

21st

European Week of Regions and Cities

Thriving Regions, Stronger Europe



Media programme

9-12 October 2023, Brussels



THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 2023

10:00 – 11:00

Pre-#EUregionsWeek meeting with journalists

Via Webex – [meeting link](#)



MONDAY 9 OCTOBER 2023

09:30

Security check at the European Commission headquarter

Berlaymont building - Rue de la Loi 200

10:30 – 11:00

Welcome Session

Berlaymont building, press room

- Monika Hencsey, Director for Communication, European Commission's Directorate for Regional and Urban Policy
- Ian Barber, Director for Communication of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR)

11:00 – 12:00

Press conference

Berlaymont building, press room

- Elisa Ferreira, EU Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms
- Vasco Cordeiro, President of the European Committee of the Regions

12:15- 13:15

Lunch break

Berlaymont building, Hall 5

14:00 – 16:00

#EURegionsWeek official opening and State of Regions and Cities speech

Hemicycle of the European Parliament – Session webstreamed

- Pina Picierno, Vice-President of the European Parliament
- Elisa Ferreira, EU Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms
- Vasco Cordeiro, President of the European Committee of the Regions

17:00 - 18:00

Media opportunity with Commissioner Elisa Ferreira

European Parliament (Press room POA050)





TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2023

09:00 – 10:00

Meeting with European Commission country experts on EU Cohesion Policy

SQUARE Convention centre, Panoramic Hall

On background

11:00 – 12:00

Workshop «Eight months before the European elections 2024: does less regional development lead to less support to the EU?»

SQUARE Convention centre, Panoramic Hall

- Frida Nilsson, Member of the Lidköping Municipality local assembly (Sweden)
- Emma Blain, Member of the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (Ireland)
- Lewis Dijkstra, Joint Research Center of the European Commission and among the authors of [the study](#) «The geography of EU discontent and the regional development trap»
- Balazs Andras Szechy, Member of the European Parliament Research Service

Moderated by Julia Auginski, Communication Officer at the European Commission

12:15

Lunch break

SQUARE Convention centre, Panoramic Hall

13:15 – 14:15

Technical briefing on the EU Annual Report on the State of Regions and Cities 2023

SQUARE Convention centre, Panoramic Hall

Moderated by Michele Cercone, Deputy-Director for Communication at the CoR
Transfer possibility by public transport from SQUARE to Charlemagne building

15:00-16:30

Interview opportunities with local and regional leaders in the margins of the Plenary of the European Committee of the Regions

Charlemagne building, rue de la Loi 170

Transfer possibility by public transport from Charlemagne building to SQUARE

17:00 – 18:00

Technical briefing on the Eurostat Regional Yearbook 2023 and the new Eurobarometer

SQUARE Convention centre, Panoramic Hall

19:00 – 20:00

Citizens' Dialogue with Elisa Ferreira, EU Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms

SQUARE Convention Centre, Gold Hall – [Session webstreamed on Europe by Satellite](#)

20:00

Tasting

SQUARE Convention Centre, Agora Village



WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2023

Visits in Brussels and lunch

As the two visits will take place at the same time, journalists can choose only one activity.

09:00 – 13:00

Grande Halle project in Molenbeek

Meeting at 9:15 in front of the entrance of the Thon Hotel EU, Rue de la Loi 75.

Lunch will be provided at the end of the project visit.

This former 1,638 m² industrial hall was used as a car depot and was renovated, with respect to its industrial past, in response to a cruel lack of green, airy spaces in the district, enabling community activities and public services to be brought together. It also improves the local soft mobility network. Work began in January 2020 and the space was inaugurated at the end of 2022, despite the sanitary crisis it traverses. A leisure and meeting space are the beating heart of a project which brings together workshops, intergenerational social housing and a nursery, helping to strengthen social ties in the neighborhood. The project was designed and built with citizen participation and is an outstanding example of industrial conversion in response to current social and urban challenges.

In alternative:

9:00 – 10:30

Visit of the Council of the EU

Lunch will be provided at the end of the project visit in CoR premises.

The Council is an essential EU decision-maker. It negotiates and adopts legislative acts in most cases together with the European Parliament through the ordinary legislative procedure, also known as 'codecision'. You will visit the Justus Lipsius building and the Europa building. Since 1995 the Justus Lipsius building is the seat of the Council and its General Secretariat. Since 2017 the meetings of the European Council (meetings of Heads and State of Government) are also taking place in the Europa building. The visit will give a first-hand insight into the work of the Council.

13:00 - 13:20

Media opportunity with CoR President Vasco Alves Cordeiro

Charlemagne building, rue de la Loi 170

14:30 – 15:30

Workshop «Regions in post-industrial transition towards green economy»

European Committee of the Regions, rue Belliard 99/101, room JDE62

- Sari Rautio, Member of the Hämeenlinna City Council (Finland) and CoR rapporteur for just and sustainable transition in the context of the coal and energy intensive regions
- Jozsaf Kobor, Member of the Local Government of Pécs (Hungary)
- Bianca Faragau, Policy officer for cohesion and just transition at the European Investment Bank
- Mark Nicklas, Head of Unit for Mobility at the European Commission, DG GROW

Moderated by Pierluigi Boda, Head of Sector, Press and relations with media at the CoR

16:00 – 17:00

Workshop «Regions and cities working together for the reconstruction of Ukraine»

European Committee of the Regions, rue Belliard 99/101, room JDE62

- Niina Ratilainen, Member of Turku City Council (Finland)
- Andriy Sadovyi, Mayor of Lviv (Ukraine)
- Svitlana Yarova, City councillor of Vinnycja (Ukraine) and member of the CoR's Young Elected Politicians programme
- Moray Gilland, Head of Unit "Macro regions, transnational/interregional/external cooperation, enlargement"

Moderated by Chris Jones, Head of Unit, Press and relations with media at the CoR

Transfer possibility by public transport from the CoR building to SQUARE

19:00 – 20:00

Megalizzi-Niedzielski Prize – Awards Ceremony

SQUARE Convention Centre, Gold Hall - Session webstreamed on Europe by Satellite

20:30

Tasting

SQUARE Convention Centre, Agora Village

THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2023

9:30 – 11:00

Joint meeting of the European Parliament's committee for Regional Development (REGI) and the CoR commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER)

European Parliament, room ASP 3G3

Possibility of walking from the European Parliament to the CoR.

11:30 – 13:00

#CohesionAlliance event - Lessons learnt from the RRF: safeguarding a place-based approach

European Committee of the Regions, room JDE52

Transfer possibility by public transport from the European Parliament and the CoR building to SQUARE

10:00 – 11:00

Workshop «Regions fighting depopulation and talent trap»

SQUARE Convention Centre, Panoramic Hall

- Virginia Marco Cárcel, Director-General for European Affairs of the Regional Government of Castile-La Mancha (Spain)
- Matteo Luigi Bianchi, City councilor of Varese (Italy)
- Agnieszka Bednarska-Bernatek, Policy Officer DG REGIO Unit "Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial Development European Commission", responsible for the Harnessing Talent Platform and the Talent Booster Mechanism

Moderated by Christopher Finn and Alina Moraiti, members of project team "Youth4Reviving EU territories"

11:30 - 12:30

Feedback and brainstorming session

Square Convention Centre, Panoramic Hall

12:30

Lunch break

SQUARE Convention Centre, Panoramic Hall

14:30 – 16:00

Closing ceremony

SQUARE Convention Centre, Gold Hall

16:00

Tasting

SQUARE Convention Centre, Agora Village

Press rooms are available at the European Parliament (on Monday 9), at the European Committee of the Regions (from Monday 9) and at the SQUARE Convention Centre (Panoramic Hall, from Tuesday 10).

Contacts

The media programme is organised by the European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions. For general enquiries on the media programme and interview opportunities, please email: press@euregionsweek.eu

European Commission : David HACKLING (press officer),
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Audiovisual

During the European Week of Regions and Cities, facilities are available for TV and radio journalists.

Those facilities include:

- **Cutaways and images:** part of the programme will be broadcasted on [EbS](#) (Europe by Satellite). TV journalists can download broadcast images to edit their news reports.
- **ENG crews (cameraman + soundman):** can be booked for specific recordings (parts of the programme NOT covered by EbS) or interviews.
- **Editing facilities:** an editing room and technicians can be booked for editing at the SQUARE (room 203).

Main contact for AV bookings and interview possibilities: audiovisualCoR@cor.europa.eu
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Pictures:

High-resolution pictures will be available for download on the [Flickr gallery](#) of the European Week of Regions and Cities 2023.

#EURegionsWeek