

# European Week of Regions and Cities - 2024

## "The island regions and the upcoming EU legislative cycle"

9 October, 9h30 – 11h00 (CET)

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

Due to their condition of territorial discontinuity and peripheral position from the mainland, island regions suffer from a wide range of structural and permanent disadvantages that deeply affect their development, representing a competitive disadvantage.

In this respect, EU policies are a key development factor for island territories. Although regulatory provisions concerning island status are laid down in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, there are no dedicated EU policy measures to address the distinctive challenges of these territories, neither at the legislative level nor at the political level - through a specific strategy - as underlined by the European Parliament in two different resolutions, adopted in 2016 and 2022.

In this context, the high-level political conference aims to address the issues of island regions in a dialogue with the European institutions to urge them to take insular dimension into account all along the EU policy-design process.

### 9h30 PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator: Francesco Molica, *Policy analyst* at the Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission

#### Alessandra TODDE

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

#### **Marie-Antoinette MAUPERTUIS**

President of the Corsican Assembly, CoR Member (France)

## **Margalida PROHENS RIGO**

President of the Balearic Islands Government, CoR Member (Spain)

## **Clint CAMILLERI**

Minister for Gozo and Planning in the Government of Malta (Malta)

## **George ALEXAKIS**

Vice-governor of Crete Region (Greece)

## Filip REINHAG

Regional Commissioner of Region Gotland, CoR Member (Sweden)

## **Anders EKSTRÖM**

Member of the Parliament of Åland, CoR Member (Finland)

#### 10h15 REMARKS BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF EU INSTITUTIONS

#### Younous OMARJEE

Vice-President of the European Parliament (France)

## Manolis KOUTOULAKIS

Secretary General for Insular Policy and Aegean, Greek Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy (Greece)

#### **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)

### **Nicola DE MICHELIS**

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

#### 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.

Interpretation will be provided in English, Italian, French and Spanish.