

## We are focussed to address the challenges of the new mandate

Says EA President Mr Jerzy Zająkała, Mayor of Łubianka



The new term-of-office of the Committee of the Regions of the EU brings new challenges, but also new hopes. The Committee's new members offer a link between the experiences of members from the previous terms-of-office, and the values that our new colleagues will bring. The European Alliance Group (EA) is setting about its work actively taking account of past discussions of its mission and priorities. The members of the group have many years experience of political work in local and regional authorities and I am convinced that they will tackle the agreed priorities with great commitment and determination. As a group, we are keen to offer members of local and regional authorities cooperation with a view to making a broad, competent and consistent contribution to the European Union's political strategies. Using the tools available to us, we will ensure that we make a broad contribution both to political discussions at all levels of the European institutions and ongoing legislative procedures. At the same time, we expect a partnership-based approach and respect for our priorities on the part of our partners. We believe in a policy of communication, taking account of the opinions of individual members and we recognise the importance of all European countries and regions. We will seek to ensure that young people have the best opportunities and we intend to keep them involved in the debate on the future of the EU. I trust that in the course of substantive debates we will find the best solutions with the other political groups, promoting the successful development of local and regional communities. Respecting national and cultural diversity and recognising linguistic diversity, cultivating local and regional traditions, maintaining a satisfactory balance between the development of urban and rural areas and caring for natural resources form the key elements of our group's identity.

The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty means that current tools should be strengthened and new tools introduced in order to realise the Committee of the Regions' commitments. Introducing multilevel governance competently and effectively poses a serious challenge for us and represents a tool for involving local and regional communities in establishing goals and achieving results at all levels of governance in the EU. The Committee of the Regions employs a very high calibre of personnel in its administration, who effectively and with great commitment deal with the administrative side of our work and support the political activities of members. We are grateful for this commitment and I trust that we will be able to provide appropriate tools to carry out our tasks fully.

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### Cllr Linda Gillham appointed President 'designate' of CoR-Croatia Joint Consultative Committee



Cllr Mrs Linda Gillham, Member of Runnymede Borough Council in the UK, has been appointed chairperson 'designate' of the EU CoR-Croatia Joint Committee in the Committee of the Regions. This committee plays a decisive role in facilitating the involvement of local and regional authorities in the enlargement process of Croatia's accession to the EU. Linda Gillham said: "I am delighted and honoured to be appointed as President of such an important committee, which is helping to pave the way for the smooth accession of Croatia while ensuring local and regional authorities

are well integrated into Europe. We want our counterparts to benefit from our knowledge and experience from previous enlargements and we will do our best to promote cooperation at local level".

### European Alliance bureau members appointed

The European Alliance group has appointed its bureau members for the 2010-2012 period as follows:

President:	<b>Jerzy Zająkała</b> (PL)
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	<b>Uno Silberg</b> (ET)
Vice President & Treasurer:	<b>Roger Knox</b> (UK)
3 Bureau Members:	<b>Linda Gillham</b> (UK) <b>Brian Meaney</b> (IRL) <b>Witold Krochmal</b> (PL)

## European Alliance group appoints its political coordinators to CoR Commissions

The Commission Coordinators have a substantial role in guiding the discussion and decision of the various commissions within the CoR; the EA group has appointed the following people as coordinators in the respective commissions:



Commission ECOS  
**Witold Krochmal** (PL)



Commission COTER  
**Brian Meaney** (IRL)



Commission NAT  
**Adam Banaszak** (PL)



Commission ENVE  
**Linda Gillham** (UK)



Commission CIVEX  
**Stanislaw Szwabski** (PL)



Commission EDUC  
**Roger Knox** (UK)



**Mr Marek Tramś** (PL) has been appointed by the EA group as member of the Turkey Working group



**Mr Povilas Žagunis** (LT) will be the lead EA member on the Contact group CoR / CLRAE

## Ongoing opinions:

**Cllr Linda Gillham** (UK) - CoR opinion on the "EU and international biodiversity policy beyond 2010".

**Dr Uno Silberg** (ET) - CoR opinion on the Green Paper on "The interconnection of business registers"

## Secondary Schools from across the EU to participate in the 2010 CoR / European Alliance Secondary School Competition

From across eight Member States the annual EA/CoR competition is being undertaken in over thirteen secondary schools. The competition foresees a multiple choice questionnaire and an essay to test the students' knowledge and ideas on the EU. This year's essay will be on the following subject: *In your view, how should the European Union act to combat poverty in the regions?* Winners will have the opportunity to meet CoR members during the June 2010 plenary.

SECONDARY  
SCHOOLS  
COMPETITION  
2010

## European Alliance Group appoints member on the Ad Hoc Commission on the EU Budget



The EA member Mr Geert BOURGEOIS, Vice Prime Minister of the Flemish Government and Flemish Minister for Administrative Affairs, Foreign Policy, Media and Tourism has been appointed on the CoR temporary ad hoc commission on the EU budget. The current debate on future EU budget is centred on two processes: on the one hand, the "mid-term review" designed to re-orientate the 2007-2013 financial perspective and the inter-institutional agreement in the light of the current financial context, on the other hand, the "budget reform" exercise designed to radically revise the EU budget in order to align it with the new "2020 strategy" for the medium term and address the longer-term challenges identified in the sustainability strategy (the "2050 strategy").

## European Alliance Group to hold meeting on: "The Danube Delta – A Common European Heritage"



On the invitation of the European Alliance member Emil Drăghici, Mayor of the commune of Vulcana-Băi, Romania, the EA group will discuss the Danube Delta and its role in fostering a common European heritage.

The meeting will be held in the Danube Delta in Romania on the 20-21 May 2010. Newly elected President of the EA group, Mr Zająkała, welcomed the invitation and said that he is looking forward to discussing one of the most important EU policy subjects the Danube Strategy. The Danube is one of the main geographical features of Central Europe, flowing through ten countries, and it is a resource which must be preserved, and our group welcomes the development of an EU Danube strategy.