



**European Committee
of the Regions**

RESOL-VI/18

121 plenary session, 8-9 February 2017

DRAFT RESOLUTION

60th anniversary of the signature of the Treaty of Rome

Submitted by the ALDE, EPP, PES, EA and ECR political groups

Deadline for tabling amendments: 30 January 2017 no later than 4 p.m., Brussels time

Amendments to the resolution are to be submitted, preferably in English, French or German, through the online tool for tabling amendments (available on the Members' Portal: <https://memportal.cor.europa.eu/>).

The Helpdesk (+32 (0)2 546 96 97, email: helpdesk@cor.europa.eu) is at your disposal to provide you with any assistance you may need. In addition, a user guide is available at <https://memportal.cor.europa.eu/>

Number of signatures required: 6

**Draft resolution of the European Committee of the Regions – 60th anniversary of the signature
of the Treaty of Rome**

THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

We, the members of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR):

1. join in the celebration of the signing of the Treaty of Rome as a key moment for a wide reflection on the future of the European Union (EU), and reiterate that the Union's *raison d'être* is to ensure peace, prosperity, stability and new EU-wide opportunities for all of its citizens;
2. call for a Europe able to rebuild the trust with its citizens and to make better decisions in a common spirit of solidarity while respecting the principle of subsidiarity;
3. recall that Europe's identity is historically rooted in its regions, cities and villages; and that the contribution of local and regional authorities to the European integration process has been constantly increasing in economic, cultural and political terms;
4. believe that, as the EU's assembly of regional and local representatives, the CoR stands for a Union united in its cultural and linguistic diversity in a globalised world; we are fully committed to promoting European democracy and active citizenship, to contributing towards the anchoring of fundamental rights and the protection of minorities and to securing harmonious and sustainable development in line with our objectives of economic, social and territorial cohesion;
5. stress the urgent need to strengthen the democratic link between the European Union and its citizens, by ensuring that the Union provides effective and prompt solutions to the major common challenges that cities, regions and member states cannot tackle by themselves i.e: enhancing the EU's competitiveness; strengthening cohesion; making the EU a safe space where freedom, security and justice are guaranteed for all; addressing the migrants and refugees' crisis; safeguarding the Schengen Area; tackling climate change and disaster resilience; promoting a low carbon economy; strengthening the Union's role as a key global player.
6. emphasise that the "four freedoms" of the EU's Single Market, i.e. free movement of people, services, goods and capital, represent concrete achievements for EU citizens and a fundamental element of the European political project;
7. consider that the celebration of the Treaty of Rome must be the opportunity to promote greater citizens' involvement in shaping the Union's future, with decisions taken at the closest possible level to them; believe that such a process should be participatory and representative, where all citizens enjoy equal opportunities to participate, contribute and commit to the Union. As such, local and regional authorities are ideally placed to drive this process forward and to help make a Citizens' Europe a reality;
8. believe in particular that it is important to obtain an accurate picture of citizens' aspirations and hopes towards the EU on the one hand, and their concerns and frustrations on the other;

9. therefore, highlight that the EU:

- must be able to address the imbalanced impact of globalisation on European lives;
- should be empowered by its Member States to act when major challenges hit society and citizens, with appropriate governance instruments and adequate financial means;
- must communicate on its policies in a decentralised way;
- needs to have clearer and more transparent political responsibilities, accountable to the citizens, which may imply treaty reforms.

10. in view of preparing our input into the upcoming political discussions on the future of our Union, commit to:

- launching an extensive citizens' dialogue to hear views, proposals and concerns directly from those at the grassroots throughout the EU. This process will be accompanied by a political consultation involving European and national associations of regional and local authorities across all Member States with a view to developing innovative and practical solutions to the challenges ahead. This could also feed into a convention process on the EU's future;
- sharing the results of this process with the other EU institutions, and a wide range of European stakeholders;

11. instruct our President to forward this resolution to the European Parliament, European Council, the Council, the Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee, national and regional parliaments and governments.

Brussels,

The President
of the
European Committee of the Regions
