

ECR Study Days 2019

15 November 2019 – Venice

9 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.	Registration and coffee
9.30 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Opening speeches and introduction to the Veneto region <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roberto Ciambetti, <i>President of Veneto Regional Council and member of the ECR CoR Group</i>• Rob Jonkman, <i>President of the ECR Group in the CoR and member of the Executive Council of Opsterland in the Netherlands</i>
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Panel I – Implementing genuine subsidiarity <p>The principle of subsidiarity is defined by Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. It aims to ensure that decisions are taken as closely as possible to citizens and that constant checks are made to verify that action at EU level is justified in light of the possibilities available at national, regional or local level.</p> <p>Specifically, it is the principle whereby the EU does not take action (except in the areas that fall within its exclusive competence), unless it is more effective than action taken at national, regional or local level. The only areas where the EU does have exclusive competence are customs union, competition rules necessary for the functioning of the internal market, monetary policy for the eurozone, conservation of marine resources, common trade policy and conclusion of international agreements.</p> <p>In theory, in all other areas national, regional and local authorities have precedence over the EU. In practice however, the EU sometimes oversteps the prerogatives granted to it by the Treaties. We have seen that with regard to unequal treatment of countries in areas such as migration, the rule of law and budget deficit rules. This can obviously have a negative effect on local government. For instance, if the EU decides to cut cohesion policy funds for alleged violations of the rule of law, this would first and foremost affect Europe's regions and cities, despite the fact that their influence over the policies of central government is limited.</p> <p>In this panel, politicians and experts will discuss how the balance of competences enshrined in the EU treaties can be better preserved and how to attribute greater significance to the subsidiarity check procedures performed by the CoR and national parliaments.</p> <p><i>Moderator: Antonio Franzina, Head of Press office, Veneto Regional Council</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Mario Bertolissi, <i>University of Padova</i>• Matteo Bianchi, <i>Member of the Italian Parliament</i>• Fenna Pols, <i>Director, Europa Decentraal</i>• Erika Stefani, <i>Member of the Italian Senate, former Italian Minister for Regional Affairs</i>

11 a.m. – 12 noon.

Panel II – Protecting Europe's cultural heritage

While the ideas of the enlightenment have been important in shaping the ideals of democracy, there is another important part of the continent's history: Europe's roots. Europe is rooted in Roman law, Greek philosophy and Christian ethics.

Roman law has been essential in creating the legal code that EU Member States practise, providing us with the important notions of giving freedom to individuals, such as due process and the need for evidence before making a judgement. Greek philosophy has been important in creating the ideas of democracy – the rule of the common man by the common man and freedom of speech, which is essential in a democratic system.

Christianity has been vital in inspiring Europeans to distinguish themselves from the rest of the world through art, language, customs and architecture. Furthermore, Christianity has been a source of inspiration for freedom, both in Western and Central-Eastern Europe. It also adds a number of values to Roman law: preaching forgiveness and compassion, and peaceful settlement of ideas rather than escalation to violence.

In order to heal the divisions in the polarised political climate facing the EU today, it is important to understand the role played by our common heritage and roots that managed to bring people together in times of repression and uncertainty on the European continent, with particular emphasis on the customs of different communities.

In this panel, politicians and experts will be discussing how our cultural heritage has helped shape Europe, how it can be preserved, and why it should be protected.

*Moderator: **Antonio Franzina**, Head of Press office, Veneto Regional Council*

Speakers:

- **Guido Beltramini**, Director, Centro Internazionale di Studi di Architettura Andrea Palladio
- **Carlo Fidanza**, Member of the ECR Group in the European Parliament
- **Paola Marini**, President, Giuseppe Roi Foundation
- **Władysław Ortyl**, Marshal of Podkarpackie region in Poland

12.15 p.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Roberto Ciambetti, President of Veneto Regional Council

12.30 p.m.

Picture of all the participants

12.45 p.m.

Official lunch