

Dear John.

This is the information I have got on number 3.

ie —

The representation of regions to European Community institutions, including

a) the implications of the proposed Committee of the Regions, and

b) the current experience of some regions with direct representation, for example the German Länder and some large cities.

Christian told me to contact Dr. Hans-Martin Bachmann about the German Länder. — he is unable to help.

I have outlined what I was going to use from the stuff that Christian sent me.

David had a look but said that he wasn't sure if it was relevant and it would be better to ask what you were looking for.

Any comments would be appreciated.

Julie

European Community.

Development of Relations between the European Community and the Regions.

1. Reasons for the development of relations between the EEC and the regions.
 2. setting up of a Consultative Council of Local and Regional Authorities in the Community.
 3. Operation of the Consultative Council.
 4. Committee of Regions.
 5. The Committee of the Regions.
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Maastricht Treaty.

Chapter 4.

"The Committee of the Regions."

Article 198a.

198b

198c.

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European Parliament.

2nd conference, Regions of the Community.

Documents adopted by the conference

Final Declaration of the 10th General
Conference of European Regions.

Resolution of the Assembly of European
Regions - regarding the outcome of the
meeting of the EC in Maastricht on 9 + 10
Dec '91.

Res. of the Ass. of E Regions -
on the institutional participation of the
regional level in the decision-making
process of the EC.



Europese Liberalen en Democraten
Europæiske Liberale og Demokrater
Europäische Liberale und Demokraten

Libéraux, Démocrates et Réformateurs Européens
Partidos Europeus Liberais, Democráticos e Reformistas
Ευρωπαϊκοί Φιλελεύθεροι Δημοκράτες και Μεταρρυθμιστές

Liberales, Demócratas y Reformistas Europeos
Liberali, Democratici e Riformatori Europei
European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Parties

Ms. Julie Greaves
Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
88, University Street
Belfast BT7 1HE
Northern Ireland

Strasbourg, 16 September 1992
e-greave.lt

Dear Ms. Greaves,

please find enclosed a little file on the question of regions in the European Community. It was compiled by my colleague, Jacques Lecarte, who is responsible for regional policy in the LDR Group (Tel. +32-2-284.34.45).

As far as the experience of German Bundesländer information offices is concerned, you may contact

Dr. Hanns-Martin Bachmann
Informationsbüro des Landes Hessen
für Europäische Angelegenheiten
19, Avenue de l'Yser
B-1040 Brussels

Tel. +32-2-732.42.20
Fax +32-2-732.48.13

Good luck.

With kind regards,

Christian Ehlers
Secretary General

CONTENTS

1. Note on the European Community and the Regions (J. Lecarte).
2. Commission decision of June 88 setting up a Consultative Council of Regional and Local Authorities.
3. Articles of the Maastricht Treaty on the Committee of the Regions.
4. Mr. J.P. Raffarin's resolution on the setting up of the Committee of the Regions.
5. Mr. H.F. Köhler's motion on setting up a Comité of the Regions.
6. Conference European Parliament/Regions of the Community (November 1991).
7. Community regional policy and the role of the regions (resolution - December 1988).
8. Mannheim's declaration : general conference of European Regions (February 1992).
9. Resolution of the Assembly of European Regions on the institutional participation of the regional level in the decision-making process of the European Community (December 1991).

DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE REGIONS

1. Reasons for the development of relations between the EEC and the regions

There has clearly been a spectacular increase in Community policies and action since 1985, when Jacques Delors took over as President of the Commission.

The Single Act has had a direct impact on the reform of the Structural Funds, environment policy, research and, of course, the completion of the internal market.

The implementation of new programmes and new actions in favour of the environment (LIFE, ENVIREG, STRIDE), SMUs (BC-NET), the film industry (MEDIA), education and youth (COMETT, LINGUA, ERASMUS, YOUTH FOR EUROPE) and the diversification of financial instruments have created renewed interest among the regions, whose experience of the European Community had so far been limited to the CAP and ERDF.

The second possible explanation lies in the changing relations in certain countries between central government and local or regional authorities. By increasing the powers of regions and reducing State control, decentralization or federalization has given the regions greater freedom and enabled them, within existing legal frameworks, to develop direct relations with the European Community.

2. Setting up of a Consultative Council of Local and Regional Authorities in the Community

At institutional level, the idea of involving the regions in the Community process was put forward in 1984. The preamble to the draft Treaty establishing the European Union, adopted by the European Parliament in February, stressed 'the need to enable local and regional authorities to participate by appropriate methods ...'.

Following the first Conference of the Regions held in Strasbourg by its Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning, the European Parliament noted in April 1984 that 'the regional authorities of the European Community have so far not been consulted sufficiently at Community level' and called for 'the participation of elected regional representatives in the formulation of the Community's present and future policies seen in their regional perspective'. More specifically, Parliament called on the Commission 'to embark on direct talks with the regions on matters which affect them directly, while respecting the powers of the Member States'.

decisions in matters within their sphere of competence. In other Member States, in the absence of provisions enabling the regions to be involved in Community decisions, regional governments themselves have taken the initiative of opening liaison or information offices in Brussels in order to influence, or at least monitor, the formulation of Community legislation affecting them.

The Bundesrat, which is extremely favourable to extending the powers of the regions, has established a Community Charter containing a number of proposals and pointing out the need to set up regions with specific powers throughout Europe, to provide for effective participation of the regions in formulating European policy, to take account of regional powers in Community policy and to extend direct working relations between the regions and Community institutions.

This German position was taken up by all the European regions at the EP-Regions Conference at the end of November in Strasbourg when they stated, in the final resolution, that 'the future of the Community requires reform under which each institution - at Community, national and regional level - can play an active role suited to its competences' and 'that, in this connection, the amendments proposed by the current Intergovernmental Conferences in the regional field are unsatisfactory'. The European Parliament and the Regions therefore affirmed 'that in order to rectify the democratic deficit of Community regional policy it is necessary, on the one hand, to guarantee the representation of the regions at Community level by setting up a Committee of the Regions and, on the other hand, to enhance the role and increase the prerogatives of the European Parliament, which should be given a genuine power of codecision in the establishment of Community policies, in particular regional policy, on the basis of opinions issued by the Committee of the Regions'.

As a result of this very gradual development of ideas and the realization that decisions must be taken in consultation with ordinary citizens, the principle of subsidiarity was enshrined in the Treaty of Maastricht (Article 3b) and a Committee of the Regions was set up (Article 198a).

The composition of the Committee of the Regions is specified in Article 198a (189 members representing 171 regions). The Committee must be consulted by the Council or the Commission where the Treaty so provides (regional policy and cultural affairs) and in all other cases in which one of these two institutions considers it appropriate (Article 198c).

The implementation of the Treaty, following ratification, and, hence, the establishment of the Committee of the Regions will make it possible to ascertain whether regional aspirations are given greater consideration through this new institution whose seat will be in Brussels.

The only difficulty is that no decision has yet been taken as to who is eligible to sit on the Committee (local elected representatives, regional elected representatives or officials). At its fourth General Conference in Mannheim on 4 February 1992, the AER made its objections known and stated 'that the Committee of the Regions envisaged in the Treaty should be set up as soon as possible, that it should consist only of elected representatives of the Regions and that, in the case of a Member State not having a regional level, the sending of representatives of local authorities could be considered'.

The prospect of a further Intergovernmental Conference in 1996 on the reorganization of institutions and enlargement may provide an opportunity, if necessary, to put forward new proposals.

JACQUES LECARTE

Conseil consultatif par collectivités régionales et locales institué par la Commission le 24 juin 1988 (*)

(89/C 26/04)

(Cette liste remplace et annule la liste parue au Journal officiel des Communautés européennes n° C 329 du 22 décembre 1988.)

Nomination des membres et des suppléants pour une période de trois ans à compter du 9 décembre 1988:

— en raison de leur compétence particulière et de leur expérience relative aux problèmes de développement des régions:

Membres	Suppléants
Bernard ANSELME (Belgique)	M. SUYKERBLYK (Belgique)
Carlo BERNINI (Italie)	Adriano BIASUTTI (Italie)
M. BOUBARIS (Grèce)	M. PITAOLIS (Grèce)
Yvon BOURGES (France)	Jean-Marie RAUSCH (France)
M. BRANDENBURG-VOGELZANG (Pays-Bas)	J. de LANGE (Pays-Bas)
Poul CHRISTENSEN (Danemark)	Kresten PHILIPSEN (Danemark)
Michael FINNERAN (Irlande)	Michael BRENNAN (Irlande)
Charles GRAY (Royaume-Uni)	Eric MILLIGAN (Royaume-Uni)
Alberto João JARDIM (Portugal)	João MOTA AMARAL (Portugal)
Noël JOSEPHE (France)	Félix PROTO (France)
Heinrich JÜRGENS (Allemagne)	Franz FROSCHMAIER (Allemagne)
Mario MELIS (Italie)	Giuseppe MARTELLOTTA (Italie)
Charles MILLON (France)	Jacques BLANC (France)
Robert H. N. NEAME (Royaume-Uni)	Josephine FARRINGTON (Royaume-Uni)
Ray OWEN (Royaume-Uni)	Douglas GREY (Royaume-Uni)
Gabriele PANIZZI (Italie)	Francesco MANDARINI (Italie)
Jordi PUJOL i SOLEY (Espagne)	Gabriel CAÑELLAS i FONTS (Espagne)
José RODRÍGUEZ la BORBOLLA CAMOYAN (Espagne)	Juan Carlos RODRÍGUEZ IBARRA (Espagne)
Erich SCHNEIDER (Allemagne)	Alfred GEISEL (Allemagne)
Herbert SCHNOOR (Allemagne)	—
Pedro de SILVA CIENFUEGOS JOVELLANOS (Espagne)	Joaquín LEGUINA DE LA HERRÁN (Espagne)

— en raison de leur compétence particulière et de leur expérience relative aux problèmes de développement des communes et les collectivités dites intermédiaires:

Membres	Suppléants
Alberto BRASCA (Italie)	—
Henri CRAVATTE (Luxembourg)	Carlo MEINTZ (Luxembourg)
Gerhard GEBAUER (Allemagne)	Hans Heinrich EILERS (Allemagne)
Henri GOETSCHY (France)	Pierre SALVI (France)
Ulrich HARTMANN (Allemagne)	—
Josef HOFMANN (Allemagne)	Antonius WEBER (Allemagne)
John LASKARAKIS (Grèce)	Apostolos KIMISIS (Grèce)
Sir Jack LAYDEN (Royaume-Uni)	John HARMAN (Royaume-Uni)
Jim McCAMMICK (Royaume-Uni)	Samuel SEMPLE (Royaume-Uni)
Sean McMANUS (Irlande)	Olga BENNET (Irlande)
Paul MEYERS (Belgique)	Jean-Claude VAN CAUWENBERGHE (Belgique)
John MORGAN (Royaume-Uni)	Sir Duncan LOCK (Royaume-Uni)
Roland NUNGESSER (France)	Pierre MAUGER (France)
Rodolphe PESCE (France)	Roland HUGUET (France)
Tomás RODRÍGUEZ BOLAÑOS (Espagne)	Pasqual MARAGALL i MIRA (Espagne)
P. ROSCAM-ABBING (Pays-Bas)	A. G. J. M. ROMBOLTS (Pays-Bas)
Thorkild SIMONSEN (Danemark)	Hans BRUSGAARD (Danemark)
Francisco TOMEY GÓMEZ (Espagne)	José Vicente LEÓN FERNÁNDEZ (Espagne)
Arthur TORRES-PEREIRA (Portugal)	Luis Filipe MONTERROSO (Portugal)
Ricardo TRIGLIA (Italie)	Francesco PICARDI (Italie)
Ugo VETERE (Italie)	Moreno BUCCI (Italie)

(*) JO n° L 247 du 6. 9. 1988, p. 23.

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 24 June 1988

setting up a Consultative Council of Regional and Local Authorities

(88/487/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Whereas it is necessary for regional and local authorities to be more closely involved in the formulation and implementation of Community regional policy, which includes the regional and local implications of the other Community policies;

Whereas it is necessary, to that end, for the Commission to be able to consult the regional and local authorities in a body open to all levels of local government in the Member States;

Whereas the European Parliament, in its resolution of 13 April 1984 (1), asked the Commission to make its relations with representatives of regional and local authorities official,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

A consultative committee, to be called 'the Consultative Council of Regional and Local Authorities', hereinafter referred to as 'the Consultative Council', attached to the Commission, is hereby set up.

Article 2

The Consultative Council may be consulted by the Commission on any matter relating to regional

development and in particular to the formulation and implementation of Community regional policy, which includes the regional and local implications of the other Community policies.

Article 3

1. The Consultative Council shall consist of 42 members holding elected office, at regional or local level. They shall be appointed in a personal capacity. Half of them shall be appointed for their special expertise and experience in dealing with problems of regional development and the other half for their expert knowledge and experience of development problems facing municipalities and 'intermediate' administrative areas (départements, Kreise, tumos, etc).

2. The members of the Consultative Council shall be appointed by the Commission for a period of three years on a joint proposal from the Assembly of Regions in Europe, the International Union of Local Authorities and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions. Seats shall be allocated as shown in the Annex. The terms of office of members may be renewed.

3. Alternates shall be appointed for each for the members of the Consultative Council in the same manner as specified in paragraphs 1 and 2. Alternates shall attend meetings only if the members for whom they deputize are prevented from doing so.

4. The list of members and alternates shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities for information.

5. Duties carried out in connection with the Consultative Council shall not be remunerated.

Article 4

1. The Consultative Council shall elect a chairman from among its members for a period of 18 months. The election shall take place by majority vote of the members present. The Council may elect one or more vice-chairmen in the same manner. The terms of office of the chairman and vice-chairmen may be renewed.

2. The chairman of the sections referred to in Article 5 shall automatically be vice-chairmen of the Consultative Council.

3. The chairman and vice-chairmen shall constitute the Consultative Council's officers.

Article 5

1. Two sections shall be set up within the Consultative Council, one comprising members representing the regions and the other comprising members representing the local authorities.

2. The Consultative Council may set up from among its members a committee of 'intermediate' administrative areas.

3. Each section shall elect from among its members a chairman for a period of 18 months. The election shall take place by majority vote of the members present. The chairman's term of office may be renewed.

4. The Commission may refer a matter either to the Consultative Council as a whole or, after having heard the Council's officers, to one of the sections.

5. The Council's officers may request the Commission to consult the Consultative Council or one of its sections on any matter falling within its remit.

6. Any member of a section may, by invitation or at his own request, participate in a meeting of the other section but shall not be entitled to vote.

Article 6

The deliberations of the Consultative Council or its sections shall relate to requests for opinions made by the Commission.

Opinions on which a consensus has been reached and any divergent opinions shall be entered to the records of the proceedings of the Consultative Council or its sections.

Article 7

1. Meetings of the Consultative Council of the sections and, where appropriate, of the committee referred to in Article 5 (2) shall be convened by the Commission; they shall be held at the offices of the latter. Meetings of the Council's officers shall be convened by the chairman in agreement with the Commission.

2. Representatives of the relevant departments in the Commission and the secretaries-general of the organizations referred to in Article 3 (2) or their deputies, shall participate in the meetings held by the Consultative Council, its sections and officers.

3. The Commission's departments shall provide the secretariat for the Consultative Council, its sections and officers.

Article 8

Without prejudice to Article 214 of the Treaty, members of the Consultative Council and the secretaries-general of the organizations referred to in Article 3 (2) or their deputies shall be required not to disclose information acquired through the Consultative Council's work where the Commission informs the Council that the opinion requested relates to a matter of a confidential nature. In such cases, only the members of the Consultative Council or their alternates and the persons referred to in Article 7 (2) shall attend meetings.

Article 9

This Decision shall enter into force on 1 August 1988.

Done at Brussels, 24 June 1988.

For the Commission
Felix SCHIMIDT-HUBER
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Allocation of seats on the Consultative Council of Regional and Local Authorities

Belgium	2 seats
Germany	6 seats
Denmark	2 seats
Greece	2 seats
France	6 seats
Ireland	2 seats
Italy	6 seats
Luxembourg	1 seat
Netherlands	2 seats
Spain	3 seats
Portugal	2 seats
United Kingdom	6 seats
Total	42 seats

67) The following Chapter shall be inserted:

"CHAPTER 4
THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

ARTICLE 198a

A Committee consisting of representatives of regional and local bodies, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee of the Regions", is hereby established with advisory status.

The number of members of the Committee of the Regions shall be as follows:

Belgium	12
Denmark	9
Germany	24
Greece	12
Spain	21
France	24
Ireland	9
Italy	24
Luxembourg	6
Netherlands	12
Portugal	12
United Kingdom	24

The members of the Committee and an equal number of alternate members shall be appointed for four years by the Council acting unanimously on proposals from the respective Member States. Their term of office shall be renewable.

The members of the Committee may not be bound by any mandatory instructions. They shall be completely independent in the performance of their duties, in the general interest of the Community.

ARTICLE 198b

The Committee of the Regions shall elect its chairman and officers from among its members for a term of two years.

It shall adopt its rules of procedure and shall submit them for approval to the Council, acting unanimously.

The Committee shall be convened by its chairman at the request of the Council or of the Commission. It may also meet on its own initiative.

ARTICLE 198c

The Committee of the Regions shall be consulted by the Council or by the Commission where this Treaty so provides and in all other cases in which one of these two institutions considers it appropriate.

The Council or the Commission shall, if it considers it necessary, set the Committee, for the submission of its opinion, a time-limit which may not be less than one month from the date on which the chairman receives notification to this effect. Upon expiry of the time-limit, the absence of an opinion shall not prevent further action.

Where the Economic and Social Committee is consulted pursuant to Article 198, the Committee of the Regions shall be informed by the Council or the Commission of the request for an opinion. Where it considers that specific regional interests are involved, the Committee of the Regions may issue an opinion on the matter.

It may issue an opinion on its own initiative in cases in which it considers such action appropriate.

The opinion of the Committee, together with a record of the proceedings, shall be forwarded to the Council and to the Commission."



MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure
by Mr Jean-Pierre RAFFARIN
on behalf of the LDR Group

on setting up the Committee of the Regions

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the Maastricht Treaty proposals on setting up a Committee of the Regions,
- B. having regard to the resolutions adopted by the European Parliament-Regions of the Community Conference held in Strasbourg in November 1991,
- C. having regard to the proposals of the Bureau of the Assembly of European Regions meeting in Cracow on 8 May 1992,
 1. Proposes that the majority of representatives on the Committee of the Regions should be elected representatives of the regions or members of the regional governments they have elected;
 2. Recommends that the Member States leave it up to the regions to designate those representatives;
 3. Calls for all the members of the Committee of the Regions to meet in plenary sitting on set dates at least six times a year;
 4. Stresses the need for at least one meeting a year to be held in Strasbourg at the same time as Parliament's part-session in order to bring the two institutions closer together;
 5. Proposes that the Committee of the Regions be responsible for setting its own agenda and that it should adopt its opinions by a simple majority of all the members present;
 6. Suggests that the Bureau of the Committee of the Regions consist of at least 30 members elected for a two-year term of office which may be renewed once only;
 7. Envisages the possibility of setting up standing or ad hoc committees within the Committee of the Regions;
 8. Recommends that the Community provide for the departments of the Economic and Social Committee to be merged with those of the Committee of the Regions (particularly as regards interpreting and translation services);

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European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**SESSION DOCUMENTS**

English Edition

9 March 1992

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr Heinz Fritz KÖHLER

on setting up a Committee of the Regions

1300: EN\RE\209215 - C Series: Documents received from other institutions (e.g. Consultations) PE 160.735

- ★ = Consultation procedure requiring a single reading
- ★★I = Cooperation procedure (first reading)

- ★★II = Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament for rejection or amendment
- ★★★ = Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

The European Parliament.

- A. whereas the Maastricht Treaty provides, in the new Article 198a to be inserted in the EEC Treaty, for a Committee of the Regions formed by regional and local bodies;
- B. whereas the Committee is destined to play an important role in the continuing development of Political Union,
- C. whereas, however, the form to be taken by the Committee - as regards its membership, its powers, and its relations with the other institutions - is as yet unclear,
1. Calls on the Commission to submit a specific proposal on the form of the Committee of the Regions provided for in the new Article 198a of the EEC Treaty;
 2. Calls on its appropriate committee to draw up proposals on the form, membership (regional or local bodies), and powers of the Committee, and its relations with Parliament etc.