



## **Joint Statement on the future of Cohesion Policy**

The Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE) expresses its profound concern regarding the scenarios of the deep cuts to the Cohesion Policy funding, as presented recently by the European Commission in the preparatory context of the European Union (EU) Budget for the post 2020, which will be officially presented next two of May.

In this context, CALRE reminds the key contribution of this policy to the development of all the EU Regions and the reduction in disparities among the different European territories and stresses that, throughout the several periods of programming, Cohesion Policy has been constantly deepened, which enabled to respond to the institutional challenges and, even, to European crises.

Considering this, CALRE absolutely rejects any scenario of the pluriannual legislative framework which leads to the devaluation of Cohesion Policy in the post 2020. In particular, CALRE expresses its objection towards any proposals to reduce cohesion funding and to decrease its relative weight on the total budget of the Union. Likewise, the scenario of restriction of the applicability of Cohesion Policy only to the less developed regions deserves our strong rejection.

Thus, CALRE appeals to the European institutions and Member States to assure, in the forthcoming negotiations, the existence of a strong Cohesion Policy, present in all the European regions and with a suitable funding, in order to improve the capability for investment of the regional authorities and to reduce



territorial disparities, encouraging cooperation and expressing European solidarity to increase and to continue an economic growth.

Brussels, 15 of March 2018

**Presidency of the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies  
(CALRE)**