

**– METROPOLITAN CITIES IN THE FUTURE COHESION POLICY –**

*Brussels, Committee of the Regions (JDE51)*

*Thursday 23rd March, 2017*

According to Eurostat, 72% of the European population currently lives in cities and metropolitan areas. It is foreseen that, by the year 2050, this figure will reach 80%. The European Union is fully aware of the role of cities as motors of socioeconomic progress, with a growing focus of Cohesion Policy on urban issues. However, while there has been no shortage of new policies, cities are often just beneficiaries of these initiatives. A recent [study](#) shows that the volume of funds managed by some European cities does not correspond to their GDP or population, and highlights the need for metropolitan areas to assume management functions.

This conference aims at stressing the role of major cities and metropolitan areas in EU Cohesion Policy and the management of Structural Funds. The discussion will serve the purpose of evaluating the contribution of metropolitan cities to the implementation of the current EU policies and funds, and defining how their role may be reshaped in the coming post-2020 Cohesion Policy.

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**AGENDA**

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**14:00 - 14:30** *Arrival and registration*

**14:30 - 14:45** **WELCOME SESSION**

Alfred BOSCH, Vice President of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area  
Markku MARKKULA, President of the Committee of the Regions

**14:45 - 15:45** **METROPOLITAN CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES: HOW HAVE STRUCTURAL FUNDS HELPED THUS FAR?**

Emídio SOUSA, President of the Metropolitan Area of Porto  
Lina LIAKOU, Deputy Mayor of Thessaloniki  
Tony LLOYD, Mayor of Greater Manchester  
Lambert van NISTELROOIJ, Member of the European Parliament

*Moderator: Rudiger AHREND, Head of Urban Policy Program at OECD*

**15:45 - 16:00** **Discussion**

**16:00 - 16:20** *Coffee-break*

**16:20 - 17:30** **FUTURE COHESION POLICY AND STRUCTURAL FUNDS POST 2020: WHAT ROLE FOR METROPOLITAN CITIES?**

Chiara APPENDINO, Mayor of the Metropolitan City of Turin  
Jean-Claude DARDELET, Vice President of Toulouse Métropole  
Michael SCHNEIDER, Member of the Committee of the Regions  
Judit TOROKNE-ROSZA, Head of Unit at DG REGIO, European Commission

*Moderator: Rudiger AHREND, Head of Urban Policy Program at OECD*

**17:30 - 17:45** **Discussion**

**17:45 - 18:00** **CLOSING SESSION**

Raffaele CATTANEO, Chair of the COTER Commission, Committee of the Regions Commission  
Alfred BOSCH, Vice President of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area

With the support of:



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