

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
Mr Rainer WIELAND, Vice-president of the European Parliament
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Ms Dita CHARANZOVÁ, Vice-president of the European Parliament
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Ms Heidi HAUTALA, Vice-president of the European Parliament
Mr Marcel KOLAJA, Vice-president of the European Parliament
Mr Dimitrios PAPADIMOULIS, Vice-president of the European Parliament
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

We, the undersigned regions from ten 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.




 Harry Jansson
 Deputy Head of the Åland Government
 Åland




 Theresa Schopper
 State Minister
 Baden-Württemberg




 Francina Armengol i Socias
 President
 Balearic Islands

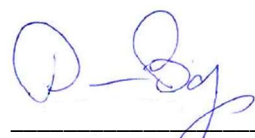



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 President
 Basque Country




 Florian Hermann
 State Minister
 Free State of Bavaria




 Damir Bajs
 Prefect
 Bjelovar –Bilogora County

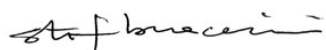



 Arno Kompatscher
 President
 Bolzano-Bozen / South Tyrol

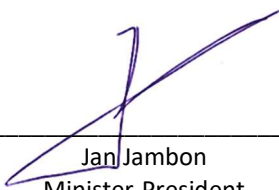



 Pere Aragonès i García
 Vice-President, acting as President
 Catalonia





 Stefano Bonaccini
 President
 Emilia-Romagna




 Jan Jambon
 Minister-President
 Flanders




 Lucia Puttrich
 Minister of European and Federal Affairs
 Hessen

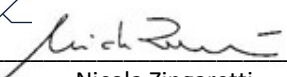



 Željko Kolar
 Prefect
 Krapina-Zagorje County




 Darko Koren
 Prefect
 Koprivnica Križevci County




 Nicola Zingaretti
 President
 Lazio Region



Johanna Mikl-Leitner
Governor
Lower Austria



Matija Posavec
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President
Nouvelle-Aquitaine



Carole Delga
President
Occitanie / Pyrénées – Méditerranée



Günther Platter
Governor
Tyrol



Ximo Puig i Ferrer
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Varazdin County



Markus Wallner
Governor
Vorarlberg



Elio di Rupo
Minister-President
Wallonia



Marek Woźniak
President
Wielkopolska Region

SIGNED ON 18 MARCH 2021



Juraj Droba
President
Bratislava Region

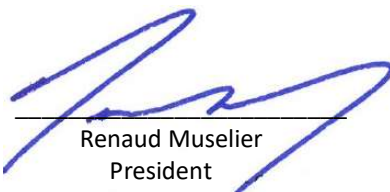


Laurent Wauquiez
President
Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes




Attilio Fontana
President
Regione Lombardia



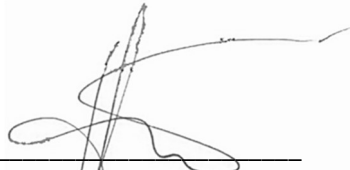

Renaud Muselier
President
Région Provence- Alpes – Côte d'Azur

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Peter Kaiser
Governor
Carinthia



Land
Burgenland


Hans Peter Doskozil
Governor
Burgenland




Ossi Savolainen
Regional Mayor
Helsinki Uusimaa regional Council