



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

The Secretary-General

Brussels, *date of official registration*  
SGCAB/SoB/RLC/ssch – D/5695 (2025)

Alexander Fanta  
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**Subject: Your request for access to documents 2025/1942 A of 22 June 2025**

Dear Mr Fanta,

Thank you for your email dated 22 June 2025, by which you introduced a request for access to documents, registered by the European Committee of the Regions (hereinafter, 'the CoR') on the day after under the above-mentioned reference number. On 11 July 2025 you were informed by email that the deadline for replying to this request would be extended by another 15 working days due to the need to gather the amount of required information in the institution's departments.

You specifically requested "*documents related to the funding of the external ECON commission conference on 19-20 June 2025 in Klagenfurt, Austria. I wish to request any document related to travel reimbursements and other conference-related costs. I am seeking to understand who paid for the conference.*"

First, I would like to clarify that this event in Klagenfurt (Austria) consisted of the CoR's ECON commission meeting, which was held on 19 June, and the conference '*Sustainable and competitive regions in the EU. A triple bottom line perspective on social, economic and ecological innovations*', held on 19 and 20 June. You will find attached to this letter the programme of both session days.

As regards the costs associated with organising the event in question, please note that the costs of CoR external meetings are shared between the host and the CoR as follows:

- costs covered by the CoR are those related to the interpreters and the travel costs and allowances for members of the CoR and its staff. If needed, the CoR can also cover these costs for speakers and experts<sup>1</sup>.
- costs covered by the host are those related to technical equipment in the meeting room (e.g. interpretation booths or the technical equipment needed for online interpretation), rental costs of the meeting rooms if applicable, transportation between the airport and the meeting venue when this is provided, transportation for study visits, costs for catering, etc.

In practical terms, the above results in the following distribution as regards this ECON meeting:

<sup>1</sup>

This was not the case for the meeting in Klagenfurt

- costs incurred by the host (regional authorities of Carinthia's Region, Austria):
  - technical installation and costs related to the rental of the meeting rooms,
  - cost of renting mobile interpreting booths and its equipment for the ECON commission meeting and conference,
  - catering, official dinner and lunch offered to participants (including interpreters and journalists),
  - eventual transfers of CoR members and other participants to the train station or to the airport, e.g., cost of a shuttle service;
  
- costs covered by the CoR:
  - missions of the CoR staff;
  - interpretation costs;
  - reimbursement of the travel and meeting expenses of the members of the ECON commission participating in the meeting and the conference, in accordance with the applicable CoR rules on reimbursement. CoR members have the right to introduce their claims for reimbursement until the end of September 2026, following the rules laid down in CoR's Bureau Regulation 3914/2024 of 19 November 2024.

For more information, I invite you to consult the [CoR's website](#), where an explanation on the main rules for the reimbursement of travel expenses and the payment of flat-rate travel and meeting allowances applicable to CoR members is published. This information includes the amounts of the allowances to which CoR members are entitled, per category.

Finally, should you wish to receive a breakdown of the expenses incurred by the party that hosted the event, I suggest contacting the regional authorities in Carinthia as the CoR has no knowledge of the total amount or breakdown of these expenses.

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 and Article 5(1) of CoR Decision No 18/2020, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting that the CoR review its position. This confirmatory application should be sent within 15 working days of receipt of this letter to the following address:

*European Committee of the Regions  
Transparency and Document Access Service  
Rue Belliard 101  
B-1040 Brussels*

Or by email to: [xxxxxxxxxx@xx.xxxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxx@xx.xxxxx.xx)

Yours sincerely,

Ian Barber  
p.p. Petr Blížkovský

Encl.: Agenda of the ECON commission meeting and the conference held on 19 and 20 June in Klagenfurt, Austria.