



European Committee  
of the Regions

Commission for Territorial  
Cohesion Policy and EU Budget

# The challenges and opportunities for economic, social and territorial development in the outermost regions

Santa Cruz de Tenerife  
**13-04-2018**  
**9.30 – 17.00**

COTER



Gobierno  
de Canarias



**European Committee  
of the Regions**



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**13 April 2018** | Headquarter of the Canary Islands Government, Avda. José Manuel Guimerá 1, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Islas Canarias | 9.30 - 17.00

## **The challenges and opportunities for economic, social and territorial development in the outermost regions**

The COTER commission's external seminar aims to further contribute towards the follow-up of the CoR opinion entitled *Towards full implementation of the renewed European Union Strategy for the outermost regions (ORs)* by enabling an exchange between representatives of cities, regions, European institution, experts from the EU, and civil society.

This external seminar is taking place as part of the process of analysing the implementation of the new European strategy on these territories, and aims to analyse the bottlenecks and the elements enabling the success of this EU Strategy. This seminar would enable COTER members to discuss the issues faced by these European territories regarding their full economic and social development and the opportunities that these regions can offer the whole of the EU.

The objective of the seminar will be to create a greater understanding of issues faced by ORs with special focus on specific projects. It aims to provide first-hand information on the factors – both positive and negative – that the Outermost Regions face. The seminar would also provide useful input to the COTER commission's reflection on the best tools for future cohesion policy post-2020, supporting better growth and employment, the trans-European transport network and other EU programmes that directly affect the economic and territorial development of the ORs.

The input of local and regional experts in the ORs who manage various issues relating to economic development, sustainable development, social inclusion and environmental protection will enable CoR members to understand the important role of the EU in helping these regions to overcome the challenges they face.

*Interpreting arrangements: EN/FR/ES/PT/PL/CZ (active and passive) and DE/EL (passive)*

**9.30**                      **Welcome and registration**

**10.00 – 10.30**      **Opening statements**

**Fernando Clavijo Batlle**, President of Canary Islands

**Petr Osvald**, Chair of the COTER Commission of the European Committee of the Regions

**10.30 – 11:45      Session 1: A renewed EU strategy adapted to the key challenges faced by the Outermost Regions**

**Moderator: Spyros Spyridon**, Vice-Chair of the COTER Commission and Municipal Councillor of Poros

Speakers:

**Rodolphe Alexandre**, President of the Territorial Collectivity of Guiana

**Younous Omarjee**, Member of the European Parliament

**Dana Spinant**, Director - Budget, Communication and General Affairs, DG REGIO, European Commission

**Jorge García Reig**, Director General of European Funds, Ministry of Finances, Spain

**Rui Jorge da Silva Leite de Bettencourt**, Presidency Regional Secretary for External Relations, Regional Government of Azores

Discussion

**11.45 – 12.15      Coffee break**

**12.15 – 13.30      Session 2: The importance of connectivity and competitiveness for the EU Outermost Regions, and their integration in their regional basin**

**Moderator: Albert Bore**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions and rapporteur of the Opinion on the “Urban mobility package”.

Speakers:

**Pawel Stelmaszczyk**, Unit B1 Transport Networks, DG MOVE, European Commission

**Cyrielle Cuirassier**, Head of EU Guadeloupe Regional Delegation in Brussels, representative of the Outermost Region’s Network on Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialization (RIS3)

**Paula Cabaço**, Regional Secretary of Tourism and Culture, regional Government of Madeira

**Charles Giusti**, Deputy Director General, Direction General on Overseas, Government of France

Discussion

**13.30 – 15.00      Lunch Time**

## 15.00 – 16.15 **Session 3: The Outermost Regions, an opportunity for Europe. Test station for innovative projects**

**Moderator: Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions and rapporteur of the Opinion on "Entrepreneurship on Islands: contributing towards territorial cohesion".

Speakers:

**Pedro Ortega Rodríguez**, Regional Minister of Economy, Industry Trade and Knowledge, Canary Islands and representative of the Outermost Region's Energy Network.

**Reka Rozsavolgyi**, Policy Officer, Unit "Sea-basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security", DG MARE, European Commission.

**Anabela Carvalho**, Senior Officer, Technology and Science Foundation (EFCT), Government of Portugal

**Philippe Jean-Pierre**, President of the Regional Committee for Innovation, Regional Government of La Réunion.

Discussion

## 16.15 – 17.00 **Conclusions**

**Concluding statement: Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría**, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Spain

Closing remarks:

**Petr Osvald**, Chair of the COTER commission of the European Committee of the Regions

**Fernando Clavijo Batlle**, President of Canary Islands

## 17.00 **End of the seminar**



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