



Tuesday 14 October 2025

Political debate

Connecting Europe Locally: the EU Local Councillors' Network in action

Time: 16:30–18.00 (UTC+2)

Venue: Room JDE 51, CoR

Interpretation: FR/EN/DE/IT/ES/PL/RO

Webstreaming [link](#)

Abstract

This session explores how the "EU Local Councillors Network" is helping to bring the EU closer to citizens on the ground.

By supporting communication about the EU at local level and encouraging active dialogue on EU issues in towns, cities and regions, this EU network supports the development of a truly European public sphere. The debate will feature contributions from representatives of the European Commission (EC), the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), and EU Local Councillors. It will focus on key questions such as: How is the EU Local Councillors Network enabling elected local politicians to bring the EU closer to their constituencies and foster cross-border collaboration? What challenges and success stories are emerging from this joint effort? Participants will reflect on the Network's impact and its potential to shape a more inclusive and participatory Europe.

Moderators

- **Dana Manescu** – Head of Unit for Local Engagement, Europe Direct & Networks, European Commission (DG COMM)
- **Michele Cercone** – Deputy Director for Communication at the European Committee of the Regions

Speakers

- **François Decoster** – Vice-President of Hauts-de-France Region and Mayor of Saint-Omer, member of the CoR resp. for EU Local Councillors Network
- **Richard Kühnel** – Director for Representations & Communication in the Member States, European Commission (DG COMM)
- **Anne Calteux** – Head of Representation of the European Commission in Luxembourg
- **Stefanie Schneider** – Member of the EU Local Councillors Network

Discussants

- **EU Councillors** (rapporteurs) from the previous interactive session: sharing results of the working tables
- **EU Councillors from the audience:** sharing their "experiences on the ground"

AGENDA

I PART – INSTITUTIONAL OPENING

- Introduction and presentation by **Dana Manescu**
- First round table “**How to Connect Europe Locally Today**”
Speakers:
Francois Decoster, Vice-President of Hauts-de-France Region and Mayor of Saint-Omer, member of the CoR resp. for EU Local Councillors Network
Richard Kühnel, Director for Representations & Communication in the Member States, European Commission, DG COMM
Anne Calteux, Head of Representation of the European Commission in Luxembourg
Stefanie Schneider, Member of the EU Local Councillor Network

II PART – The EU LOCAL COUNCILLORS IN ACTIONS

- Introduction of the EU local Councillors who will share key outcomes from interactive session by **Michele Cercone**
- Debate with EU Local Councillors (sharing experiences and reflections)
- Conclusion