**Committee of the Regions**

The President

Brussels, 23.07.2012\*001255  
PCab/LT/WP/TDS/pm (2012) D-1698

**European Year of Citizens 2013**

Dear member,

2013 will be the European Year of Citizens and will put "EU citizenship" and rights, such as free movement and the right to vote and stand in local and European elections, on the political agenda. European Commission Vice-President Viviane Reding has invited the Committee of the Regions and its members to actively contribute to the European Year through activities at local level. In particular, the Vice-President invites us to initiate "Citizens' Dialogues" in regions and cities, in which she herself, along with other members of the European Commission, will become involved.

**We would very much like to see many of you becoming active partners in the European Year and to organise decentralised debates in your constituency in 2013.** Based on the decision of the CoR Bureau of 17 July 2012, a tool kit and other material will support you in these initiatives. In all Member States, the Commission representations, the European Parliament offices as well as the Europe Direct Information Centres could also become partners of "Citizens' Dialogues".

We suggest that a preliminary programme of "Citizens' Dialogues" organised by CoR Members be presented at the Forum *Regions and cities ready for the European Year 2013: Citizens' Agenda going local* on 28 November 2012, which Vice-President Reding will address. On the same occasion, the results of the CoR study on *The role of local and regional authorities and EU citizenship* will be published, which will contribute to the European Commission's 2nd Citizenship Report, scheduled for spring 2013<sup>1</sup>.

If you would like to contribute to the European Year of Citizens 2013, please inform us **by 15 October 2012** by filling in a form on

<http://selectsurvey-gen.cor.europa.eu/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=721M6m7>.

For more information, you can contact Mr De Smedt, ([tom.desmedt@cor.europa.eu](mailto:tom.desmedt@cor.europa.eu), tel. + 32 (0)2 282 2010), or Ms Gennen, ([chantal.gennen@cor.europa.eu](mailto:chantal.gennen@cor.europa.eu), tel. + 32 (0)2 282 2126). Your suggestions and ideas are welcome, too!

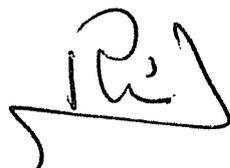
We would also like to use this opportunity to inform you that the European Commission has launched a call for proposals for the new generation of Europe Direct Information Centres during the period 2013-2017:

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/contracts-and-grants/grants/years/2012\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/contracts-and-grants/grants/years/2012_en.htm) (open until 10 September).

Yours faithfully,



Mercedes BRESSO



Ramón Luis VALCÁRCEL SISO

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<sup>1</sup> A public consultation on the report is open until 9 September at [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/citizen/opinion/120509\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/citizen/opinion/120509_en.htm)