



THE CONSERVATIVES AND REFORMISTS GROUP IN THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS



ECR

EUROPEAN CONSERVATIVES
& REFORMISTS GROUP

COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

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FORWARD BY MARCO MARSILIO

President of the ECR Group in the CoR

During the last mandate, our Group has gone from strength to strength and today we count close to 60 members hailing from eight EU Member States. The aim for the next mandate and years to come is to continue to bring our common-sense perspective to European policy and to reaffirm our vision of a Europe that is just and fair, economically prosperous and true to its values.

We want to see less contentious and burdensome legislation in the next mandate and we will continue to ensure that our voices are better heard and reflected in EU-level discussions and decisions. Our members have tirelessly worked in promoting conservative values and reformist policies as well as local decision-making be it through adopted CoR opinions or at high-level conferences and events.

I am very proud of the work carried out to protect the automotive sector, a key pillar of the EU economy. Our Members, whether heads of regions, mayors, regional ministers or councillors, have been some of the most pro-active contributors to the work of the institution. They have brought their common-sense perspectives of local politics to European policy, representing their constituents and belief in the importance of the free market, tradition, and democracy.



WHO WE ARE

The European Conservatives and Reformists Group is a centre-right and euro-realist political group in the European Committee of the Regions. Set up in April 2013 at the 100th plenary session, it has been growing since. The Group brings together Presidents of Regions, Mayors, Councillors and other local and regional government representatives. Combined, they represent millions of European citizens from across the continent. The ECR Group is the voice of conservative and reformist local and regional politicians in the EU, working together to ensure that decisions are taken as close to the citizens as possible.

We are committed to a more prosperous, secure and decentralised Europe led by local communities in partnership with national governments. Our members bring their constituents' voices to Brussels, they promote common sense and highlight the importance of free market, traditions and democracy. The ECR Group has advocated real actions in the spirit of solidarity and more flexibility in the use of EU funds for Europe's regions.

The ECR Group in the CoR is an extension of the European Conservatives and Reformists Party, which continues to grow with a respectable number of MEPs, prime ministers in the European Council and a successful think tank (New Direction).



WHAT WE STAND FOR



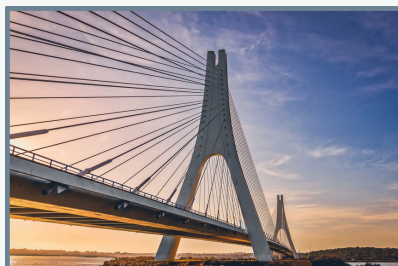
A SAFER EUROPE

Security begins at the local level, where effective law enforcement and community engagement can combat rising criminality. We advocate prioritising **security challenges at the EU's external borders**, focusing on strong border management to control illegal immigration and protect citizens from external threats, including terrorism.

We are committed to creating safer, more secure cities for everyone.

A REFORMED COHESION POLICY

An impactful and efficient cohesion policy post-2027 will be vital to ensure Europe's future prosperity. We believe that cohesion policy should focus on its primary objective, which is to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion and to reduce regional disparities.



We are committed to making cohesion policy more simplified and flexible and reducing its administrative burden.



COMPETITIVENESS

We believe in empowering Member States, **cities and regions to take ownership of their future**, enact policies that correspond to their local realities and thrive on their unique strengths. We call for future competitiveness initiatives, including the new Competitiveness Fund and the Single Market Strategy, to contribute to place-based growth in our regions and cities while respecting the subsidiarity principle.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

A JUST TRANSITION

We are committed to protecting Europe's workers and industries from unrealistic climate policies, and we will work to ensure that the regions undergoing structural transformation are not left behind, and that they will receive the **necessary support** to maintain their competitiveness. We call for a just transition based on **science, innovation and the adoption of new technologies**; and not one based on regulation, bans and excessive taxpayer subsidies.



FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

The ECR Group reiterates the importance of generation renewal in the agricultural sector, which is often seen as an undesirable profession. The establishment of young people in rural areas with access to **services and leisure and employment opportunities** is key to preserving agriculture across the EU and thereby contributing to our food sovereignty.

RIGHT TO REMAIN

We advocate for policies that empower individuals and families to remain in their communities, ensuring they have access to quality education, efficient healthcare, and stable employment. This includes **fostering strong digital and transport connectivity**, which can bridge gaps between urban and rural areas, making it easier for people to remain in their home regions.



MEMBERS



*As of January 26, 2025

BUREAU PRESIDENCY

Marco Marsilio - President

President of Abruzzo Region, Italy



Władysław Ortyl - First Vice-President

President of Podkarpackie Region, Poland



Juraj Droba - Vice President

President of Bratislava Region, Slovakia



Anna Magyar - Vice President

Councilor in Csongrád-Csanád County, Hungary



Dagmar Škodová Parmová - Vice President

Mayor of the City of České Budějovice, Czech Republic



BUREAU MEMBERS

Matteo Bianchi - **CoR Bureau Member**
Councillor in Varese, Italy



Ilpo Heltimoinen - **Treasurer**
Lappeenranta City Councilor, Finland



János Ádám Karácsony - **CoR Bureau Member**
Deputy President of Pest County Council, Hungary



Michael Rosenberg - **Head of Swedish delegation**
Municipal Councillor, Municipality of Helsingborg, Sweden



Atanas Stoyanov - **Head of Bulgarian delegation**
Mayor of Sandanski, Bulgaria





COORDINATORS

CIVEX Citizenship, governance, institutional and external affairs

Dagmar Škodová Parmová (CZ) - Coordinator

Anna Magyar (HU) - Deputy Coordinator

COTER Territorial cohesion policy and EU budget

Władysław Ortyl (PL) - Coordinator

Juraj Droba (SK) - Deputy Coordinator

ECON Economic policy

Ilpo Heltimoinen (FI) - Coordinator

ENVE Environment, climate change and energy

Roberto Ciambetti (IT) - Coordinator

NAT Natural resources

Lorenzo Galligani (IT) - Coordinator

Adam Karácsony (HU) - Coordinator

SEDEC Social policy, education, employment, research and culture

Adam Karácsony (HU) - Coordinator

Matteo Bianchi (IT) - Deputy Coordinator



KEY DATES

11 April 2013 The ECR Group in the European Committee of the Regions is formed and officially announced during the 100th plenary session of the CoR.

21 October 2016 The Group meets in Lecce, Italy. The Localism Conference on EU regional policy focuses on how to achieve greater localism.

4 June 2018 The ECR Group held its external group meeting in London to discuss areas where structured cooperation will be needed at the local and regional level after the UK leaves the EU.

15 November 2019 The ECR Group organised its first ECR CoR Study Days in Venice, focusing on the topics of subsidiarity and protection of cultural heritage.

19 February 2021 Our Study Days in Podkarpackie focus on the role of smart specialisation in building our regions' future and new trends in the EU budget 2021-2027.

10 November 2022 The ECR Group held its forth Localism Summit in L'Aquila, capital of Abruzzo region in Italy to discuss Natural Disasters and Demographic Decline: Challenges For Local Communities. The L'Aquila declaration is signed at the presence of ECR leaders.

11 April 2023 The European Conservatives and Reformists Group in the European Committee of the Regions celebrated 10th anniversary since the group's founding in April 2013.

9 April 2025 The ECR Group Summit of Conservative Local and Regional Leaders is held in Lublin, Poland, to discuss Europe's competitiveness and security.



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