



Committee of the Regions

Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy
and EU Budget



Committee on Regional Development

Joint statement on the REGI-COTER cooperation "Towards the Pact of Amsterdam"

COTER-REGI joint meeting, 13 October 2015

1. Having in mind the territorial cohesion objective, as enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty, the EU Urban Agenda should be considered as a fundamental tool for its implementation and as an excellent opportunity to contribute to reinforcing the commitment between the cities and the European Institutions. We see an opportunity to link the Urban Agenda better with the Smart Specialisation Strategies that are in practice now for Cohesion Policy and with the rural development.
2. The purpose of this joint statement is twofold: to strengthen the strategic cooperation and political alliance between the REGI committee of the European Parliament and the COTER commission of the European Committee of the Regions based on common political objectives; to call upon the European Commission, as well as the upcoming Dutch Presidency of the EU Council, to accelerate the setting and implementation of an EU Urban Agenda, while reinforcing the role of the regions and cities in the EU legislative process.
3. The objective is also to join forces between the REGI committee and the COTER commission in their work towards the EU Urban Agenda, culminating with the envisaged adoption of the Pact of Amsterdam on 30 May 2016.
4. This cooperation towards the Pact of Amsterdam would be based especially on the following elements:
 - the CoR Opinion "Towards an Integrated Urban Agenda for the EU" adopted in 2014;
 - the EP resolution of 9 September 2015 on "The urban dimension of EU policies";
 - the upcoming CoR opinion on the "Concrete steps for implementing the EU Urban Agenda", requested by the Dutch Presidency;
 - the CoR study on the "Growth potential of an integrated EU Urban Agenda";
 - the CoR conference on the EU Urban Agenda in May 2016 in Amsterdam.

It could also entail other joint activities of the REGI committee and the COTER commission, such as joint hearings, round table discussions, etc., if appropriate.

5. It is important to ensure the contribution of all relevant actors in this process, such as representatives of EU cities and their associations, EC, Council Presidency, EP, CoR, OECD, EUROCITIES, CEMR, etc.



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