President, European Commission
Ursula von der Leyen
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Eslöv, Sweden 22 December 2021

Dear President von der Leyen,

We are writing to you because of our contribution to the *Conference on the Future of Europe*, which is to conclude in 2022. We are supporting the proposal "*Europe of the Regions - a necessity*" (attached). The proposal is already forwarded to the Conference.

The Principle of Subsidiarity must apply, not only as today between the EU and the Member State, but also between the state and the regional and local political levels. This ambition is expressed in the preamble to the Treaty on European Union - political decisions *"shall be taken as closely as possible to the citizens in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity"*. Our proposal *"Regions of Europe - a necessity"* suggests how this can be implemented, (see attached proposal).

The Commission has a unique opportunity to concretely begin the process of deepening democracy by bringing decisions closer to its citizens in accordance with the Principle of Subsidiarity. The Swedish government appointed a parliamentary inquiry - the *Committee of Responsibilities* (Ansvarskommittén), which presented its report to the government in 2007.

The conclusions of the Committee report are, in our opinion, well adapted to the core values and ambitions of the European Union. The report also corresponds with the content of our proposal "*Europe of the Regions - a necessity*" (see 42 and 43 in the attached document).

Through the conclusions in the inquiry report of the *Committee on Responsibility*, the European Commission has been given a unique opportunity to, in collaboration with the Swedish government, initiate and develop a model on how relevant parts of political decisions could be placed in the best and most efficient political levels, which includes regional and local political assemblies.

We believe that Sweden is well suited to decentralise political and public administration in accordance with the *Principle of Subsidiarity* (see nr 44 in the attached report). If well implemented, Sweden could thus serve as a model and inspiration for changes necessary to move forward towards a more profound *EU of the People*, which we understand is part of the purpose of the ongoing Conference.

Our contribution to how it can be implemented can be found in our contribution to the Conference *on the Future of Europe*, attached to this letter. We hope that you find time to study our proposal and we are happy to commence a dialogue with the European Commission on these issues.

Report *Ansvarskommittén* (in Swedish) here.

Sincerely, Göran Hansson

Spokesperson: Göran Hansson, Reslöv 2304, S-241 72, Marieholm, Sweden, gha21@ghansson.se +46 (0) 708 95 48 10. /// Secretary: Anders Tilly, Elisetorpsvägen 7 B, S-232 33 ARLÖV, Sweden, anders.tilly@gmail.com +46 (0) 730-911114