



Brussels, 20 January 2025

Dear Executive Vice-President Teresa Ribera Rodríguez,

On behalf of the [European Regions Research and Innovation Network](#), [ICLEI Europe](#), [Eurocities](#), [Energy Cities](#) and [Resilient Cities Network](#), we would like to congratulate you on your new role as the Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition. We look forward to working with you and your teams in fulfilling your mission to ensure a competitive, sustainable and fair EU for all citizens. At a pivotal time for Europe, as we progress toward the implementation of the European Green Deal, the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), and the acceleration of initiatives under competitiveness policy, your leadership will be instrumental in achieving these transformative goals.

**The [five EU Missions](#)** – Adaptation to Climate Change, 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, Restore our Ocean and Waters, A Soil Deal for Europe, and Cancer – are crucial for addressing societal challenges and fostering innovation in key areas such as climate neutrality and resilience, cancer treatment, urban transformation, soil health, and ocean and water restoration. By integrating R&I with broader EU policy priorities, particularly with the implementation of the European Green Deal and competitiveness agendas, they demonstrate a powerful model for collaborative and transformative change on the ground. **Their alignment with the three pillars outlined by President von der Leyen – closing the innovation gap, achieving decarbonisation, and ensuring economic security – further underscores their strategic importance.**

Our networks strongly support the EU Missions as they are implemented at local and regional levels, where transformations take place. The [Commission's evaluation](#) of July 2023 highlights the progress of the Missions toward their 2030 targets, demonstrating their ability to inspire cities and regions to adopt Mission-like approaches. These approaches foster policy integration, citizen engagement, and private sector involvement, which are critical for sustainable transitions. Moreover, the Missions have advanced collaboration across governance levels, linking R&I policy with sectoral objectives, and created a unique momentum for addressing climate change at the local level. These gains should now be consolidated and expanded.

To reinforce the Missions' transformative impact, we believe they require **stronger political ownership at the highest level within the new College of Commissioners**. This aligns with the recommendations of the [Heitor Report](#), which emphasises the need for dedicated leadership. Given the inherent link between the Missions and your portfolio, **we believe that your Executive Vice-Presidency is best placed for this role.**

Your mandate, as outlined in the mission letter, emphasises ensuring the delivery of the European Green Deal objectives, fostering competitiveness and achieving a just transition. The Missions are instrumental in these areas, as they offer new governance models that integrate diverse policy areas, drive multilevel collaboration and promote sustainable innovations. This approach aligns with your responsibilities for decarbonisation, clean tech investment, and ensuring a fair transition that leaves no one behind. By embedding the Missions within your portfolio, you can **further leverage their potential to deliver on the EU's climate and industrial strategies while addressing societal challenges.**



Overseeing the EU Missions also call for establishing an efficient coordination mechanism among the Executive Vice-Presidents, including Raffaele Fitto, Stéphane Séjourné, and Henna Virkkunen, as well as embedding the Missions within the portfolio of Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva. Such a high-level, coordinated approach would not only ensure that relevant Directorates-General are fully engaged, but also solidify the Missions' systemic approach. By effectively combining bottom-up citizen involvement with top-down policymaking, this strategy would maximize their potential to drive meaningful societal transformation.

We are confident that this alignment will further enhance the Missions' ability to deliver impactful results and align with the broader objectives of the Commission. Our networks are committed to supporting the Commission and contributing to the EU Missions through our collective expertise. We stand ready to collaborate and provide input to strengthen the EU Missions and their alignment with your vision for a clean, just and competitive transition.

Kind regards,

Pirita Lindholm, Director, ERRIN  
André Sobczak, Secretary General, EURO CITIES  
Claire Roumet, Coordinator, Energy Cities  
Lauren Sorkin, Executive Director, Resilient Cities Network  
Wolfgang Teubner, Regional Director, ICLEI Europe

cc. European Commission Vice Presidents Raffaele Fitto, Stéphane Séjourné, Henna Virkkunen,  
and Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva