GUNN MARIT HELGESEN

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Gunn Marit Helgesen (born 30 October 1958) served as President of the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) from 2012 to 2020. From 2020 to 2021 she held the position as KS' First Deputy President and spokesperson on international affairs. Members elected her again president of KS in 2021.

Ms. Helgesen is a chemical engineer and has worked as Senior Engineer in Statoil and Norsk Hydro. She chaired Telemark County Council from 2003 to 2011, after previously serving two periods as Vice Chair of the council. Today she is member of Vestfold og Telemark County Council and holds the position as the Conservative Party's group leader. Earlier Ms. Helgesen was a local councilor in her hometown Porsgrunn and met as substitute member of Parliament from Telemark constituency.

Gunn Marit Helgesen is since 2012 a delegate to the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities heading the Norwegian delegation. She has served as Vice-President of the Congress. From 2018 to 2021 she held the position of President of the Chamber of Regions. She is currently Congress' rapporteur on localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Moreover, she has been rapporteur in monitoring of implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in Moldova, Ukraine, Cyprus, and Armenia and observed local and regional elections in Albania, Denmark, the Netherlands, Armenia, and Morocco.

Ms. Helgesen was elected President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) in December 2022 after having served as Vice-President of since 2013, and Co-President from 2016. She represents Norway in UCLG's World Council and its Executive Bureau.

Ms. Helgesen is since 2000 First Vice-President of the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR) and was President of the North Sea Commission 2004–2012