



**European Committee  
of the Regions**



**Województwo Mazowieckie**

## **DRAFT PROGRAMME**

### **COTER commission conference on The future of Cohesion policy beyond 2020**

**Warsaw (Poland), 3 March 2017**

Cohesion policy is the key European instrument to ensure the promotion of economic, social and territorial cohesion within the European Union and is one of the most visible EU policies at local and regional level, demonstrating the benefits of Europe to its citizens. Cities and regions are the primary beneficiaries of EU cohesion policy. The future of Cohesion policy beyond 2020 is therefore one of the key issues for European cities and regions. The European Committee of the Regions is about to position itself on this crucial matter with the elaboration of its own-initiative opinion on the future of Cohesion policy beyond 2020, in order to channel the concerns of European cities and regions into the interinstitutional debate on the future Cohesion policy, which is currently gaining momentum. It is therefore the right time to enter into a wider discussion on how the future Cohesion policy should be shaped from the perspective of Europe's cities and regions.

8.30 a.m.	Registration of participants
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9.00 a.m.	Opening of the Conference
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*Statements by:*

- *Raffaele Cattaneo, President of the Lombardia Regional Council, Chair of the CoR COTER Commission*
- *Adam Struzik, President of Mazovia Region*

9:15 a.m.	Keynote speech by Corina Crețu, European Commissioner for Regional Policy
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9:30 a.m.	Session 1: Back to the roots or a new beginning – how to translate the Treaty objective of economic, social and territorial cohesion into an effective response to the challenges of the future?
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*Cohesion policy, which is based on the Treaty objective of strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion in order to promote an overall harmonious development of the European Union, is an essential pillar of the Single Market and the European integration process as a whole. By addressing existing imbalances and focusing on long-term regional development, it aims to ensure a fair chance to reap the benefits of the European integration for everyone everywhere in the EU. However, in recent years the scope of Cohesion Policy has increasingly shifted towards achieving other EU objectives, whilst at the same time the economic and financial crisis has led to increased regional disparities, both between European regions, and between regions within Member States. The first session of the conference will therefore facilitate a political discussion on which overall focus and narrative the future Cohesion policy should have, in order to successfully meet the upcoming challenges for our cities and regions.*

**Moderator:**

- *John Bachtler, Professor of European Policy Studies and Director of the European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde (tbc)*

**Speakers:**

- *Paweł Chorąży, Under-Secretary of State in the Polish Ministry of Development (tbc)*
- *N.N., representative of the Visegrad Group (V4+4) (tbc)*
- *Constanze Krehl, Member of the European Parliament (tbc)*
- *Michael Schneider, CoR rapporteur on the Future of Cohesion Policy beyond 2020*

11 a.m	Coffee break
11:30 a.m	Session 2: Dialogue with Science – New challenges for regions and cities and innovative approaches to tackle them

*Regions and cities are facing an unprecedented number of challenges, such as the economic and financial crisis, global competition, digital transformation and the rise of disruptive technologies, demographic changes, and migration, etc. All of these challenges have a strong territorial dimension with an uneven distribution of effects in different regions and cities across Europe, and will have a profound impact on economic, social and territorial cohesion. The second session will focus on these challenges and related consequences for our cities and regions, and will enable a discussion on innovative approaches to tackle them and look at the opportunities that Cohesion policy as a place-based policy can provide in this regard.*

**Moderator:**

- *Jacek Szlachta, Professor, Warsaw School of Economics (tbc)*

**Speakers:**

- *Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, Professor of economic geography, London School of Economics (tbc)*
- *John Bachtler, Professor of European Policy Studies and Director of the European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde (tbc)*
- *Kai Böhme — Director of Spatial Foresight GmbH (tbc)*
- *Marjorie Jouen, Jacques Delors Institute (tbc)*

1 p.m.	Lunch
2.30 p.m.	Session 3: Cohesion at work – Successful examples in Cohesion policy implementation

*Cohesion policy has already proven that it can address multiple challenges at regional and local level and that it can make a major contribution to growth, employment and social inclusion, a fact that has been recently confirmed by the results of the ex-post evaluation for the years 2007-2013. The third session will provide an opportunity for showcasing the importance and added value of Cohesion policy to the development of cities and regions and for identifying key factors that have contributed to the successful implementation of Cohesion policy projects. It will also make a case for the need to better communicate the successes of Cohesion policy.*

Moderator:

- *Maciej Zakrocki, journalist (tbc)*

Speakers:

- *Normunds Popen, Deputy Director-General for Implementation, DG REGIO (tbc)*
- *Claire Charbit, Deputy Head of the Regional Development Policy Unit, OECD (tbc)*
- *N.N., representative of Mazovia region (tbc)*
- *N.N., member of the CoR COTER commission (tbc)*
- *N.N., member of the CoR COTER commission (tbc)*

3.45 p.m.	Closing of the conference
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*Closing statements by*

- *Adam Struzik, President of Mazovia Region*
- *Raffaele Cattaneo, President of the Lombardia Regional Council, Chair of the CoR COTER Commission*

4.00 p.m.	End of conference
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Venue

Centre for Advanced Materials and Technologies CEZAMAT - Poleczki 19 Street - 02-822 Warsaw

Interpreting arrangements

8/8: CS/DE/EN/FR/IT/HU/PL/SL