

POLITICAL DECLARATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES IN THE ECR GROUP

Whereas the European Conservatives and Reformists:

- ✓ in the Reykjavik Declaration, favoured the exercise of power at the lowest practicable level – by the individual where possible or by local or national authorities in preference to the level of supranational bodies;
- ✓ in the Prague Declaration, upheld the sovereign integrity of the nation state, opposition to EU federalism and a renewed respect for true subsidiarity, as well as sensitivity to the needs of urban and rural communities.

Whereas:

- ✓ the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is the voice of regions and cities in the European Union (EU). It represents local and regional authorities across the European Union and advises on new laws that have an impact on regions and cities (70% of all EU legislation);
- ✓ the ECR Group in the European Committee of the Regions:
 - ✓ wishes to secure a strong voice for local and regional government in guiding EU policies in relation to efficient and modern public services and to encourage greater respect for the principle of subsidiarity, a better environment and proportionate regulation;
 - ✓ wishes to develop regional policies that reflect the real needs of local and regional authorities;
 - ✓ aims to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of EU funds by ensuring coherence and coordination between the different funds, and to make them more user-friendly with an appropriate level of checks and balances.

In view of the above, the undersigned ECR local and regional leaders hereby declare that they will work together in order to, wherever possible:

- increase their knowledge of the regions and areas represented by other ECR Members, in order to understand the potential and

affinities that can be brought to bear in formulating European projects;

- circulate administrative measures drawn up by individual local and regional authorities to be able to respond in their respective areas where this is deemed useful;
- develop bilateral agreements between regions and cities on specific topics of mutual interest;
- assist each other in crisis situations such as natural disasters, health emergencies or increased migratory pressure.

This Declaration shall not in any way bind the actions of any region or municipality.

New members who join the ECR Group in the European Committee of the Regions shall be able to join the Declaration on request.

Signature of this Declaration shall not entail any financial burden.

This Declaration shall be valid from today's date until 31 December 2027, which is the last day of the current seven-year European programming period.

The undersigned

L'Aquila, 10 November 2022