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#Cohesion Alliance – For a strong EU cohesion policy

**Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and cohesion policy:
what lessons can be learnt ?**



Thursday 12 October 2023

11.30 - 13.00

European Committee of the Regions (Room JDE 52)

Languages available : EN/FR/DE/IT/ES/PL

Link to watch the meeting on line: <https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/2023/sessions/22838>



DRAFT PROGRAM

Moderator of the event: Anna Gumbau, freelance journalist

11.30 -11.35 - Welcoming words by Emil Boc, Chair of the COTER Commission, European Committee of the Regions

11.35 – 12.00 - Roundtable 1: Could a fully performance-based approach be introduced for cohesion policy post 2027? What can be learnt from the experience of the RRF in this context? What would be the effect on economic, social and territorial cohesion?

The establishment of the RRF marked a turning point in that it introduced for the first time an approach making the disbursement of EU funds fully contingent upon the achievement of outputs/results (defined as targets and milestones). The option of mainstreaming this approach to other EU funds in the future, notably to EU cohesion policy funds, is likely to be part of the political debate on the future of cohesion policy post 2027. The aim of this round table is to discuss the pro and cons of a fully performance-based approach. Would a performance-based approach across all EU funded programs be a recipe for successful investments and reforms? What would be the effect on economic, social and territorial cohesion?

Discussants:

- Celine GAUER, Head of Task Force, Recovery and Resilience Task Force, European Commission
- Martin WEBER, Director, Audit Chamber II, European Court of Auditors
- Lazlo ANDOR, Member of the High-level group of specialists on the future of cohesion policy, Secretary General of FEPS
- Isabel BENJUMEA, MEP (EPP/ES), Vice-Chair of the REGI Committee in the European Parliament



12.05 – 12.30 - Roundtable 2 – How to strengthen a place-based approach in both cohesion policy and other EU instruments to deliver reforms while ensuring that no places and no people are left behind?

This round table would be based on testimonials from the ground and lessons learned in particular from the implementation of cohesion policy funds and RRF. Whereas there is a general consensus that the EU driven twin transition (green and digital) entails great political challenges in terms of public support and involvement of local communities, what model of governance for EU funded instruments would be best fit for purpose?

Discussants:

- Šime ERLIĆ, Minister at Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds of the Republic of Croatia
- Maria DEL CARMEN BARRERA CHAMORRO, President of Spanish Economic and Social Council, rapporteur of European Economic and Social Committee "Towards cohesion policy 2.0. Challenges and opportunities for the growth and development of the European regions"
- Christoph SCHNAUDIGEL, Vice President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), Alternate Member of the European Committee of the Regions, District commissioner of Karlsruhe

12.30 – 12.55 High level political dialogue on the basis of the discussion of the two round tables

- Elisa FERREIRA, European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms
- Younous OMARJEE, MEP (The Left/FR), Chair of the REGI committee in the European Parliament
- Vasco Alves CORDEIRO, President of the European Committee of the Regions

12.55 – 13.00 Conclusions by Vasco Alves CORDEIRO, President of the European Committee of the Regions