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# **“European standards of local self-government and EU regional policy” / «Європейські стандарти місцевого самоврядування та регіональна політика ЄС»**

## **Jean Monnet Module**

# Lecture: European Standards of Local Self-Government



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- 1) Legal regulation**
- 2) Committee of Regions**
- 3) Council of Europe**



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# **Constitutional status of local self-government**

**The Lisbon Treaty, first time the right to local self-government was mentioned in one of the EU's treaties (Art. 4.2 TEU). The reference to local self-government indicates its increasing role in EU affairs, and manifests the constitutional recognition of a 'Europe of four levels'**

# Article 4 TEU

1...

**2. The Union shall respect the equality of Member States before the Treaties as well as their national identities, inherent in their fundamental structures, political and constitutional, inclusive of regional and local self-government. It shall respect their essential State functions, including ensuring the territorial integrity of the State, maintaining law and order and safeguarding national security. In particular, national security remains the sole responsibility of each Member State.**



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## **Article 4 TEU**

**3. Pursuant to the principle of sincere cooperation, the Union and the Member States shall, in full mutual respect, assist each other in carrying out tasks which flow from the Treaties.**

**The Member States shall take any appropriate measure, general or particular, to ensure fulfilment of the obligations arising out of the Treaties or resulting from the acts of the institutions of the Union.**

**The Member States shall facilitate the achievement of the Union's tasks and refrain from any measure which could jeopardise the attainment of the Union's objectives.'**

## **Article 5 TEU**

**1. The limits of Union competences are governed by the principle of conferral. The use of Union competences is governed by the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.**

**2. Under the principle of conferral, the Union shall act only within the limits of the competences conferred upon it by the Member States in the Treaties to attain the objectives set out therein. Competences not conferred upon the Union in the Treaties remain with the Member States.**

# Article 5 TEU

**3. Under the principle of subsidiarity, in areas which do not fall within its exclusive competence, the Union shall act only if and in so far as the objectives of the proposed action cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, either at central level or at regional and local level, but can rather, by reason of the scale or effects of the proposed action, be better achieved at Union level.**

**The institutions of the Union shall apply the principle of subsidiarity as laid down in the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.**

**National Parliaments ensure compliance with the principle of subsidiarity in accordance with the procedure set out in that Protocol.**



## **Article 5 TEU**

**4. Under the principle of proportionality, the content and form of Union action shall not exceed what is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Treaties.**

**The institutions of the Union shall apply the principle of proportionality as laid down in the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.**



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# European Committee of the Regions

## Composition:

**329-members are appointed by the Council of the European Union upon proposal of the Member States.**

**Gathers in Brussels a few times a year (6 plenary sessions) to discuss political priorities and adopt opinions on EU legislation.**



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Disclaimer: The contents of these pages have been provided by the coordinators of national delegations.  
The Committee of the Regions bears no responsibility or liability for the information they contain.

 Belgium Members: 12	 Bulgaria Members: 12	 Czech Republic Members: 12	 Denmark Members: 9	 Germany Members: 24	 Estonia Members: 7
 Ireland Members: 9	 Greece Members: 12	 Spain Members: 21	 France Members: 24	 Croatia Members: 9	 Italy Members: 24
 Cyprus Members: 6	 Latvia Members: 7	 Lithuania Members: 9	 Luxembourg Members: 6	 Hungary Members: 12	 Malta Members: 5
 Netherlands Members: 12	 Austria Members: 12	 Poland Members: 21	 Portugal Members: 12	 Romania Members: 15	 Slovenia Members: 7
 Slovakia Members: 9	 Finland Members: 9	 Sweden Members: 12			

# European Committee of the Regions

## Functions:

**Promoting dialogue and cross-border cooperation;**

**Consultations to the EU institutes;**

**Monitoring, assessment of the EU legislation and its implementation;**

**Fostering horizontal territorial cooperation;**

**Network coordination, best practices exchange both at the European level and beyond.**



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# European Committee of the Regions

**CoR intervenes at several stages of the EU law-making process. CoR commissions draft opinions on EU legislative proposals and members gather in plenary to vote and adopt those opinions.**

**The CoR also works closely with national, regional and local authorities, making their voices heard and fostering political debate, not only in Brussels, but also in EU regions and cities, outside Europe and online.**

# President of the European Committee of the Regions



**Apostolos  
Tzitzikostas**



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# <https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/default.aspx>

The screenshot shows the website of the European Committee of the Regions. The browser's address bar displays the URL <https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/default.aspx>. The page header includes the logo of the European Committee of the Regions and the text "The EU's Assembly of Regional and Local". A navigation breadcrumb shows "You are here > News". A search bar is located on the right side of the page. The main content area features a "News" section with a prominent article titled "COVID-19 EXCHANGE PLATFORM NAT Bulletin". To the right of this article is a grid of eight video thumbnails, each with a name underneath: Apostolos Tzitzikostas, Vasco Ilidio Alves Cordeiro, Olgierd Geblewicz, Christophe Rouillon, François Decoster, Wladyslaw Ortyl, Kieran McCarthy, and Satu Haapanen. Below the video grid, the text "COVID-19: We call on all EU institutions and Member States for an ambitious" is visible. On the right side, there is a "Related Information" section with a link to "Subscribe to Press Release lists" and an "International Cooperation" section with a graphic of a city skyline.

<https://youtu.be/ao0qAoApT1M>

## News



COVID-19: We call on all EU institutions and Member States for an ambitious

## Related Information

[Subscribe to Press Release lists](#)

## International Cooperation





# The Council of Europe

- **CoE is aimed to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe**
- **Founded in 1949**
- **47 member states, with a population of approximately 820 million**
- **Annual budget of approximately 500 million euros**





# The Council of Europe

- **Secretary General: Marija Pejčinović Burić**
- **Official languages: English, French; Other working languages: German, Italian, Russian**
- **Headquarters: Strasbourg, France**
- **President of the Committee of Ministers: David Zalkaliani**
- **President of the Parliamentary Assembly: Rik Daems**
- **Subsidiaries: European Court of Human Rights**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities**

- **National delegations to the Congress comprise representatives of local and regional authorities in the CE 47 member states.**
- **directly elected and hold a general mandate in a local or regional authority or are politically answerable to a directly elected assembly.**
- **Representatives and Substitutes are appointed for a four-year term in accordance with each individual member state's own procedure. Within national delegations, members are divided between the Congress' two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions.**

# **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities**

**Every delegation has to comply with the rules on fair representation :**

- Balanced geographical distribution**
- Fair representation of the different categories of local and regional authority**
- Fair representation of the different political tendencies represented on local and regional authority organs;**
- Fair representation of women and men.**

# Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

- <https://www.coe.int/en/web/congress/home>

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the homepage of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://www.coe.int/en/web/congress/home>. The website header includes the Council of Europe logo and the text "Congress of Local and Regional Authorities". A navigation menu is visible below the header, with options like "Home", "About us", "A political Assembly", "Monitoring", "In the field", "Standard setting", "Secretariat", "News", and "Search".

The main content area features several news items and sections:

- Congress President meets Istanbul Mayor in video conference**: A news item with a video conference image and text: "The ongoing COVID-19 crisis and consequences for Europe's municipalities were discussed in a..."
- COVID-19**: A section titled "Functioning of the Congress and its Secretariat" and "Congress hub of partners' actions".
- CALENDAR**: A section titled "Calendar 'All Congress events'" and "Congress Sessions in 2020:" with a list of sessions, including a cancelled one.
- AGENDA 2030**: A section titled "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS" with a colorful wheel icon.
- MEMBERS**: A section listing "Presidency", "Bureaux", "A-Z and national delegations", "Political Groups", "Who's who", and "Members' area".
- POLITICAL DIALOGUE**: A section listing "Committee of Ministers" and "Georgian Presidency".
- MONITORING**: A section titled "The European Charter of Local Self-Government lays down standards for protecting the rights of local authorities and requires states which have ratified it to comply with a number of principles. The Congress is responsible for evaluating the application of the Charter in each Member State."
- ELECTION OBSERVATION**: A section titled "The Congress periodically observes local and regional elections in Council of Europe member States and, sometimes, beyond. This activity, which may be organised in cooperation with other international organisations, complements the political monitoring of the European Charter of Local Self-Government."
- POSTMONITORING**: A section titled "Post-monitoring and post-electoral dialogue aims to support national authorities in order to ensure the implementation..."
- IN THE FIELD**: A section titled "Cooperation and thematic activities complement, in the field, the normative work of the Congress. They are based..."

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the search bar with "Type here to search", several application icons, and the system tray with the date "23/04/2020" and time "21:17".



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**Thank you for your attention!**