment to the over 200 million people they represent, with the firm conviction that only a stronger accentuation of the multilevel governance system can make a fair recovery possible after the complicated socio-economic and health situation that has arisen from the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. A year ago now, we were taking our first steps facing the greatest known crisis since times of war. We did so in a scenario of uncertainty, with an understandable fear of the unknown, yet with the determination that only together could we find answers. Today, we can see we were right.
3. A few days after the declaration by the World Health Organisation (WHO) regarding the worldwide pandemic, the parliaments and assemblies of CALRE started taking their first measures, understanding the need for unity and appealing to the foundational principles and values of the European project, which has proved to be highly topical. We are astonished by the exceptional ability of our society to adapt and reinvent itself, in a context in which we, parliaments and assemblies, have also had to adapt ourselves to the new Europe which has emerged from the pandemic at a breakneck speed.
4. Solidarity has proved to be the only viable formula to overcome the crisis originated as a consequence of COVID-19. We have seen how the expansion of coronavirus has meant an increase in inequality, and the exclusion of the most vulnerable people, among them migrants and women. For this reason, we, as the parliaments and assemblies of the European Union, want to renew today our commitment on equality in every field. And we do it in a week in which, as a commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, cities and villages all over the world have taken to the streets to demand the end of the violence against women. From this Conference we condemn any sort of violence against women and we reiterate our advocacy for



freedom and equality as the only possible formula to a democratic coexistence.

5. We, the parliaments and assemblies represented here today, stress again our commitment to unity, and also to the coordinated work with the organisations of the Union. We uphold a stronger Europe, a more righteous one, which means that no one shall be left behind in a process in which regaining political, organisational and citizenship trust seems necessary. Here, the role of both parliaments and regional assemblies is key as guarantors of rights and reference points in the process of European construction.
6. Europe has given a common response by mobilising its resources to collaborate with the Member States, hence showing what is, without a doubt, European solidarity at its best. Next Generation funds, over 800 billion Euros, aimed at helping repair the immediate damage caused by the pandemic, are a proof of that.  
The discussion about European solidarity, which supports Member states and regions while at the same time respecting their financial independence and sovereignty, has to continue in order to find a viable agreement for the future.
7. It must be recognised, once again, the unquestionable vital role that public services have performed since the pandemic exploded in Europe. The handling of the situation could not be imagined without the public organisations, which have continued their work by increasing their efforts, thus proving their soundness and solvency.
8. If the pandemic has made us reset the values on which the European project is based, it has also showed us the fast and efficient response of the parliaments and assemblies with legislative power. Those over 200 million people can look at these organisations with trust, because our highest aspiration is to face any circumstance to come without letting the citizenship down.
9. During this unusual 2020 and 2021, cooperation among organisations has been crucial. CALRE has worked closely with the Committee of the



Regions to achieve a quick and solid response from the EU, a real commitment based on that solidarity which undeniably strengthens the common project of the European Union.

10. The Conference had to adjust the working schedule to the new scenario originated by the pandemic and, as quickly as possible, the groups also adapted themselves to the new circumstances. In order to enhance their work we advocate the following two principles: the importance of cohesion policies and the involvement of the regions in the decision-making processes in the EU.
11. We consider cohesion policies as the main European investment way to reduce territorial imbalances and inequalities in the European Union. It is also the way to attain economic, social and territorial cohesion. It plays a crucial role in developing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), contributing, on the one hand, to ensure the EU climate and digital switchover objectives and, on the other hand, helping to overcome the socio-economic impact of the pandemic.
12. At CALRE we bear in mind that we need to keep working, in this complicated context, on the development of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. That way we will build a stronger, closer, more sustainable, cohesive and resilient EU.
13. The Conference of Regional Legislative Assemblies of Europe today reiterates its support and solidarity for island of La Palma society in the face of the dramatic situation it is facing due to the volcanic eruption that began on September 19 of this year. This Conference considers it necessary to respond from all the institutions, including the European institutions, articulating as many formulas as possible to solve the losses and contribute to the reconstruction of the island.
14. We, as the regional parliaments and assemblies, will continue at the forefront of the battle facing the challenge of recovery. Recovery that comes from the regions to make it possible in the whole of the Union. To do so, the recipe is no other than more Europe shaped by the principle of



subsidiarity that allows for ideal solutions to tomorrow's problems on a regional, national and European level.