

Letter of Application for the Position of Chair of the Committee on Governance, Civic Engagement and the Environment

Dear members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my candidacy for the position of Chair of the Committee on Governance, Civic Engagement and the Environment of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. As a member of the European People's Party (EPP) and on the proposal of the EPP team, I am putting forward my candidacy for this role.

As Mayor of Marktgemeinde Kaltenleutgeben, Austria, and member of the Austrian Federal Council, where I chair the EU Committee, I bring experience in both local governance and European parliamentary work. My daily responsibilities span democratic decision-making at the municipal level, cross-border cooperation, and the legislative interface between national and European institutions — all of which align closely with the core mandate of this Committee.

I believe that good governance is built on transparency, civic participation, and the willingness to listen. These are values I apply in my own community and that I am committed to advancing at the European level. The Congress plays a vital role in strengthening local and regional democracy across its member states, and I would consider it a privilege to contribute to that mission in a leadership capacity.

I am fluent in English and German and I do speak some French, and I am committed to conducting the work of the Committee in an inclusive, constructive and results-oriented manner.

I would be honoured to have the trust of my fellow Committee members and look forward to the opportunity to serve in this role.

Yours sincerely,



Bernadette Geierregger, BA MSc

Mayor, Marktgemeinde Kaltenleutgeben Member of the Austrian Federal Council

Kaltenleutgeben, 27 March 2026