



**Tuesday 14 October 2025**

**Interactive session**  
**EU Local Councillors: Working Together, Shaping Europe's Future**

**Time:** 14:30–16.00 (UTC+2)

**Venue:** Atrium 5, CoR

**Language:** English

**No interpretation and no webstreaming available**

**Abstract**

This session aims at providing an interactive space for EU Local Councillors to exchange ideas, experiences, and good practices through peer-to-peer dialogue, including on communication, partnership, and service delivery within the EULC network. Structured around roundtable discussions, the session will address the following themes:

1. Innovation and regional policy: opportunities for peer learning and sharing success stories.
2. A greener Europe: new challenges for climate and energy transition at local level.
3. EU Local Councillors Network: how to ensure a true and efficient partnership in communicating the EU at local level.

The event will begin with an introductory plenary session, followed by thematic group work, and will conclude with a final plenary. The format encourages mutual learning and co-creation of ideas between EU local councillors to strengthen local engagement in the European democratic process.

**Moderators**

- **Tom De Smedt**, Deputy head of Representation office of the European Commission in Belgium

**Speakers**

- **Amélie Cousin**, Knowledge and Communication Head of Unit at EUI (European Urban Initiative)
- **Giustino Piccolo**, Policy officer, secretariat of ENVE commission, European Committee of the Regions
- **Dana Manescu**, Head of Unit for Local Engagement, Europe Direct & Networks, European Commission (DG COMM)

## AGENDA

### I PART – OPENING PLENARY SESSION

- Introduction and presentation by **Tom De Smedt**
- Presentation of the topics of discussion by **Amélie Cousin, Giustino Piccolo and Dana Manescu**

### II PART – THEMATIC INTERACTIVE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

- ***Sustainable urban development in Europe: opportunities for peer learning and sharing success stories***

*In times of rapid urbanisation, Europe is increasingly facing dire urban challenges from the global health crisis and digital transformation to societal inequalities, demographic shifts, climate change, and environmental degradation. Identify the main challenges in your area and share your successes and ideas. Explore how local actions can drive smart investments, promote social inclusion and enhance competitiveness. Connect with your peers, learn from their inspiring solutions, and contribute to Europe's sustainability objectives.*

- **A greener Europe: new challenges for climate and energy transition at local level**

*EU climate and energy policies are driving sustainable growth and energy independence, but local authorities are key to making it happen. Join us to explore the opportunities available to cities and regions, the challenges they face on the ground, and how local action can unlock investments, increase resilience, and boost sustainable innovation across Europe.*

- **EU Local Councillors Network: how to ensure a true and efficient partnership in communicating the EU at local level**

*EU communication is strongest when it begins at the local level as the European Union is built from its communities. Discover how the EU Local Councillors Network can foster genuine and effective partnerships between European institutions and local territories. This session will reflect on the network, explore its opportunities, and discuss how we can work together to shape its future. Showcasing how local action strengthens trust, overcomes challenges in citizen engagement.*

### III PART – CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

- Plenary session (sharing conclusions and reflections)
- Conclusion by **Tom De Smedt**

