



progressive
society



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament



PES GROUP
European Committee
of the Regions

No territory and No people left behind

European Cohesion policy: **A KEY TOOL TO MAKE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BECOME REALITY THROUGHOUT EU'S REGIONS**

(Draft - 28 Jan 2019)

Date: 7 February 2019 from 14.30 to 18.30 + Cocktail afterwards

Place: European Parliament (Rooms ASP 3G2 + ASP 5G305 + ASP 1G369)

Languages : FR DE IT EN ES PL

Targeted audience

- leaders, representatives and associations of local and regional authorities of the European Union belonging to the progressive families (besides the Brussels headquarters)
- network of NGOs and social partners with whom Progressive Society has built strong partnerships

Concept

The goal of this event is to further disseminate and develop the policy approach already outlined in the ICSE report by producing an **Appeal entitled “ No one left behind nowhere in the EU”**

The event is organized in close collaboration with the PES Group in the European Committee of the Regions, building on the dynamics of contacts established with other actors, including the Cohesion Alliance¹

The Appeal aims at bringing forward a **renewed vision for cohesion, embedded in new European solidarity, in the implementation of SDG goals at local and regional levels (which a number of local, urban and regional entities already do), and in a place-based and participatory approach through local empowerment, that will also be used as a contribution to the PES Manifesto.**

¹ Cohesion alliance launched by the European Committee of the Regions with the following organisations : Assembly of European Regions (AER); - Association of European Border Regions (AEBR); Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE); Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CRPM/CPMR); Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CCRE/CEMR); Eurocities

It will show that, in the context of globalization, EU cohesion policy should be a powerful driver to sharpen the European identity and should be based on a European vision of what sustainable development should be by taking into account on equal footing environmental, social and economic considerations.

The Appeal would be discussed and then launched at the end of the conference. It will be the result of an interactive discussion with regional and local, urban and rural leaders and actors (of which mayors and municipalities) on how to frame EU policy and in particular EU cohesion policy to ensure that **no territories and no people shall be left behind**.

Local and regional authorities are frontrunners in the implementation of the SDGs (see collection of practices by Progressive Society on “ecological transformation as a social lever”). They are a laboratory of innovative local development logics that can be even better supported or triggered by the EU budget, and in particular (but not only) cohesion policy.

The PES Group in the European Committee of the Regions will also organize in 5 April 2019 a conference on sustainable development and regional development (in Bremen, DE)². The S-D group will participate in the preparation of this conference (“Together” event with input from the Progressive Society perspective).

We will therefore ensure a continuation between both events. The Brussels S&D Group/Progressive Society/ PES Committee of Regions Conference of February 2019 could therefore be seen as a sort of “kick-off event” to show that the socialist/ progressive family is strongly mobilized on the territorial dimension towards a different Europe.

² Ulrike Hiller *Member of the CoR, Secretary of State Federal and European Affairs and Development cooperation, Free Hanseatic City of Bremen will host the Bremen conference. She will attend the Brussels conference as well.*

Draft Programme

(Version 28/01/2019)

14.30 – 15.15 - Opening Session

Sustainable Development: how territories are leading the way

Room ASP 3G2

Moderator: Anna Lisa Boni, Secretary General of EUROCITIES

- **Opening Address:** Jeffrey D. Sachs, professor of economics at Columbia University (US), leader in sustainable development, senior UN advisor
- **Keynote speech:** Giorgios Kaminis, Mayor of Athens (GR), Member of the European Committee of Regions
- **Short Video “Territories leading the way”**
- **Welcoming speeches / EU at a crossroad. Territories as frontrunners of a New Sustainable Development pact**
 - Udo Bullmann (DE), President S&D Group
 - Catuscia Marini (IT), President PES Group CoR, President of Umbria

15.30 – 17.00

For a renewed European Development Pact

Three Interactive workshops running in parallel

- *For each workshop, one moderator, one rapporteur, 3 speakers*
- *Mixing representatives of regional/local authorities, MEPs, NGOs, Trade Unions*
- *Moderator to lead the debate in a dynamic, interactive way (including with audience) ‘ping pong style’*

Workshop 1: Implementing Just transition at local level

(Room ASP 1 G 369) – IN ENGLISH ONLY

Moderator: Kathleen Van Brempt (BE), Vice-President of the S&D group in charge of sustainable development

Speakers

- Benjamin Denis (FR), Adviser ETUC Secretariat, in charge of climate change notably
- Beata Maciejewska (PL), Special Envoy of the Mayor of Slupsk for Sustainable Development
- Kata Tüttö (HU), Local councilor, District 12 Budapest, Member of European Committee of the Regions, CoR rapporteur on energy poverty

Rapporteur: Sanjeev Kumar, CEO & Founding Director of Change Partnership

Workshop 2: Repowering people at the local level - Strengthening the partnership principle within EU cohesion policy

(Room ASP 3G305 – ENGLISH ONLY)

Moderator: Carol Thomas (UK), Adviser *Governance and Institutional Relations* (Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CCRE/CEMR))

Speakers

- Teresa Laespada (ES), Minister in charge of social policies, Province of Bizkaia
- Olga Zrihen (BE), Member of Wallonia's parliament, Member of the European Committee of Regions (tbc)
- John Bachtler (UK), Director and Professor at European Policy Research Center, University of Strathclyde (tbc)

Rapporteur: Mercedes Bresso (IT), S&D Vice-President in charge of economic and social issues

Workshop 3: Convergence between and within European territories - Time to deliver!

Room ASP 3G2 (EN, FR, DE, PL, IT)

Moderator: Andrès Rodriguez-Pose (ES), member of ICSE

Speakers

- Enrico Rossi, President of Tuscany (IT), Vice - President of CRPM (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions), Member of the European Committee of Regions
- Margit Tago (EE), Coordinator youth policies JMK Johannes Mihkelsoni Keskus (tbc)
- Birgit Honé (DE), Minister for European Affairs of Lower Saxony, Member of European Committee of Regions

Rapporteur: Eric Andrieu (FR), S&D Vice-President, in charge of budget and cohesion

17.15 – 18.30 - Plenary debate

Room ASP 3G2

Will cohesion policy 2021-2027 be fit for purpose?

Moderator: Anna Lisa Boni, Secretary General of EUROCITIES

- Rapporteur Workshop 1: Sanjeev Kumar, CEO & Founding Director of Change Partnership
- Rapporteur Workshop 2: Mercedes Bresso (IT), S&D Vice-President
- Rapporteur Workshop 3: Eric Andrieu (FR), S&D Vice-President

High-level political discussion on the outcome of the 3 workshops

Karl-Heinz Lambertz (BE), President of the CoR, PES Group

Frans Timmermans (NL), Vice - President of the European Commission (tbc)

Constanze Krehl (DE), S&D Coordinator REGI committee

Concluding session

Room ASP 3G2

Proclamation of the Appeal “No one left behind nowhere in the EU”

With

Andrea Cozzolino (IT), Vice-President of the REGI committee European Parliament

and

Isabelle Boudineau (FR), President of CoR COTER Commission, Vice-President Nouvelle Aquitaine Region

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