



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS
CONSEIL DES COMMUNES ET RÉGIONS D'EUROPE

Quotes of Michael Häupl, Council of European Municipalities and Regions President, Mayor and Governor of Vienna, on 14 April 2010, at the occasion of his visit with EU Regional Policy Commissioner, Johannes Hahn.

Europe 2020 Strategy

"The Europe 2020 Strategy was developed too quickly, in too short of a time frame and I fear that it might soon be forgotten."

"The Commission text focuses too much on growth, quantity, productivity and profit, which should be replaced with development and quality. The new strategy should focus on the social reality and specific territorial characteristics within the EU. We should advocate for ambitious changes of our styles of living and producing, not just "greening" the existing modes and ways."

"This strategy will determine how we want our societies to develop within the EU in the decade ahead. Not giving local and regional authorities a key role to play will be the best way to end up with a strategy that is disconnected from those to whom it is addressed: 500 million Europeans living in our municipalities and regions."

"Better-living"

"We won't get over the economic and social crisis with slogans. We need to be more ambitious in terms of policies and more in tune to the needs of Europeans"

"Europe needs a strategy that clearly indicates the direction for sustainable development, creative industry, innovation and research".

"While CEMR fully supports the internal market and the competition policy, it estimates that these should be adequately balanced with a social dimension"

Economic Crisis

"Citizens believe that concrete solutions to the crisis are more likely to come from the local level than from national or international actors. Nonetheless, local and regional authorities may face drastic budget cuts and increases in the demand for more social services."

"Municipalities and regions are the first to feel the effects of the crisis, in terms of poverty and unemployment. Exit and recovery strategies therefore need to be designed with the assistance of local and regional governments to be appropriately adapted in a local context."

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