**European Union**



**The Committee of the Regions**

**Romanian delegation**

**The report of Romanian delegation to the CoR**

**- 2015 -**

According to the mandate given to it by the EU Treaties, the main role of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) is to contribute, through the approvals it adopts, to the decision-making process at European level. The European institutions (the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers) have the obligation to consult the CoR throughout the legislative process, respectively from the legislative proposals phase to monitoring the implementation of the act at local level, for all policy areas directly affecting local and regional authorities. At the same time, the CoR can adopt own-initiative approvals on a specific topic considered of interest to local authorities.

The CoR draws up approvals and approvals on legislative proposals, projects on future EU policies, territorial impact analyzes for a number of European Commission proposals, resolutions on topics of major interest. These documents are drafted by the CoR members and are debated, in a first stage, in the Specialized Commissions, and then they are adopted, also by debate, in the Plenary Sessions and transmitted to all the European institutions.

In addition to fulfilling this essential mission, the CoR is a forum for contacts, exchange of experience and good practice, organizing debates, forums, conferences, seminars on areas of real interest to local authorities, depending on current issues on the European agenda and which have a close relationship with local and regional authorities.

**Short presentation of the activities of the Regional Committee in 2015**

In 2015, during the 6 Plenary Sessions, the CoR adopted a number of 57 approvals and resolutions, which were previously discussed in the relevant Specialized Commissions. At the same time, in 2015, there were 6 regular meetings and 2 extraordinary meetings of the CoR1 Bureau, the body responsible for drawing up and approving the CoR's political program, overseeing its implementation and coordinating its work on plenary sessions and committees.

The 6 CoR Specialist Committees responsible for preparing and submitting opinions in order to be approved, the Plenary Sessions met as it follows:

- CIVEX Commission (Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and Foreign Affairs): 13 February, 24 February, 24 April, 22-23 June (in Kołobrzeg, Poland), 14 September and 16 November;

- COTER Commission (Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget): 13 February, 2 March, 12-13 May (Riga, Latvia), 13 July, 2 October and 11 December;

- ECON Committee (Economic Policy): 13 February, 27 February, 7 May, 15 July, 29-30 September (in Gelsenkirchen, Germany) and 10 December;

- SEDEC Commission (Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture): 13 February, 26 February, 29-30 April (in Santander, Spain), 25 June, 22 September and 19 November;

- ENVE Commission (Environment, Climate Change and Energy): 13 February, 3 March, 4 May, 30 June, 28-29 September and 19-20 November;

- NAT Commission (Natural Resources): 13 February, 5 March, 5 May, 18-19 June (in Gaia, Portugal), 21 September, 24 November.

**The activity of the Romanian delegation to the CoR**

At the beginning of 2015, the mandate of the Committee of the Regions was renewed for a new period of 5 years, which meant that all 353 members in the 28 EU Member States had to be replaced or reconfirmed by the Member States.

The Romanian delegation had a sustained activity throughout 2015, trying to contribute to meeting the objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth set by the Europe 2020 Strategy, in a context marked by successive crises related to migration and terrorist threats with which Europe was confronted.

The activity of the delegation materialized both in the elaboration of approvals and amendments to the proposals for approvals, as well as in the wide participation and taking of positions during the plenary sessions of the meetings of the commissions or working groups.

**A. Opinions and amendments issued and supported by members of the Romanian delegation to the CoR in 2015:**

APPROVALS:

1. **Opportunities for efficient use of resources in the buildings sector** - rapporteur Mr Borboly Csaba, President of Harghita County Council (EPP);
2. **Towards a circular economy: reviewing EU waste legislation** – rapporteur Mrs. Mariana Gâju, mayor of Cumpăna village (PSE).

AMMENDAMENTS:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **APPROVAL/RESOLUTION** | **AMENDAMENTS** | **MEMBERS** |
| DRAFT RESOLUTION – A SUSTAINABLE MIGRATION APPROACH BY THE EU | NICA Alin Adrian  BORBOLY Csaba BRĂILOIU Ovidiu CATRINOIU Gheorghe DRĂGHICI Emil  FALCĂ Gheorghe FILIPESCU Răducu George  GÂJU Mariana MORARU Victor OPREA Emilian PRIOTEASA Ion ŞTEF Mihai Adrian  STEPANESCU Mihai TEBAN Adrian Ovidiu ŢUŢUIANU Adrian | 3 |
| DRAFT APPROVAL - TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY: REVIEW OF EU WASTE LEGISLATION  DRAFT APPROVAL- OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES IN THE BUILDING SECTOR | GÂJU Mariana  BORBOLY Csaba | 3  11 |
| DRAFT APPROVAL - THE FUTURE OF THE MAYORS’ CONVENTION | BORBOLY Csaba  BRĂILOIU Ovidiu  ŢUŢUIANU Adrian | 3 |
| DRAFT APPROVAL - ENERGY UNION PACKAGE | BORBOLY Csaba  NICA Alin Adrian  DRĂGHICI Emil | 13 |
| DRAFT APPROVAL - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS FOR  SUPPORTING TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT | BORBOLY Csaba  BRĂILOIU Ovidiu DRĂGHICI Emil NICA Alin-Adrian  STEPANESCU Mihai | 6 |
| DRAFT APPROVAL- EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE (ECI) | BORBOLY Csaba  BRĂILOIU Ovidiu DRĂGHICI Emil NICA Alin-Adrian  STEPANESCU Mihai | 3 |
| DRAFT APPROVAL - SIMPLIFYING THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP) | BORBOLY Csaba  DRĂGHICI Emil  NICA Alin-Adrian | 1 |
| DRAFT APROVAL- RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS ON PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AND OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS | BORBOLY Csaba  BRĂILOIU Ovidiu CATRINOIU Gheorghe DRĂGHICI Emil  NICA Alin Adrian OPREA Emilian STEPANESCU Mihai ŢUŢUIANU Adrian | 8 |
| DRAFT RESOLUTION - IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: THE LISBON TREATY AND SUBSEQUENT STAGES | BORBOLY Csaba | 5 |
| DRAFT APPROVAL – GREEN CARD – CREATING A CAPITAL MARKETS UNION | BORBOLY Csaba  BRĂILOIU Ovidiu CATRINOIU Gheorghe DRĂGHICI Emil  NICA Alin Adrian STEPANESCU Mihai ŢUŢUIANU Adrian | 4 |
| DRAFT APPROVAL - INVESTMENT PLAN AND EUROPEAN STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND | BORBOLY Csaba | 28 |
| DRAFT APPROVAL - GUIDELINES FOR THE EMPLOYMENT POLICIES OF THE MEMBER STATES | BORBOLY Csaba  DRĂGHICI Emil MORARU Victor NICA Alin Adrian OPREA Emilian | 5 |
| DRAFT APPROVAL - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHITE PAPER  ON TRANSPORT IN 2011 | BORBOLY Csaba | 6 |
| DRAFT OPINION - TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED APPROACH OF  EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE | BORBOLY Csaba  DRĂGHICI Emil  NICA Alin Adrian  OPREA Emilian | 5 |
| DRAFT APPROVAL - TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP  FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT (TTIP) | BORBOLY Csaba | 4 |
| DRAFT APPROVAL - THE GREEN SME ACTION PLAN AND THE GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE | BORBOLY Csaba  BRĂILOIU Ovidiu NICA Alin Adrian STEPANESCU Mihai | 2 |
| DRAFT APPROVAL - A FAIR AND EFFICIENT CORPORATION TAXATION SYSTEM IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: 5 KEY AREAS | NICA Alin-Adrian | 8 |
| DRAFT APPROVAL- EUROPEAN AGENDA ON  MIGRATION | NICA Alin-Adrian | 4 |
| DRAFT APPROVAL -  DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016 | NICA Alin-Adrian | 4 |
| DRAFT APPROVAL - DRAFT OPINION - NICA DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET | NICA Alin-Adrian | 2 |

**B. Meetings of the national delegation**:

In 2015, 7 meetings of the Romanian Delegation took place, of which six took place Brussels on the sidelines of the CoR plenary sessions, and one in Bucharest. These meetings are intended to discuss issues of interest to members and to coordinate overall their work within the CoR, to discuss the priorities of the Romanian delegation to the CoR, to strengthen communication and solidarity between members of the national delegation, to stimulate more intense involvement in the CoR's work, amendments, etc.). During the first meeting of the national delegation in 2015 (February 11), the president of the delegation was elected, respectively Mr. Alin Nica, mayor of Dudeştii Noi commune (Timiş), and members of the CoR Bureau, respectively Mr. Ion Prioteasa, president of Dolj County Council - vice president CoR on behalf of Romania (each national delegation appoints a member as Vice - President of the CoR) and Mr Alin Nica - Member of the CoR Bureau. On the same occasion, the distribution of members on the specialized commissions was adopted. The meetings of the national delegation are an opportunity to organize debates with special guests on topics of interest. Thus, in 2015 the following debates were organized:

* with Mr Markku Markkula (Finland, EPP), CoR President, with whom the members of the delegation were able to exchange some ideas on the activity and objectives of the delegation and, at the same time, to promote Romania's values ​​and traditions;
* with Mr Ionel-Sorin Moisă, Member of the European Parliament, who explained the Romanian economic and social interests in the negotiations of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP);
* with Mrs Corina Cretu, European Commissioner for Regional and Rural Policy, on issues of particular importance to local and regional authorities in Romania. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Gabriel Onaca - Deputy Director of the Cabinet and an expert from the Cabinet - Ms. Ioana Rus. The meeting aimed to analyze the delicate situation of access to structural funds by Romania, the role of local authorities in redressing the situation for the future programming period and finding solutions to simplify procedures.

**C. Review of the activities of Romania's delegation to the CoR in 2015:**

* analyzing and adopting the priorities of the Romanian delegation to the European Committee of the Regions for the 2015-2020 term, a document developed at the initiative of the delegation president, to which Mr. Emil Drăghici (President of the Association of Romanian Communes) and Mr. Csaba Borboly (President of Harghita County Council) contributed;
* drafting, debating and adopting the Rules of Internal Organization of the delegation. The principles and working methods set out in this Regulation are intended to ensure a coherent and efficient activities of the delegation, constituting, in addition to the CoR's Rules of Procedure, an important instrument setting out clear internal rules on: the appointment of the chair of the delegation and members of the CoR Bureau; how to set the delegation's priorities; conducting meetings and making decisions; options for delegating the vote, etc. The members of the Romanian Delegation hope that this working tool will allow a greater involvement of the deputies in the activities of the Committee and, at the same time, will lead to the facilitation of the fulfillment of the objectives and priorities of the national delegation. The document was adopted by the national delegation at its last meeting in December 2015;
* drafting a proposal for a notification from the Romanian delegation to the attention of the CoR President and Secretary General, regarding the systematic non-existence of interpreting in Romanian at the meetings of some political groups, as well as at some meetings of the thematic commissions;
* initiating or supporting amendments to draft CoR opinions;
* writing suggestions for invitations, interventions, written interviews and press releases;
* contribution to completing the objectives proposed by the future CoR Carpathian interregional group.

**D. Other contributions of members of the national delegation:**

* intervention by Alin-Adrian Nica at the CoR Bureau meeting on 15 April 2015 on the CoR's political priorities for the period 2015-2020, on which occasion he made a number of proposals to increase the effectiveness of the Stability Pact for the benefit of local authorities and regional development, better use of public funds and combating climate change, based on local and regional solutions for sustainable development. At the same time, Mr Nica emphasized the role of the CoR in supporting the Eastern Partnership countries (especially Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia), providing expertise for strengthening democracy at local and regional level and accelerating the decentralization process;
* an intervention by Mr Alin-Adrian Nica at the meeting of the Chairs of National Delegations with the CoR President on 3 June 2015 on the same topic as the CoR's political priorities for
* 2015-2020 and the new working methods, on which occasion he welcomed the proposed reform and stressed the need for adaptation to address new challenges. Mr Nica said that the national delegation's own priorities complement the general framework proposed by the CoR with regard to its main objectives of cohesion policy, the common agricultural policy, multilevel governance and the neighborhood policy;
* the participation of Mr. Alin-Adrian Nica as a speaker at the following events:
* 4th Assises of Decentralized Cooperation (Brussels)
* the seminar on “Closing the Innovation Divide” (Brussels)
* SEC2R - 'Startup Europe Comes to the Regions' Event (Brussels)
* REGI-COTER Joint Meeting (Brussels)
* Enlargement Day (Brussels)

**E. CoR Interregional Groups:**

The members of the Romanian delegation are also part of some interregional groups set up at CoR level, depending on their interest in a certain topic, as follows:

- Health Group:

* Mr. Emil Proşcan, mayor of Mizil, alternate member
* Mr. Mihai Adrian Stef, president of the Satu Mare County Council, alternate member

- Group for Less Developed Regions:

* Mr. Cristian Adomniţei, president of the Iaşi County Council, holder
* Mr. Csaba Borboly, President of the Harghita County Council, incumbent
* Mr. Răducu Filipescu, president of the Călăraşi County Council, holder
* Mr. Victor Moraru, mayor of Amara, holder
* Mr. Mihai Stepanescu, former mayor of Resita, holder
* Mr. Mihai Adrian Stef, president of the Satu Mare County Council, deputy

These interregional groups meet at least twice a year, during which exchanges of ideas and experience take place, proposals are made for initiatives to highlight the role of local authorities in implementing European regulations and supporting the CoR's ongoing work, inter-regional cooperation projects, or cooperation in drafting amendments to opinions and resolutions on matters of special relevance, etc.