Leeuwarden, 9 April 2026

Dear Members of the EPP Group,

Dear Members of the Congress,

I hereby express my interest in the position of Vice-President of the Regional Chamber of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

As Deputy (Gedeputeerde) of the Province of Fryslân in the Netherlands, I am responsible for finance, governance, heritage, and the Frisian language. In this role, I work at the intersection of regional policy, public administration, and societal challenges, with a strong focus on sustainable development, cultural identity, and effective governance.

My professional background combines hands-on experience in the agricultural sector with leadership roles in public administration and representation. As former chair and advocate for young farmers in the Netherlands, I have actively engaged with policymakers and stakeholders at national level, advocating for future-proof policies and strong rural regions.

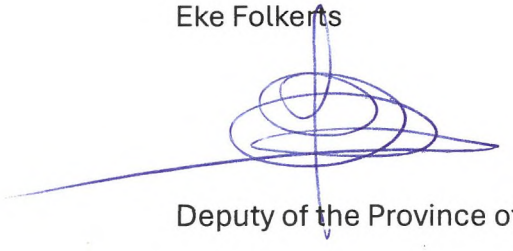
I am strongly committed to the core values of the EPP: subsidiarity, strong regions, and a united Europe that respects its diversity. I believe regions play a crucial role in addressing Europe's major challenges, from economic resilience to cultural preservation.

As Vice-President, I would contribute actively to strengthening the position of regions within Europe, fostering cooperation, and ensuring that the voice of regional authorities is clearly represented within the EPP Group and the Congress.

I would be honoured to serve in this role and contribute to the further development of our shared European agenda.

Yours sincerely,

Eke Folkerts



Deputy of the Province of Fryslân