Councillor Tony Buchanan

COSLA Spokesperson

October 26 2026

Mikael Poutiers

Secretary of the Committee of the Governance Committee

By email: mikael.poutiers@coe.int

Our Ref:

Dear Mikael,

I write to present my candidacy for fifth Vice Chair of the Governance Committee at the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

I am the full representative from Scottish Local Government, nominated to Congress by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA). I have been working with the Committee for several years, serving as a substitute member in the last two mandates. Over that time, I have been involved in the preparation and adoption of Committee reports: on human rights based smart cities and regions (2022) and most recently on coastal erosion (2026).

I have been an elected member in my local authority East Renfrewshire Council since 2007, and am a former Council Leader. In that capacity, I have chaired many meetings over a lengthy period of time, holding several committee memberships. I was also in the past, an EU Committee of Regions member where I chaired the NAT commission for natural resources.

As Vice Chair of the Governance Committee, I would aim to be fair, disciplined and open and be very willing to take on the role of chairing meetings if so called upon.

Please accept this letter, dated and signed as confirmation of my candidacy.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Tony Buchanan

COSLA, Verity House, 19 Haymarket Yards, Edinburgh EH12 5BH
Telephone 0131 474 9200 Fax 0131 474 9292

East Renfrewshire Council

COSLA Spokesperson for Children and Youth

Curriculum Vitale

Councillor Tony Buchanan



East Renfrewshire Council Headquarters,

Eastwood Park, Rouken Glen Road, Giffnock, Scotland G46 6UG

tony.buchanan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

+44 7976360398

Councillor Tony Buchanan is a member of East Renfrewshire Council, first elected in 2007 to represent Neilston and Newton Mearns North. He was part of the administration since election in 2007 and was Leader of East Renfrewshire Council for the term 2017 – 2022. He has served as Deputy Leader and Convener for infrastructure and sustainable growth in the local authority, overseeing significant improvement in infrastructure, housing, and employability across the area. He has been a member of the Education Committee and Integrated Joint Board for health and social care, both areas in which the local authority is sector leading. Cllr Buchanan is currently Spokesperson for Children and Young People at the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).

Outside his role as a Councillor, Cllr Tony Buchanan is a retired Civil Servant having worked in the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and its predecessors for 40, years dealing with the benefits system and National Insurance number allocation. He lives locally, is a father, grandfather and passionate European.

East Renfrewshire Council (2007 – present)

- Elected in 2007 to represent Neilston and Newton Mearns North at East Renfrewshire Council, make decisions on public service delivery, set council budgets, and advocate for the residents of the local area. As Leader, acted as the political lead for the local

authority and managed the administration, setting strategic priorities and providing political direction.

Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (2007 – present)

- Member of COSLA Convention since 2007 and COSLA Leaders Group since 2017. Appointed as COSLA's Spokesperson for Children and Young People in June 2022. Represents the local authority in COSLA political meetings and participates in collective decision-making at the national association for Local Government in Scotland. As COSLA Spokesperson, promotes key interests of Scottish Local Government and communicates with governments on policy, funding and legislation.

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (2016 – present)

- Represent Scottish Local Government at Congress as a member of the UK delegation, Local Chamber and Governance Committee. Debate, vote and adopt reports in committee and at plenary, contributing to monitoring of local democracy and the European Charter of Local Self-Government. Co-rapporteur on coastal erosion (2026) and human rights based smart cities and regions (2022).

EU Committee of Regions (2013 – 2020)

- One of four Scottish Local Government members of the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR), serving as Vice President of the EA (European Alliance) political group and as 1st Vice President of the Committee of the Regions Natural Resources (NAT) Commission. Responsible for representing Scottish Local Government at European level and debating, amending and adopting opinions on EU legislation with local and regional impacts. As 1st Vice President of the NAT Commission, chaired numerous political meetings and represented the EU CoR on environmental policy.