



European Week of Regions and Cities - 2025

“Cohesion objectives beyond cohesion policy”

Wednesday, 15 October 2025, 09h30 – 11h00 (CET)

Committee of the Regions - Rue Belliard 99/101 (Room JDE 62), Brussels

Due to the territorial discontinuity and peripheral position from the mainland, island regions face permanent structural disadvantages that significantly impact their competitiveness.

Although the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) recognises the distinct status of islands, no dedicated policy measures have been introduced at EU level to effectively tackle the handicaps and foster the development in these territories.

In this context, the political conference seeks to address islands' challenges, and, in a dialogue with the European institutions, it aims to urge them to strengthen the territorial dimension of EU policies by establishing a regulatory framework tailored to the specific needs of island regions.

9h30

PANEL DISCUSSION

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, President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (Sweden)

Anders EKSTRÖM

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

Georgios CHATZIMARKOS

Governor of South Aegean Region, CoR Member (Greece)

Yiannis TREPEKLIS

Governor of the Ionian Islands Region (Greece)

10h30

REMARKS BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF EU INSTITUTIONS

Younous OMARJEE

Vice-President of the European Parliament

Eleni MARIANO

Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Hubert DE BROCA

Head of Unit Infrastructure and Regional aid, Directorate-General for Competition (DG COMP), European Commission

Manolis KOUTOULAKIS

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

10h50

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, Spanish and Greek.