



**Confederation of Towns
and Municipalities of Europe**

Confédération des Petites Villes de l'Union européenne

Konföderation der Gemeinden und Städte Europas

Confederazione dei Piccoli Comuni e Municipalità dell'Unione europea

Association des Petites Villes de France

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www.smalltowns.eu

Open-letter at the attention of:

Mr. Luca Jahier

Président du Conseil économique et social européen

Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission

Mr. Charles Michel

President of the European Council

Mr. David Sassoli

President of the European Parliament

Mr. Frans Timmermans

Vice-president of the European Commission

Mr. Apostolos Tzitzikostas

President of the European Committee of the Regions

Brussels, April the 28th 2020

The President

Subject: Small towns of Europe's proposals for the post-COVID19 recovery

Dear Madam, dear Sirs, dear Presidents,

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, in 5 different countries. We mainly promote further European integration by means of durable exchanges of information and good practices in order to give voice to the small towns' concerns regarding the main transitions at stake.

At the occasion of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, small towns have appeared to be in the frontline of the crisis. Unfortunately, the sanitary crisis has shed a cold, sometimes cruel light on the shortcomings of our political and institutional model. Most of our small towns and municipalities have had the painful feeling of experimenting bewilderedness and solitude when confronted to the daily difficulties of their citizens: lack of Human resources, financial means, logistical coordination and institutional tools to provide for and deliver the required outcomes in times of crisis. The European Green Deal as well as the Conference on the future of Europe must bring forward some answers.

Like others, small towns are willing to contribute and assume their role in the post-COVID19 European strategies for recovery. Small towns must not only be helped due to the terrible effects of the crisis, but must also be the cornerstone to a new understanding of relationship to local governance for the "after-crisis". We understand the situation is critical by many standards, but we deem to see in this crisis a political opportunity to address the democratic, legitimacy, political and institutional crises the European Union is facing today. The very idea of our common project is nothing less but at stake, and we consider our duty to bring forward proposals to restore trust, confidence and hope in our Union's ability to address the daily challenges of our citizens, all across the Continent.

This is why I am honored to share with you the concrete proposals formulated by the small towns and Municipalities of Europe for an inclusive, ambitious yet realistic recovery our Union desperately needs. We, humbly yet strongly advocate for greater solidarity, actual direct investments in essential sectors, re-industrializing the real economy, territorial justice and solidarity as our way forward.

The Confederation of Towns and Municipalities of Europe remains at your disposal to elaborate more precisely upon these proposals, at your entire convenience. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Roberto Pella



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