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DImitri Marchenkov Executive Secretary The Chamber of the Regions

24/10/23

Dear Colleagues,

I wish to stand as a Vice President for the Regional Chamber. I have been a member of the Congress since 2010 and I've learned a lot as a result of my experiences.

The main lesson from these years is that acquiring Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law is not a project that can be completed and forgotten, it's a struggle we have to involve ourselves in every single day. This continent has seen the rights we have taken for granted under attack: we have seen backsliding on the Human Rights of women and minority groups throughout Europe and the Regional Authorities are at the forefront of standing up for their citizens whoever they are.

Being the Congress rapporteur for Resilience has proved to me that the regions of Europe have more in common than differences. If we work together, the multiple challenges that we all face will be easier to resolve. The Chamber of the Regions can play an important role in ensuring that that cooperation happens.

When I joined the Congress I thought a war in Europe in the 21st Century was impossible. How wrong I was. Our shared values mean that Russia's criminal war is an attack against all of us. The Ukrainian struggle is our struggle and if I am fortunate enough to be elected I will work to ensure that the Chamber of the Regions continues to commit itself to providing whatever support we can to our Ukrainian brothers and sisters.

With kind regards

Andrew Boff

