

Voice of the People

Manuscript
The committee of the regions
With answers from politicians in Brussels
TVSYD, Denmark

Crew:

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Translation
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0'02

Question, Henning Dalmer, Kolding, Denmark:

I think myself I am very interested in politics. But this Committee of the Regions I really don't know. Perhaps I have heard the word before, but I don't know what kind of influence it has. Is it about lobbyism? I really don't know. Perhaps this is the problem in a nutshell: if the Committee is important to work of the Union, and we don't know what's about, then...

0'23

Answer, Tove Larsen, Mayor Røde Kro, Denmark, Member of the Committee of the Regions:

Of course we also use lobbyism down here. It is very important that we meet on the floors and are talking about everything. This is also important, when you as Danes try to put some suggestions into effect, it's important you doesn't stand-alone. We then try to collect people with the same opinion as you have in a way to put the ideas into effect. It's not clear lobbyism, but you do use it

0'50

SIGN:

The Committee of the regions was started in 1994 and is functioning as an advisory body

0'57

Question, Jørgen Hæstrup, Kolding, Denmark:

Do they have any influence at all? I don't think so. I think the only place in power is the Commission and nowhere else

1'12

Answer, Tove Larsen, Mayor Røde Kro, Denmark. Member of the Committee of the Regions:

As the Committee is functioning as an advisory body, we don't have the decisions to make. This is only the assignment of the Commission and the Parliament. But of course it's very important to hear our opinion before making new rules. It's in our areas – the communities and counties – the decisions are being implemented. The local politicians are the ones working with the decisions. We have to make sure, the decisions are followed

1'42

SIGN:

The members of the Committee of the Regions are elected municipal and regional politicians

1'47

Question, Signe Spørring, Kolding, Denmark:

What is it? What is the Committee of the Regions? Is it in Denmark or in Scandinavia?

1'57

Answer, Tove Larsen, Mayor Røde Kro, Denmark, Member of the Committee of the Regions:

It's an organisation with members from all member states with representatives from all communities, counties or Länder, states whatever it's called - it's very various how Europe has been built. It could be someone chosen from a small community in France, or somebody from a Land in Germany. We have very various members

2'25

SIGN:

After the enlargement, where 10 new states became members of the Union, the Committee of the Regions consists of 344 members

2'32

Question, Ida Lyng, Kolding, Denmark:

What is it? What kind of assignments do they have? I really don't know. But if some normal Danes have any kind of influence here, I would like to know more about it. How are you going to make the Committee more visible?

2'49

Answer, Tove Larsen, Mayor, Røde Kro Denmark. Member of the Committee of the Regions:

We have the same problem as rest of the European Union. We are making so many publications; we are writing in the public newsletter in Denmark "Danish communities", we are distributing press information. But it seems as it's not the way to do things - you're not getting in contact with people like that. It is of course very sad, if it's only the bad things being published. We are telling different board of communities of our work, we are really trying to do something. But obviously we are not good enough, not that many are interested in our work