

Motion number	[To be filled in by the Secretariat]
Name of the person introducing the Motion to the GA	
Member party	
Title (of the Motion)	Strengthening Territorial Governance and Democratic Access to EU Cohesion Resources
<p>The General Assembly of the European Free Alliance (EFA)</p> <p>A. Considering that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the European Union’s cohesion policy aims to reduce disparities between territories and promote balanced development; cohesion funds represent a key instrument for economic, social and territorial integration across the Union; recent debates on the future Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF 2028–2034) indicate a growing tendency towards centralisation of EU funds within national frameworks; such centralisation risks undermining the principle of multi-level governance and reducing the effective role of regional and local authorities; Europe’s richness lies in the diversity of its peoples, cultures and territories, which constitute its real social, cultural and economic foundation; <p>B. Acknowledging that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> territorial participation in EU funding processes is often formally open but practically selective, favouring actors with stronger administrative capacity and established networks; this situation may lead to unequal access to resources and reinforce existing territorial imbalances; lack of transparency in early decision-making stages reduces democratic participation and public trust; insufficient cooperation between territories limits the potential for shared development and innovation; <p>C. Recognising that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthening the role of territories requires not only political recognition but also operational mechanisms ensuring openness, balance and accountability; cooperation between territories can foster knowledge exchange, strengthen European identity and improve the effectiveness of public policies; sustainable development, including energy transition, requires coordinated action at territorial level across borders; <p>D. The General Assembly therefore calls for</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding multi-level governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring that regional and local authorities play a meaningful role in the design, implementation and monitoring of EU-funded programmes; preventing excessive concentration of decision-making power at national level; Enhancing transparency and accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> guaranteeing transparency in all stages of funding processes, particularly in the early phases of programme design; ensuring clear and publicly accessible criteria for funding allocation; Promoting balanced territorial participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> introducing mechanisms to prevent concentration of resources in a limited number of territories; encouraging the inclusion of territories with different levels of administrative capacity; Strengthening cooperation between territories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting structured forms of cooperation between territories across Member States; encouraging the development of territorial partnerships and networks as a basis for EU-funded projects; introducing incentives for cooperative projects involving multiple territories; Improving governance of cohesion resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing operational frameworks that combine simplified access mechanisms with qualitative evaluation; enhancing monitoring systems based on measurable outcomes rather than solely on expenditure; Integrating energy transition within cohesion policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting territorial strategies for sustainable energy production, distribution and consumption; promoting innovation, efficiency and long-term resilience in energy systems; <p>E. Further invites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EFA members to contribute to the development of more detailed operational proposals on territorial governance; European institutions to consider these principles in the preparation of future EU funding frameworks; 	

Please see Article 7 of EFA's [Rules of Internal Order](#) for the rules regarding motions.