

European Week of Regions and Cities - 2023

"After the European Parliament's resolution on island regions: what's next?"

11 October, 9h30 - 11h00 (CET)

Committee of the Regions - Rue Belliard 99/101 (Room JDE 52), Brussels

Island regions suffer from territorial discontinuity and peripheral position from the mainland, resulting in reduced competitiveness and development. The ongoing EU challenges together with the upcoming green and digital transitions are likely to widen the gap between islands and the other regions even further if not properly compensated.

In the twenty-first edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities, the high-level political conference with representatives of EU institutions and bodies, political representatives of island local and regional authorities, civil society representatives aims at gathering key elements and solutions to shape a EU Strategy for islands, in line with the European Parliament resolution of 7 June 2022 on "EU islands and cohesion policy: current situation and future challenges".

9h30 ROUND TABLE

Moderator: Claudio Collovà, Policy Analyst, European Parliament

Christian SOLINAS

President of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia, CoR Member (Italy)

Margalida PROHENS RIGO

President of the Balearic Islands Government (Spain)

Marie-Antoinette MAUPERTUIS

President of the Corsican Assembly, CoR Member (France)

Clint CAMILLERI

Minister for Gozo in the Government of Malta (Malta)

Rodi KRATSA

Governor of the Ionian Islands Region, CoR Member (Greece) (TBC)

George ALEXAKIS

Regional Councillor for European & International Affairs of the Region of Crete (Greece)

10h15 DEBATE

Open discussion with high-level representatives of EU Institutions and bodies, including: members of the European Parliament, representatives of the European Commission, members of the Committee of the Regions, members of the Economic and Social Committee.

Younous OMARJEE

Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development (REGI) (France)

Josianne CUTAJAR

Member of the European Parliament, vice-Chair of the European Parliament SEArica Intergroup (Malta)

Tonino PICULA

Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Intergroup for seas, rivers islands and coastal areas (SEArica) (Croatia) (TBC)

Ioannis VARDAKASTANIS

Member of the European Economic and Social Committee, rapporteur of the opinion "Main challenges faced by EU islands, and mountainous and sparsely populated areas" (Greece)

Normunds POPENS

Deputy Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission (DG Regio) (Latvia)

10h45 CONCLUSIONS

Following the debate, the moderator will invite the panel to draw the final messages on islands policy-related open issues in the EU.