



# JOINT POSITION PAPER OF EUROPEAN REGIONS ON THE FUTURE OF COHESION POLICY

*BRUSSELS, SEPTEMBER 2024*

We, the Regions are at the heart of Europe, bringing Europe closer to the citizens and the territories. 70% of European policies and legislation have a direct impact at regional and local level.

Europeans are facing many challenges and throughout history, citizens have found Cohesion Policy provides a tangible solution. Cohesion Policy is uniquely positioned to mobilise funds, to address citizens' pressing concerns such as increasing global competition, enlargement, climate change, ecological, digital, and demographic transitions, talent and development traps, and the growing need for security. Cohesion Policy complements the single market, contributes to the reduction of disparities across the EU, and is an important objective of the EU treaties. It also plays a key role in fostering long term sustainable growth.

In view of the hearing of the future Commissioners and at the starting phase of President von der Leyen's second mandate, we are calling for a strengthening of policies that are most visible across European territories and cohesion policy is certainly the most prominent of these. Cohesion within and across the European Union is therefore a major democratic objective in the current geopolitical context.

The 9th Cohesion Report confirmed that Cohesion Policy has continued to create strong innovation ecosystems, build key mobility infrastructure, enhance sustainable development and facilitate a rapid response to multiple crisis facing Europe and its citizens. Cohesion Policy has achieved these objectives through shared management, the partnership and the multilevel governance principles.

We acknowledge that cohesion policy needs to continue to evolve and our regions are ready to fully participate in this challenge. In order for Cohesion Policy to continue to deliver we are calling for:

1. A future cohesion policy, available to all regions, that respects a territorial, place-based approach, (taking into account their diversity, specific conditions, needs and challenges related to, among others, green, digital and demographic transition and geopolitical changes), and honors the principles of partnership and subsidiarity by granting Europe's regions a paramount role in the programming and implementation process, through shared management and multilevel governance. We strongly believe that a centralised approach does not allow that and we oppose, therefore, to the proposal contained in the political guidelines of a single plan for each country.
2. A budget to match the long-term investment approach of Cohesion Policy addressing the diverse challenges in all EU Regions.

3. An enhanced dialogue between the European Commission and the European regions to further improve the performance of the cohesion policy post 2027. We acknowledge the appointment of an Executive Vice President for Cohesion and Reforms, as requested in our letter sent to President von der Leyen last May. This is a strong recognition of the importance and relevance of cohesion policy for all the regions of Europe

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**Açores**



**Balears**



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Illes Balears**

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COLLECTIVITÉ DE CORSE**

Castilla y León  **Junta de  
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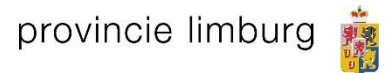
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