

JOINT LETTER OF EUROPEAN REGIONS ON THE FUTURE OF COHESION POLICY

Ms. President Ursula von der Leyen

200 Rue de la Loi, 1049, Brussels

In copy to:

Mr. Raffaele FITTO, Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms

Mr Piotr SERAFIN, Commissioner for Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration

Ms Roxana MÎNZATU, Executive Vice-President for People, Skills and Preparedness

Brussels, 25 June 2025

Dear President von der Leyen

As representatives of **149 regions of Europe from 20 Member States**, we would like to express our concerns on the future of cohesion policy in the framework of the upcoming proposal on the Multiannual Financial Framework.

We, the Regions, are at the heart of Europe, and have proven to be the most efficient in investing EU resources in an effective and targeted way, advancing the European integration project.

Last year's European election results revealed a growing lack of confidence in European integration. Cohesion policy is the main link between Europeans and the EU. Cohesion policy is not only the foundation of European integration, but also the basis for the economic, social and territorial resilience of the European Union. Strengthening regional policy is a prerequisite for the effective functioning of the EU's Single Market.

On the future of cohesion policy, we note the possibility to develop National and Regional Partnerships for investments and reforms in the first pillar. For cohesion policy to continue to deliver, we ask for:

- 1.** A specific regulation for all the different instruments dedicated to cohesion policy, that guarantees and respects its core principles – namely a territorial, place-based approach, partnership and subsidiarity. Europe's regions need to be given a paramount role in the programming and implementation process, through shared management and multilevel governance, ensuring direct negotiation between regions and the European Commission. The regulation should also ensure that cohesion policy is a genuine European policy monitored at EU level.
- 2.** A specific budget for cohesion policy and the definition, at EU level, of indicative regional allocations of resources based on the current consolidated methodology that takes into account social and economic indicators. The budget should match the long-term investment approach of cohesion policy in all EU regions to address EU objectives, from triple transition to security. Furthermore, the budget of cohesion policy should be reinforced in order to tackle emerging priorities with flexibility.

We would also like to underline that cohesion and competitiveness are strongly interconnected. Through its support to regional innovation ecosystems, cohesion is a key policy to contribute to the EU's competitiveness objectives.

We also recall that European Territorial Cooperation funding is associated with a particularly high European added value.

We clearly reject the possible centralisation at Member State level and the discretion that would be granted in the allocation of resources. Such an approach would endanger the access to cohesion policy by all regions and could further grow the complexity of the policy's implementation. This could finally lead to the loosening of the objectives of economic, social and territorial cohesion and increase, rather than reduce, territorial disparities.

On the eve of the proposal on the Multiannual Financial Framework, we would like to bring our contribution to the debate that will shape the future of Europe.

Thank you for your attention, and we look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Rousset', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Alain Rousset

The president of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region



RÉGION
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Aquitaine**

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Rhône-Alpes



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CCDR Lisboa e Vale do Tejo



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Central Finland



Campania



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Canarias



Centro



Cantabria



City of Prague



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Corse



Crete



Fryslân

provinsje fryslân
provincie fryslân 

Drenthe

provincie Drenthe

Galicia



Eastern Slovenia



Gelderland

≡ provincie
Gelderland

Eastern and
Midland
Regional
Assembly



Gotland



Emilia-Romagna



Grand Est



Etelä-Savon
maakuntaliitto



Groningen



Extremadura



Guadeloupe



Flevoland



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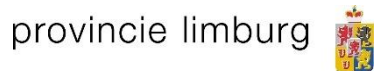
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Marche



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Mazovia



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Region Örebro County

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Normandie



Ostrobothnia



Regional Council
of Ostrobothnia

Norrbotten



Overijssel



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Western
Regional
Assembly



Päijät-Häme



Päijät-Hämeen liitto
The Regional Council of Päijät-Häme

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Other supporters:

