

* with the support of the EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

HIGH LEVEL EVENT RLEG INITIATIVE 21 January 2022, 10:00-12:00 (CET) On-line

RLEG initiative is a network of governments of regions and autonomies with legislative powers, many representing peoples or nations within their Member States.

RLEG initiative gathers 16 Regions with legislative powers –Aaland Island, Azores, Balearic Island, Basque Country, Carinthia, Catalonia, Flanders, Lower Austria, Madeira, Piedmont, Salzburg, Tyrol, Upper Austria, Valencia, Voralberg_ and Corsica as observer.

There is no European Union without regions. It is evident that there needs to be a significant involvement of regions with legislative powers in the CoFoE in order to make sure that all levels of government are represented when shaping the future of our Union.

The COVID pandemic has made the call for transformative policies to respond to the needs of European citizens more relevant than ever. In this sense, regions with legislative powers are essential when deliberating, making decisions and committing themselves as agents of political transformation, in the interests of the citizens to achieve the digital and sustainable transformations.

The event will be organized by the Basque Government and RLEG initiative, with the support of the European Policy Centre(EPC)

Format: on-line , live web-streamed Interpretation provided into English

Programme

10:00 Welcoming: Fabian Zuleeg, Chief Exective and Chief Economist of the EPC 10:05 Lehendakari Iñigo Urkullu: RLEG Initiative, contribution to the Future of Europe

10:20 Alison Hunter (EPC Senior Adviser and Study Manager)

Presentation of the Study carried out by the EPC on: Potential role and addedvalue of enhanced institutional engagement for EU Regions with legislative Powers

10:35 Key Note Speaker: **Herman Van Rompuy**, Former President of the European Council

10:50 Address by **Alain Lamassoure** on the concept of "Associated Region" . Former MEP

11:05 Address by a member of the COFOE Presidency. Vice-President of the European Commission **Maroš Šefcovic** (video-message)

11:20 Q&A

11:30 Statements of **Presidents of Regions with legislative powers** (on-line, video-message)

11:55 Final conclusions: Fabian Zuleeg

12:00 End of the event