



**European Committee
of the Regions**

The President

Brussels, date of official registration

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Dear colleagues,

During the April plenary session, we had the privilege to hear [testimonials](#) from the mayors of Kyiv, Mariupol, Lviv, Melitopol and from the chair of the regional assembly of Kharkiv region on the situation on the ground, where citizens are trapped or forced to leave their home, locally elected officials have been abducted and infrastructures have been destroyed. In addition, we heard from mayors and regional leaders how the European Union is currently helping local and regional authorities hosting refugees from Ukraine at the border and throughout Europe.

In this context, and as follow up to the [recent mission in Poland](#), we have asked the European Commission to facilitate the use of the funds put at the disposal of local and regional authorities, mainly by setting up a single facility in order to mainstream and fast track the available resources.

Please find attached a letter addressed to European Commissioners Johannes Hahn and Elisa Ferreira, in which we, jointly with the Chair of the Working Group on Ukraine and the Chair of our COTER commission, make the case for our request also evoked during the plenary debate and which is currently under evaluation within the European Commission.

Moreover, during our last plenary session, President Zelensky shared with the Presidents of the European Council, the European Commission and our institution, his plan for the reconstruction of Ukraine, based on peer-to-peer cooperation between regions and cities aiming at rebuilding infrastructure, villages and cities. I will keep you informed on future steps towards an involvement of EU's Local and Regional Authorities to that end, in particular on the possibility to pool expertise of urban designers and architects to be put at the disposal of our partners in Ukraine, as also evoked in our [resolution](#) adopted during the last plenary session.

Finally, let me share the [concept note](#) (*in all languages*) drafted with the Association of Ukrainian Cities under the leadership of its President, Vitali Klitschko, calling for cooperation with a view to host 15.000 accompanied minors in summer camps in the European Union in the coming weeks and months. I am pleased that some regions and cities have already replied positively to this call, and I ask you to inform us about your availability to host a group of young Ukrainians in your region this summer: your generosity is a relevant part of the efforts made by our institution to help the Ukrainian people in the darkest hours of our common history.

Yours sincerely

Apostolos Tzitzikostas