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Kopie aan : VNG Team Europa

Team : Burgemeester

Behandeld door : Nicky Eppich

Verzenddatum : 24-02-2025

Dear Members,

I understood that there was some confusion during the previous session in October. I am writing to formally express my interest in the position of Vice-President of the Chamber of Local Authorities in the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. Unfortunately, I could not attend the session on which this position was discussed because I had to receive the King of the Netherlands in my municipality

As the Mayor of Winterswijk, a municipality with a strong international orientation and a unique position along the German border, I have dedicated my career to fostering cross-border cooperation and regional development. I have the privilege of serving as the delegation leader for the Dutch delegation, which has deepened my commitment to collaboration among local authorities.

In my role as president of the oldest EUREGIO in Europe and as treasurer of the Association of European Border Regions, I have gained valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing local communities in border regions. These experiences have reinforced my belief that local authorities are crucial in shaping policies that resonate with the needs of our citizens.

The Chamber of Local Authorities plays an indispensable role within the Council of Europe, serving as a platform for local voices and ensuring that our perspectives are included in broader European discussions. I am passionate about advocating for the interests of local governments and believe that together we can create a more inclusive and resilient Europe.

As Vice-President, I would strive to enhance the Chamber's influence in promoting democratic governance, sustainable development, and cross-border collaboration. I am committed to facilitating dialogue among regions and sharing best practices that empower local authorities to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

I would be honored to serve in this role and contribute to the vital work of the Chamber of Local Authorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joris Bengevoord', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Joris Bengevoord
Mayor of Winterswijk