

JOINT LETTER OF EUROPEAN REGIONS REGARDING THE EUROPEAN RECOVERY PLAN

To the attention of

Ms Ursula VON DER LEYEN, President of the European Commission
Mr Charles MICHEL, President of the European Council
Mr David SASSOLI, President of European Parliament

and

Ms Angela MERKEL, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
Mr António COSTA, Prime minister of Portugal
Mr Janez JANŠA, Prime minister of Slovenia
– Representing the Trio Presidency of the Council of the European Union–

With copy to

Mr Frans TIMMERMANS, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission
Ms Margrethe VESTAGER, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission
Mr Valdis DOMBROVSKIS, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission
Mr Paolo GENTILONI, Commissioner for Economy of the European Commission
Ms Elena FERREIRA, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms of the
European Commission

Ms Roberta METSOLA, First Vice-President of the European Parliament
Mr Pedro SILVA PEREIRA, Vice-president of the European Parliament
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Mr Fabio Massimo CASTALDO, Vice-president of the European Parliament

Mr Johan VAN OVERTVELDT, Chair, BUDGET Committee of the European Parliament
Ms Irene TINAGLI, Chair of the ECON Committee of the European Parliament
Mr Younos OMARJEE, Chair of the REGI Committee of the European Parliament

Mr Apostolos TZITZIKOSTAS, President of the European Committee of the Regions

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We, the undersigned regions from nine different Member States, ranging from founding members to the more recent ones, hereby express a strong and joint commitment to be an active contributor to the success of the EU recovery plan.

During the COVID-19 crisis, European regions have been, and still are, in the front line, taking continuous action to ensure a sustainable recovery. We have, in accordance with our different regional competences, adopted effective and prompt measures to address the health emergency and the resulting economic and social consequences. We have –through our own means– developed and implemented regional recovery strategies, and we have reallocated European resources in line with the measures and instruments proposed by the European Commission for a more resilient Europe based on a green and digital transition. The COVID-19 crisis knows no national borders, but different regions face different challenges. Regional measures are key in avoiding a ‘one size fits all’ approach in Member States, and in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation.

We have vast experience in managing and implementing a variety of European funds and programmes, while translating EU policy objectives into concrete actions in our territories. Therefore, we are key actors in the EU multi-level governance framework. Europe can only emerge stronger from the crisis when its regions, each acting in line with their competences, have the necessary means to implement dynamic policies. These competences might include health and social care, education and training, research and development, industrial policy, business development, climate, energy and water management, agriculture and biodiversity, digitalisation, transport and mobility, infrastructure or other areas related to the European Strategic Agenda. The role of regions in these regards is crucial for a sustainable, fair, post-COVID recovery, ensuring that nobody is left behind.

THEREFORE, we, the undersigned regions, commit to undertake joint efforts to strengthen the role of regions in EU decision-making related to the post-COVID recovery. We commit to proactively and constructively contribute to these discussions, inter alia, through sharing information about regional recovery strategies and best practices regarding the management of EU funds.

IN TURN, we call upon all decision-makers to recognize the added value of the regional level for the EU recovery agenda. In line with the principle of subsidiarity, regions should be involved in EU recovery discussions at the highest level. We seek to be actively included in the design and implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the national plans adopted thereunder.

We call upon political leaders of European institutions and Member States to reach out directly to the regional level. Regions are ready, willing and able to contribute to a sustainable EU recovery policy that addresses the common challenges we face together.



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