

Le Président

Mr. Giuseppe Castiglione
President
Unione delle Province d'Italia - UPI
Piazza Cardelli 4
00186 Rome
Italy

Paris, le

Mister President, dear Colleague,

We were informed by the European press about the draft constitutional Law with which the Italian Government decided to abolish the Italian Provinces.

As French Départements face a similar situation we want to express our deepest support and solidarity to the Italian Provinces, to all their political representatives and to the Unione delle Province d'Italia (UPI). The Italian Provinces, like all our colleagues and members of CEPLI, represent the real local democracy

Local authorities provide the biggest part of public investment and are helpful services close to the European people.

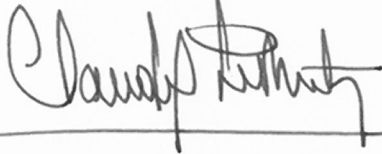
Their knowledge based on their proximity to the citizens and their critical mass enable them to act in the most appropriate and quickest way. Investing in different powers throughout Europe, they are playing a key role in providing everyday answers to the needs of the population and the territories they represent. The Intermediate Local Level representation is adding value to competitiveness and enhances the potential of Europe.

The European Union, Member States and Local Authorities are currently in a critical moment of their history. We think and would like to express that it is not the right moment to weaken decentralization, on the contrary, to strengthen all European Local Authorities and work together for a strong Europe with a high level of democracy.

Your Country, our Country and other Member states of the European Union have signed the European Charter of Local Self-Government. Now is the time for them to apply and to respect this charter and the principles of subsidiarity and multilevel governance it confirms.

We hope that the parliamentary debates that will take place soon in your country will take into account these matter-of-fact considerations and maintain the intermediate level of local administration. We'll discuss about this during the next Open Days in Brussels.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claudy Lebreton', written over a horizontal line.

Claudy LEBRETON