

50th session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

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**Motivational letter for the position
of the Vice-President of the Chamber of Local Authorities of the Congress**

My name is Oksana Derkach. It is a great honor for me to be a member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

I am a municipal councilor of the Poltava City Council in Ukraine and an active citizen working on projects in the field of human rights. My experience in local government allows me to deeply understand the importance of dialogue between people and authorities. I strongly believe that active communities and interaction with residents are key to addressing most local challenges.

My work in the Congress coincided with the most difficult period for my country - the full-scale war. This has significantly strengthened my understanding of the role of local authorities in times of crisis: when communities must remain united, when decisions must be made quickly, responsibly, and collectively.

To strengthen local democracy, I initiated and implemented a number of projects that unite people and involve them in decision-making. In particular, one of my key projects was the participatory school budget, a tool that allows young people to take a real part in the distribution of funds and the formation of the space around them. I am convinced that such practices help foster responsible citizens and future leaders.

Another important area of my work is the development of partnerships between Ukrainian and European cities. In times of war, these partnerships are not only a symbol of solidarity but also a practical mechanism for support, exchange of experience, and recovery.

As a municipal councilor, I work daily to strengthen local and regional democracy, develop political dialogue and unite society. I sincerely believe that unity around shared democratic values is the foundation for development and progress.

Being an active member of the Congress is extremely important to me. It provides a unique platform for exchanging experiences, developing joint solutions, and responding to the challenges facing not only individual countries but Europe as a whole.

That is why it is important not only to talk about national challenges, but also to find answers to common issues together - security, democracy, citizen participation and the resilience of our communities.

Within the Congress of the Council of Europe, I am committed to strengthening citizen participation in decision-making and making local democracy truly open and inclusive. I am particularly focused on creating opportunities for young people - ensuring that they are not only heard but become active contributors to decision-making processes. I also see great value in developing partnerships between communities and countries and consider cultural diplomacy an important tool for building trust, mutual understanding, and unity across Europe.

I would be grateful for the opportunity and support in my desire to be Vice-President of the Chamber of Local Authorities of the Congress.

I believe that you understand my motivation. And I am convinced that together we will be able to protect democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in our countries.

With great appreciation,



Oksana DERKACH