



THE FUTURE OF SMALL
TOWNS AND
MUNICIPALITIES
OF EUROPE

ROBERTO PELLA

PRESIDENT
OF THE
CONFEDERATION

ANCI 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

OUR WAY FORWARD

WE BELIEVE IN EUROPE. WE BELIEVE IN COOPERATION AMONG PEOPLE, AND WE BELIEVE THE XXI CENTURY WILL BE THE ONE OF MAJOR TRANSITIONS. OF COURSE, WE THINK OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE GREEN NEW DEAL. BUT LET'S NOT FORGET DEMOGRAPHY, GEOGRAPHY AND GEOPOLITICS.

EUROPE IS GETTING OLDER. THERE ARE NUMEROUS CHALLENGES AHEAD, EVEN MORE SO FOR SMALL TOWNS & MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PERIPHERAL AREAS. THE PHENOMENON WILL QUESTION OUR WAYS OF LIFE, & OUR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR SOCIETIES, ACROSS EUROPE: BETTER FORESEE TO ADJUST THAN REACT AND ENDURE.

CONCENTRATION IS AROUND THE CORNER: BRAIN DRAIN & POPULATION DENSITY ARE CHALLENGING IN TERMS OF CITIZENS CHOOSING HOW & WHERE THEY WANT TO LIVE, EXPRESS THEMSELVES AND BUILD THEIR CHILDREN'S FUTURE. I BELIEVE IN SMALL TOWNS TO ANSWER THE INSTITUTIONAL, POLITICAL & CONFIDENCE CRISES ALL AROUND EUROPE. PREVENTING TERRITORIAL DIVIDES AND INEQUALITIES, PROMOTING FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF HUMAN, SOCIAL & ECONOMIC RESOURCES WILL BE KEY TO OUR PEOPLES HARMONIOUSLY LIVING TOGETHER.



ROBERTO PELLA

SMALL TOWNS NEED TO TEAM UP AT EU LEVEL

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ACCESS TO AND AMOUNT OF THE EU FUNDS AVAILABLE, TERRITORIAL DIVIDES AS WELL AS ATTRACTIVENESS OF ALL LIVING AND ECONOMIC AREAS: SMALL TOWNS – AND EVEN MORE THOSE IN THE PERIPHERIES OR IN RURAL AREAS – ARE OFTEN FORGOTTEN. WE NEED TO TEAM UP AT EU LEVEL TO MAKE SURE OUR VOICES ARE HEARD IN BRUSSELS.

A FAIR AND BALANCED TERRITORIAL NETWORK AND COVERAGE OF OUR LANDS MAKE SENSE, MORE THAN EVER BEFORE: “LOCALISM” AND PROXIMITY ARE THE KEY WORDS OF THE XXI CENTURY. WHETHER WE REFER TO PUBLIC SERVICES, CITIZENSHIP, FOOD, LOCAL ECONOMY OR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IN THE EU MUST BE CLOSER TO ITS PEOPLE.

THE EU MUST BE A UNION OF CITIZENS, FOR CITIZENS – WHEREVER THEY LIVE. OF THAT DEPENDS THE FUTURE OF OUR UNION AS WELL AS OF OUR SMALL TOWNS.

WE ARE A CITIZEN LOBBY WHO WANTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF OUR ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMON GOODS, FOR THE GENERAL INTEREST.

Join us !


TUGDUAL LELAY

GENERAL SECRETARY





MORE ABOUT US

130

Million inhabitants

25

Thousand municipalities

5

Countries

THE CONFEDERATION OF TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES OF EUROPE (CTME) REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF THE CITIZENS OF SMALL TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION.

WE REPRESENT MORE THAN 130 MILLION INHABITANTS, 25 000 MUNICIPALITIES AND WE COME FROM 5 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES: GERMANY (DStGB), ITALY (ANCI), FRANCE (APVF), ROMANIA (AOR) AND HUNGARY (TÖÖSZ)

WE PROMOTE FURTHER EUROPEAN INTEGRATION BY MEANS OF DURABLE EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION AND GOOD PRACTICES. WE ARE CONVINCED WE FACE COMPARABLE CHALLENGES, THAT WE WILL OVERCOME THROUGH GREATER SHARING AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. THE EU LEVEL IS THE MOST RELEVANT LEVEL TO TACKLE MOST OF OUR SMALL TOWNS' MAIN CHALLENGES AHEAD.



OUR MAIN CHALLENGES

OUR CITIZENS ARE WAITING FOR A EUROPEAN UNION THAT CAN EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY TACKLE ITS DAILY ISSUES. WE BELIEVE THE EU TO BE A NATURAL PARTNER TO HOPEFULLY ADDRESS AND SOLVE SOME OF OUR MAIN CHALLENGES AHEAD:

- **POPULATION CONCENTRATION & YOUTH BRAIN DRAIN**
- **MOBILITY, GREEN TRANSITION, ECONOMIC GROWTH, MEDICAL DESERTIFICATION, WATER DISTRIBUTION**
- **POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS MUST BE CLOSER TO THE CITIZENS. THE ATMOSPHERE OF GLOBAL DEFIANCE POSES VARIOUS ISSUES**
- **DIGITALISATION CAN BE AN ANSWER TO THE TERRITORIAL DIVIDE, IF ITS CHALLENGES ARE ALSO ALL TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT**



OUR MAIN PRIORITIES



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & GREEN NEW DEAL

VICE-PRESIDENT
OF THE CONFEDERATION

"We need a concrete, applicable and clear definition of sustainable development and clean energy to give shape to the Green new deal we are all calling for"

- **Roland Schäfer**
DStGB vice-President

FOLLOWING THE COMMITMENTS OF THE COVENANT OF MAYORS, SMALL TOWNS IN THE EU HAVE A KEY ROLE IN ACHIEVING OUR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, NOTABLY REGARDING DIGITALISATION, THE FIGHT AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING AND TERRITORIAL DIVIDES.

THE RISK IS REAL.

RURAL, PERIPHERAL & SMALL-TOWN EUROPE ARE THE VICTIMS OF GROWING TERRITORIAL AND SOCIAL DIVIDES ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

WE FIND OURSELVES IN THE FRONT LINE WHEN FACED WITH THE

ABANDONMENT OF POPULATIONS. THE GREEN NEW DEAL MUST BE A WAY TO ACHIEVE A SMOOTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR OUR COMMUNITIES.

TOGETHER WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES' ASSOCIATIONS OF ALL COUNTRIES OF EUROPE, REGIONS OF EUROPE, THE EU INSTITUTIONS AND IN PARTICULAR THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS, WE WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CO-CONSTRUCTION OF POLITICAL AND PRAGMATIC RESPONSES TO THESE CONCERNS.

“THE EMERGENCY IS
ECOLOGICAL AND
SOCIAL, BUT IT IS
ALSO TERRITORIAL



THE NECESSARY MEANS TO FIGHT TERRITORIAL DIVIDES

VICE-PRESIDENT
OF THE CONFEDERATION

"The cohesion policy is a tool to fight social inequalities and discrepancies among and between European territories. It can't be treated as an adjustment variable"

- **Christophe Bouillon**
APVF President

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**THE EU TERRITORIAL &
COHESION POLICIES ARE
A TOP PRIORITY FOR
SMALL MUNICIPALITIES**

THE EU BUDGET CUT IS A VERY BAD SIGNAL FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND ESPECIALLY SMALL TOWNS. STRUCTURAL FUNDS (EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND & EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT) MUST NOT BE AN ADJUSTMENT VARIABLE AND CANNOT COMPENSATE FOR THE WEAKNESS AND INADEQUACY OF THE EU BUDGET.

WE DEMAND AN EMERGENCY PLAN TO ENSURE CURRENT POLICIES BE EXTENDED IN THE CASE OF DELAYS IN THE NEXT MFF'S APPROVAL.

IN RESPONSE TO THE EU'S GROWING MISSIONS, ITS BUDGET SHOULD BE EXPANDED THROUGH OWN RESOURCES. WE ASK THE NEW PRIORITIES OF THE MEMBER STATES NOT BE FINANCED ON THE BACK OF EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY POLICIES, THE MOST VISIBLE TO OUR FELLOW CITIZENS IN THE TERRITORIES.



TRANSITIONS: FORESEE TO ADJUST RATHER THAN REACT & ENDURE

VICE-PRESIDENT
OF THE CONFEDERATION

"The digital, demographic and geographic dynamics at stake trigger major transitions our small towns must be prepared to address"

- **Markus Honnigfort**
Mayor of Haren (Ems)



OUR POPULATIONS ARE GETTING OLDER, CITIZENS ARE DEMANDING PUBLIC SERVICES, AND GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY OF THEIR LEADERS. WE BELIEVE PROXIMITY IS THE ANSWER, AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES CAN PROVIDE A SOLUTION.

TO ADDRESS THE TERRITORIAL DIVIDE, TRANSITIONS MUST BE ANTICIPATED. FIRST, DIGITALIZATION CAN HELP CLOSE THE WIDENING GAPS BETWEEN TERRITORIES, PROVIDED WE HAVE A COLLECTIVE RESPONSE TO THE ISSUES OF DATA SECURITY.

HERE ARE SOME CONCRETE STEPS TO BRIDGE THE GAPS AND PROVIDE ANSWERS TO CITIZENS. THE RISK? THE RISE OF THE FAR-RIGHT OR WORSE, DISINTEREST FOR DEMOCRACY & GOVERNMENT OF OUR SOCIETIES.

PERIPHERAL AREAS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED THROUGH MOBILITY, RENEWABLES, HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE EVALUATIONS IN ORDER TO COUNTER BRAIN-DRAIN AND METROPOLISATION OF LIVING AREAS.

ANTICIPATING THE MAJOR
TRANSITIONS: LOCALISM
TO HALT EXTREMISM AND
RESTORE CONFIDENCE



Our Team



ROBERTO PELLA

PRESIDENT



TUGDUAL LE LAY

GENERAL SECRETARY



**DR. KLAUS
NUTZENBERGER**

DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE



CHIARA SPINATO

*SPECIAL ADVISOR TO
THE PRESIDENT*



CONFEDERATION OF TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES OF EUROPE

CONFÉDÉRATION DES PETITES VILLES DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE
KONFÖDERATION DER GEMEINDEN UND STÄDTE EUROPAS

CONTACT:

TUGDUAL LE LAY, SECRÉTAIRE GENERAL
TLELAY.EUROPE@GMAIL.COM