

MEMORANDUM

**from the Regions of France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain
and Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions**

**on the Importance of Social, Economic, and Territorial COHESION for a Stronger EU
and the Future of EU COHESION POLICY beyond 2027**

A. EU COHESION AS A FOUNDATION FOR REGIONAL RESILIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT

1. COHESION is both a driver and a prerequisite for EU integration. It underpins the effective functioning of the Single Market and is essential to strengthening the EU's resilience to crises.
2. Neglecting the need to reinforce COHESION – particularly in addressing growing social, economic, and territorial disparities – risks undermining citizens' support for integration and diminishing the long-term attractiveness of the EU, including the Single Market.
3. COHESION must be pursued as a shared objective across all EU policies.
4. Achieving COHESION requires the active involvement of citizens, including NGOs, business as well as local and regional authorities – in both the design and implementation of all EU policies.
5. COHESION should be a key reference point within the European Semester. Country-specific recommendations (CSRs) should support a positive territorial (regional) impact of both national and EU-level sectoral and horizontal policies.
6. Reinforcing COHESION demands a stronger focus on the structural resilience and competitiveness of EU regions – especially those that are structurally weaker or more vulnerable to crises, such as those along the EU's external borders or industrial regions.
7. A renewed COHESION POLICY should be positioned as a one of key instruments for reinforcing COHESION across the EU.

B. COHESION POLICY: BRINGING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS

1. COHESION POLICY should remain an important vehicle for the EU's long-term development. It should be backed by increased financial resources to effectively address widening regional and intra-regional disparities, particularly by unlocking regional potential, including functional areas.
2. COHESION POLICY must cover all regions, with special focus on those that are less developed – including sparsely populated, ultraperipheral and islands; trapped in development stagnation; or vulnerable to external shocks.
3. COHESION POLICY should provide a long-term response to structural challenges and to the transformation and adaptation needs faced by regions. By doing so, it strengthens the competitiveness and resilience of the Single Market. Its crisis-response role should remain strictly complementary to the primary anti-crisis instruments. In this context, COHESION POLICY can contribute to European security, including through investments in dual-use critical infrastructure.
4. COHESION POLICY should be implemented through a multilevel governance model that **considers regional governments (subnational level) competent in design and management** and promotes the bottom-up identification and implementation of regional priorities, with support from the European Commission and Member States. This requires the active participation of local communities and flexible regional development programming that reflects territorial diversity.
5. COHESION POLICY should enhance the coordination of sectoral and horizontal policies at the regional level by mitigating their negative and reinforcing their positive territorial impact. COHESION POLICY should, inter alia, be effectively coordinated by regional authorities with the "Rural Development" pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy.
6. COHESION POLICY should incentivize local and regional reforms that improve access to and quality of essential public goods and services (spatial justice), as well as bolster territorial capital (regional competitiveness).
7. COHESION POLICY should strengthen cross-border cooperation mechanisms to promote deeper integration between regions of neighbouring countries. The transnational and interregional strands under "territorial cooperation" heading should still be available to support competence networks that benefit the entire EU territory.


On behalf of the Regions of Poland:

**THE CONVENT OF MARSHALS OF REGIONS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND**

Chairman of the Convent of Marshals
of Regions of the Republic of Poland
from January 1 to June 30, 2025


Marshal of the Małopolska Region
Łukasz SMÓŁKA

Chairman of the Convent of Marshals
of Regions of the Republic of Poland
from July 1 to December 31, 2025


Marshal of the Łódzkie Region
Joanna SKRZYDLEWSKA



On behalf of the Regions of France:

REGIONS DE FRANCE
Thibault LECHAT-VEGA



On behalf of the Regions of Italy:

**THE CONFERENCE OF ITALIAN REGIONS
AND AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE**

President of the Conference of Italian Regions
and Autonomous Provinces

Massimiliano FEDRIGA



On behalf of THE CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS:

**President of the Conference
of Peripheral Maritime Regions**

Filip REINHAG



**CPMR
CRPM**

From the Regions of Germany:

SACHSEN



**Freistaat
SACHSEN**

From the Regions of Spain:

ARAGON



**GOBIERNO
DE ARAGON**

CATALUNYA



**Generalitat
de Catalunya**

GALICIA



**XUNTA
DE GALICIA**

Copies sent to:

1. Ms Roberta Metsola – President of the European Parliament
2. Ms Ursula von der Leyen – President of the European Commission
3. Mr Raffaele Fitto – Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission
4. Ms Kata Tüttő – President of the European Committee of the Regions