

Gothenburg, Sweden
2026-03-24

Dear Members,

In these times, the Congress must be more agile than ever in its work and steadfast in upholding the core values of the Council of Europe. Democracy, human rights, and the rule of law are not only fundamental—they are increasingly under pressure. Human rights must be safeguarded, local and regional democracy must be upheld, and the voices of dissent and opposition must be heard and protected. Europe and its citizens face a wide range of challenges. The situation is deteriorating, with democratic backsliding, growing polarization, armed conflict, and a weakening of public trust.

Regions play a key role in fostering cooperation and delivering solutions for municipalities and citizens. The Chamber of Regions has shown that collaboration with municipalities and civil society strengthens resilience and preparedness. Regions are vital in addressing climate change, advancing sustainable energy and transport, bridging the digital divide, supporting rural development, tackling healthcare challenges, and rebuilding trust. As a regional councillor in the Västra Götaland Region in Sweden, I am committed to these priorities.

Digitalisation and new forms of communication are essential for strengthening resilience and preparedness. We must learn from past crises and adapt accordingly. Through my professional experience in communication and digital development, I have seen how critical effective communication is—not only in managing crises but also in meeting citizens' expectations for reliable services and security.

Public health and healthcare services are central to societal resilience and. This is also a key focus of my work as President of the Board of Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Sweden's largest hospital, where I have served on the board for 11 years.

During my two and a half years as President of the Chamber of Regions, we have addressed many of the issues I have mentioned. Our ongoing cooperation with partners in Ukraine—focusing on the role of regions in development and resilience—has been particularly significant. This work supports both immediate challenges in times of war and the long-term goal of building strong local and regional democracy in a future peaceful Ukraine.

As President of the Chamber of Regions, I have consistently sought common ground and political consensus. I firmly believe these are essential in addressing the challenges we face today.

My political background lies within the group of Socialists, Social Democrats, Greens, and Progressive Democrats. I am experienced, motivated, and fully committed to serving as President of the Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. Within my capacity, I will actively support and advance the objectives of both the Chamber of Regions and the Congress.

Yours sincerely,



Cecilia Dalman Eek

Regional Councillor Region Västra Götaland in Sweden
President, Sahlgrenska University hospital