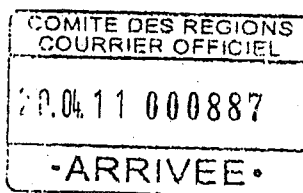


*José Manuel Barroso*  
*President of the European Commission*



Brussels, 18 AVR. 2011  
BARROSO (2011) 266658  
BARROSO (2011) 432994

Dear President, *Uhm Amix,*

Thank you for your letter of 8 March enclosing the declaration adopted by the Bureau meeting of the Committee of the Regions on 4 March, addressed to the 2011 Spring European council.

The involvement of local and regional authorities is of crucial importance to the success of the Europe 2020 strategy. I am pleased that the European Council confirmed its intention to maintain close cooperation with the Committee of the Regions and to fully involve regions in the implementation of policy reforms, so as to ensure ownership. In addition, the Commission is encouraging Member States to set up territorial pacts on a voluntary basis. These pacts will enable close involvement of regional and local authorities in the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy.

I welcome the interest the Committee is taking in the first European semester of economic policy coordination. Regional and local governments can make a substantial contribution to the preparation and implementation of the national reform programmes.

I very much appreciate the activities of the Europe 2020 monitoring platform of the Committee of the Regions. Monitoring the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy at national and local level is essential, these entities have key competences in core areas such as education, research and development, energy and business environment. I would also like to encourage your work in facilitating an exchange of good practices between local and regional policy makers.

I look forward to continuing our close cooperation on the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy.

Yours faithfully,

*José Manuel BARROSO*

Ms Mercedes BRESSO  
President  
Committee of the Regions  
Rue Belliard 101  
1040 BRUSSELS

Cabinet du Président				
Date d'arrivée	20 AVR. 2011			
Suivi		Réponse SG		
		Réponse Cabinet		
		Pour information		
Action:	MJ	SM	GS	FT
Copie:	MJ	SM	GS	FT /