

## Ten messages to the EU institutions to strengthen the involvement of Regions in the EU Recovery Plan

*Approved by the CPMR Political Bureau, 26 March 2021, online meeting*

The EU Recovery Plan “Next Generation EU” (NGEU), specifically its key instrument the Recovery and Resilience Facility, represents a unique opportunity for the EU regions to tackle the consequences of the pandemic by delivering a sustainable and future-proof economic growth. At this crucial moment, when the priorities and actions that will be funded by the NGEU and the MFF 2021-2027 are being determined, the role of the regions is essential to make the EU Recovery Plan a success.

There are worrying signs regarding the extent of regional involvement in the definition of the national recovery and resilience plans and future deployment of their resources. The current situation requires an urgent mobilisation to avoid regions end up having little say on critical investment choices that are within their competences in most cases. Such a scenario would put the overall impact of recovery efforts at European level in jeopardy.

Therefore, the CPMR:

- 1. Strongly believes that “Next Generation EU” should be delivered through a meaningful contribution and participation of regional authorities.** Regional authorities should be involved in the design and implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience plans as key enablers of the EU priorities on climate and digital.
- 2. Urges strong coordination and complementarity between NGEU and other Union programmes,** in particular under the EU structural and investment funds. Regional authorities should be in the driving seat when it comes to creating strategic links between the Recovery and Resilience Facility and Cohesion Policy, to make EU funding delivery effective and avoid overlaps and unnecessary competition.
- 3. Calls for a stronger territorial dimension of the European Semester framework** in which local and regional authorities are fully involved at national level as relevant partners of the Semester’s dialogue between Member States and the European Commission.
- 4. Stresses that ‘REACT-EU’ funds must be managed, where possible, by regional authorities following the subsidiarity principle.** The CPMR recalls that this instrument falls under cohesion policy and must therefore uphold its core principles, such as shared management, partnership, and multilevel governance. It is regrettable that some Member States have decided to deliver a part or the whole of the REACT-EU envelopes through national programmes.



In light of the points aforementioned, the CPMR calls...

On the European Commission:

5. **To encourage Member States to put in place a fully-fledged consultation with local and regional authorities** and thoroughly assess the effectiveness of this process in the plans in accordance with Article 18 of the RRF Regulation.
6. **To enhance the territorial approach of the European Semester framework** through the acknowledgement of existing territorial challenges in the EU Member States in view of the relevant investment guidelines for EU funded programmes issued through the economic framework.

On EU Member States:

7. **To deliver a thorough consultation process with regional authorities in the last stages of the definition of the national recovery and resilience plans** so as to guarantee the involvement of regional authorities in the implementation of the Facility in the next years.
8. **To ensure coordination between the RRF, REACT-EU and 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy programmes**, through the involvement of regional authorities in the design and programming of the mentioned instruments.

On the European Parliament:

9. **To guarantee that the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility is grounded on the principle of multilevel governance.**
10. **To ensure that regional authorities are considered as important partners** in the context of the structured dialogue between the European Parliament and the European Commission on the implementation of the Facility.

The CPMR will play its part to strengthen the territorial dimension of the EU's efforts towards recovery and accompany its Members in their efforts to implement EU investment funds. It will also launch a new long-term reflection initiative - 'Territories matter' – to highlight the territorial dimension of Europe's recovery and strengthen the role of regions in the development of EU investment funds leaving no one behind.



The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) represents more than 150 regional authorities from 24 countries across Europe and beyond. Organised in Geographical Commissions, the CPMR works to ensure that a balanced territorial development is at the heart of the European Union and its policies.



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