



REGIÃO AUTÓNOMA DA MADEIRA

ASSEMBLEIA LEGISLATIVA

Gabinete do Presidente

27th ANNIVERSARY OF CALRE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On this day when the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE) marks its anniversary, I, as its President, reaffirm the commitment of European Regions to contribute to the process of building the European Union, to its enhancement, and to strengthening its political and economic position in the world.

The Regions are the foundation of the Union and its most solid base, its strongest identity, where the principles that guide the project of peace and development, initiated in the mid-20th century, are rooted. Regions have been essential in the European construction process and as a connecting power between Union institutions and citizens. This is why it is important to strengthen the participation of regional Parliaments in the legislative process and give Regions new powers to implement Union policies and maintain the regionalization of European funds.

Changes in the architecture of the European Union Budget to be implemented from 2028 that jeopardize the powers of the Regions and their decision-making capacity in the execution of community funds are not acceptable.

It is with great concern that we witness the announcement of an attempt to centralize the management of funds in the Commission and national Governments, drastically reducing the



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action of Regional Governments and Parliaments in their application. This is all the more unacceptable when it is known that Regions have had a decisive action in European Cohesion, reducing inequalities and asymmetries in growth and development.

This attempt to centralize powers, which have proven very positive when exercised at the regional level, undermines the essence of European Cohesion Policy and represents a hard blow to the Regions, which have always proven effective in implementing Operational Programs, Policies, and Funds made available to them.

The philosophy of the principle of subsidiarity - power closer to citizens - is at stake, and this centralization may lead to perfectly unnecessary conflicts and disputes between Regions and Member States.

As President of CALRE, I appeal to the European Commission, the Council, and the European Parliament to consider the powers and competencies of the Regions in the new Multiannual Financial Framework, as these have proven essential in European construction, based on sustainable development, economic convergence, and territorial and social cohesion.



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The 72 Legislative Assemblies of Europe belonging to CALRE, representing 210 million citizens, reaffirm their commitment to pursuing the objectives of the European Union Treaties in cooperation with all European institutions and in permanent dialogue with citizens, the true recipients of our work and our political action.

Long live CALRE!

Long live Europe!

Madeira, 7th of October, 2024

José Manuel Rodrigues

President of the Conference of European Regional Legislative
Assemblies