<u>Launch of the Network of Former</u> <u>Members of the European Committee of the Regions</u>

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□□□□The President of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), Mr Apostolos Tzitzikostas, officially launched the Network of Former Members of the European Committee of the Regions, a new CoR initiative, at the 144th CoR Plenary in the presence of Portuguese Prime Minister António Costa, a former CoR member himself.

The <u>Network</u>, counting now more than 170 members, brings together former members and alternates of the CoR and gives them the possibility to continue following the CoR's political work and activities. It will encourage and provide communication support for their initiatives organised in their regions and cities.

"The Network will help us to increase our political outreach, including within the national level where many Members play important political roles. I believe that this will also nourish our discussions about the functioning and the future of the Union. Together, I hope that we will bring Europe closer to people", said Mr Tzitzikostas in his speech.

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