



European Committee  
of the Regions



# Alliance on the Future of Cohesion Policy in the EU

CoR event on The Future of Cohesion policy, 18 May 2017

## Programme

**in association with the Assembly of European Regions (AER), the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), and EURO CITIES**

Economic, social and territorial cohesion are key objectives of the European Union giving every EU region a fair chance to actively participate and prosper in the European Union. In recent decades Cohesion policy has contributed significantly to the completion of the Single Market, the establishment of the European Monetary Union, and in supporting EU enlargement. The European Structural and Investment Funds are the most visible EU instruments at local and regional level, demonstrating the benefits of the European Union to its citizens. The future of Cohesion policy is, therefore, closely linked to the debate on the future of the European Union, particularly since the European Commission itself has recently expressed doubts about the added value and the future role of Cohesion policy at EU level.

Further to the adoption of the European Committee of the Regions' own-initiative opinion on the "Future of Cohesion Policy beyond 2020" (rapporteur: Michael Schneider (DE/EPP)) at the CoR Plenary Session of 11-12 May 2017, the event will bring together leading representatives from the European institutions, Member States, cities and regions as well as territorial associations under the motto "Alliance for the future of Cohesion policy". The event will serve to send a strong message to the upcoming Cohesion Forum calling for securing a strong and effective Cohesion policy for all regions beyond 2020. It will also promote a real debate with stakeholders, including those who may not be designated as "friends of Cohesion policy"; and will feed the territorial concerns into the debate on the future of Europe, including the need for a territorial vision, by responding to criticism and detrimental proposals, such as "scenario 4" outlined in the recent White Paper on the Future of Europe.

**Venue:** European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 101, B-1040 Brussels, room JDE 52

**Interpretation:** 5/5 EN/FR/DE/IT/CS

### 9.00 – 9.30 **Opening**

Opening speech by CoR President Markku Markkula

Keynote speech "The views of the CoR on the future of Cohesion policy beyond 2020"

- **Michael Schneider**, CoR rapporteur on the future of Cohesion policy beyond 2020

### 9.30 – 10.45 **Round Table discussion on the objective of economic, social and territorial cohesion in the wider debate on the future of Europe**

Speakers:

- **Raffaele Cattaneo**, COTER Chair
- **Erik von Breska**, Director for Policy in DG REGIO
- **Jasper Wesseling**, Deputy Director General for Enterprise and Innovation, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs
- **Erik Bergkvist**, CPMR, President of the Regional Executive Committee, Region Västerbotten
- **Carola Gunnarsson**, Mayor of Sala, CEMR spokesperson on cohesion policy
- **Mikel Irujo Amezaga**, Head of Navarra Delegation in Brussels and CoR rapporteur on Smart Specialisation Strategies

### 10.45 – 11.00 **Coffee break**

### 11.00 – 12.15 **Round Table discussion on the future of Cohesion policy**

Speakers:

- **Peter Wostner**, Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, Slovenia
- **Daniël Termont**, Mayor of the city of Ghent and President of EURO CITIES
- **Nadia Calviño**, Director-General for Budget, European Commission
- **Werner Schmidt**, Director, European Investment Bank
- **Pavel Branda**, Deputy mayor of Rádlo municipality, Vice-President of AEER
- **Michiel Rijsberman**, Regional Minister of Flevoland, AER Rapporteur on the future of Cohesion policy

### 12.15 – 12.30 **Closing statement by Petr Osvald, COTER 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair**



## European Committee of the Regions

Created in 1994 following the signing of the Maastricht Treaty, the European Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of 350 regional and local representatives from all 28 Member States, representing over 507 million Europeans. Its mission is to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the EU's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies. The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council are obliged to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union if its rights are infringed or it believes that EU law infringes the subsidiarity principle or fails to respect regional or local powers.

Edited by the Directorate for Communication of the European Committee of the Regions

May 2017

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