



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 3 June 2013**

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**NOTE**

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from:	General Secretariat
to:	Delegations
Subject:	Partial summary record of the 145th meeting of the Bureau of the <b>Committee of the Regions</b> held in Brussels on 29 May 2013

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The meeting was chaired by Mr VALCARCEL SISO (EPP/ES)

**ITEM 5**

***Statement by Mr Othmar KARAS, vice -president of the European Parliament: "2014 European Election"***

Mr KARAS (EPP, AT) stressed that figures on confidence in the EU institutions were worrying, with only one third of the EU citizens trusting them (this figure was 15% worse than in 2007) and launched an appeal to the CoR members, which were the actors of the EU at local level, to be supportive of the EU.

Mr KARAS set out the four phases of the EU communication strategy in view of the upcoming elections, namely:

- September/October 2013 - speech on the state of the Union by Mr BARROSO that would launch the election campaign;
- February 2014 - awareness-raising campaign on five themes (one per month: economy, money, jobs, EU in the world, quality of life)

- March - May "go vote" phase, including an event for 10 000 young people in Strasbourg on 9-11 May;
- Explanation of the outcome of the elections.

A "go to vote" video was also shown. Mr KARAS insisted on the institutional nature of the initiative, which was not meant to support an individual or a political campaign for a specific group.

**ITEM 7**  
***EU 2020 Strategy mid-term assessment***

Mr NICA (ALDE, RO) announced that the CoR would issue a political declaration with its contribution to the mid-term review of the 2020 strategy at the European Summit of Regions and Cities on 6/7 March, in Attica. Mr NICA outlined the timetable of the drafting of the assessment report that would entail a large consultation and exchanges with relevant shareholders.

Mr KOLINSKI, from the PEC Cabinet, made a statement expressing Mr Van ROMPUY's concern on the slow progress of the EU 2020 strategy and announced that PEC had decided to devote the March 2014 EUCO to the mid term review of the strategy. He also underlined the added value that a timely presentation of the report from the CoR would bring to the EUCO debate.

Mr LAMBERTZ (PSE, BE) warned against reducing the EU 2020 strategy to a talk show and considered that the CoR seemed to be the only institution to take the strategy seriously. He was supported by Ms HANNIFFY (EPP, IE) who considered that MSs did not seem interested in financing the strategy and wondered whether it was a real priority for the Commission either. Mr VAN DEN BRANDE (EPP, BE) underlined the high momentum of the mid term review, since it was at that point that the failure of the Lisbon strategy became clear. Ms BRESSO (PSE, IT) stressed that very little progress had been made so far and wondered whether the Commission should not consider postponing the timetable of the strategy.

Mr NICA pointed out that all organisation need a long-term strategy and underlined the key role of the EU 2020 one. Mr KOLINSKI agreed and stressed the fact that PEC had decided to put it on the March 2014 EUCO agenda precisely because of its unsatisfactory progress.