

REGLEG - Conference of European regions with legislative power

The Europe 2020 strategy would be more effective on the ground if regional authorities take an active part in framing national reform programmes and flagship initiatives rather than simply being limited to implement them.

This is the main message of the letter sent by President of Aragon, Marcelino Iglesias, as current President of the Conference of Regions with legislative power (REGLEG), to the Presidents of the European Commission, the European Council and the Council of the EU. REGLEG would like to insist on a more active association in all relevant aspects of the new strategy Europe 2020, especially in its design. For the new strategy to deliver, the new national reform programmes, and the national targets they will refer to, **must be the outcome of a common planning effort of all different government levels.**

REGLEG is a political network of EU regions with legislative powers. It comprises representatives of regional governments who work together on issues of common concern. At present there are 73 EU regions with legislative powers spread across 8 Member States: Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain and UK. Participation in REGLEG is open to any of these regions.

These regions have their own governments and parliaments and also responsibilities comparable to those of Member States within their areas of competence, such as employment, research, energy, education and the fight against poverty. More than two hundred million European citizens, almost 44% of the EU population, rely on these regional governments to develop and deliver environmental, economic and social benefits that the EU provides in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity and their own democratic responsibilities.

The REGLEG President asked the European Council to encourage in its forthcoming meeting each national government to engage in a multilevel governance exercise for the design and the implementation of the national reform programmes and take up the European Commission's proposal to closely associate the Committee of the Regions to this process. Furthermore, the European Commission is invited to develop other concrete proposals with regard to the active involvement of the regional and local authorities in the design and the forthcoming implementation and monitoring of the Europe 2020 strategy.