

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

As you know, the European Committee of the Regions intends to play an active role in fostering relations with the UK through the political work of the CoR-UK Contact Group which I have the honor of chairing. We aim to ensure the continuation of dialogue between EU and UK local and regional authorities, devolved parliaments and assemblies, representing their interests and contributing to the development of the new relationship with the UK.

At our recent CoR-UK Contact group meeting on 11 January, we assessed the Trade and Cooperation Agreement concluded between the EU and the UK from the local and regional perspective. Members regretted in particular the lack of recognition of the important role of local and regional authorities in the implementation of the agreement and in the future EU-UK relations. They called for the participation of local and regional authorities (LRAs) in the structural bodies created under the agreement, or within a new specific body that would enable LRAs to be heard on a structural basis on issues of regional and local relevance.

In this regard, I would like to inform you about a letter we have recently sent to the President of the European Commission, Ms Ursula Von der Leyen, which I co-signed together with the President of the Committee of the Regions Mr Apostolos TZITZIKOSTAS. In this letter, a copy of which I attach for your information, we propose the structured involvement of local and regional authorities and our institution within the EU delegation to the Joint Partnership Council as a possible pragmatic approach. We have also sent similar letters to Mr McAllister, Chair of the European Parliament-UK Coordination Group and to Mr Michel, President of the European Council.

This letter may be of interest to you in your internal discussions on the role and participation of UK local government, devolved parliaments and assemblies in the future implementation of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

I look forward to meeting you at our next Contact Group meeting in July.

Kind regards,

Loïg CHESNAIS-GIRARD  
Chair of the CoR-UK Contact Group  
(President of the Regional Council of Brittany, France)