The Committee of the Regions in 2011/2012

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SUMMARY

This article offers an assessment of the activities of the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR) from February 2011 to January 2012. Whilst the drafting of Opinions and Resolutions on key EU dossiers continued to provide the mainstay of the CoR’s work programme over this period, new policy initiatives form an increasingly large element of activity. Its policy “forums” are increasing in visibility and are allowing the CoR to position itself as a leading player in thematic networks. New initiatives have also been launched which allow the CoR to act as facilitator of dialogue between local and regional authorities in the EU and in the neighbourhood area. Such actions fall well outside of the formal role for the CoR foreseen by the EU Treaties. In addition, the CoR continues to act as the champion of subsidiarity and proportionality in the EU, most visibly through the operation of its subsidiarity monitoring network. At a political level, the CoR has continued to strive for enhanced impact through its operation and better relations with the EU institutions.