



**European Committee
of the Regions**

The President

Brussels, *date of official registration*
PCAB/SoB/MEA/ssch D 731/2022

Ms Ursula von der Leyen
President
European Commission

Subject: Creation of an independent EU ethics body

Dear President,

In September 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on establishing an independent EU ethics body by concluding an interinstitutional agreement with the Commission, with other institutions and advisory bodies able to sign up to the agreement once it has been concluded.

By letter dated 23 March 2022, you sent the Commission's preliminary analysis of this resolution to the European Committee of the Regions (CoR). While the Commission is in favour of an interinstitutional ethics body, it also considers that the significant differences between the EU institutions and advisory bodies and their respective members must be acknowledged. In this context, the Commission asks for the CoR's views on taking part in interinstitutional discussions on a possible future joint agreement to establish an ethics body common to all EU institutions and advisory bodies.

The CoR is fully committed to ensuring the highest ethical standards for its members and already has a Code of Conduct¹. It is also of the view that the principles of institutional balance and institutional autonomy must be respected, along with the specific features of each institution.

The CoR has discussed the matter in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, and I am pleased to inform you that it wishes to take part in the interinstitutional discussions on establishing a new EU ethics body. Any subsequent decision on whether to join a potential interinstitutional agreement would, of course, also have to be taken in line with the CoR's internal procedures.

Yours faithfully,

Apostolos Tzitzikostas

¹ OJ L 20/17 of 24 January 2020. [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020Q0124\(01\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020Q0124(01)&from=EN)