



Investing in Europe: building a coalition of smart cities & regions towards a third industrial revolution

**Tuesday 7 February 2017
at the European Committee of the Regions, Brussels**

9:00-09:45 Press conference

Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission

Markku Markkula, President of the European Committee of the Regions

Jeremy Rifkin, President of The Foundation on Economic Trends

10:00-10:45 Opening (CoR JDE 62): Building a smart Europe

This session will set out the argument for creating smarter EU cities and regions. It will set the scene for the conference placing the smart city and region agenda in the EU political context.

The Narrative: Jeremy Rifkin, President of The Foundation on Economic Trends (10 mins)

The Added Value for EU regions & cities: Markku Markkula, President of the European Committee of the Regions (5 mins)

The EU Vision: Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission (5 mins)

Interactive discussion with audience

10:45-11:00 Network Coffee break

11:00-12:45 How to build smart cities and regions: case studies from Europe

Case 1: The Hague & Rotterdam - Ahmed Aboutaleb, Mayor of Rotterdam, CoR member & Jozijs Johannes van Aartsen, Mayor of the Hague (10 mins each)

Interactive discussion with audience (20 mins)

Case 2: Luxembourg: Étienne Schneider, Deputy PM & Minister for Economy, Luxembourg (15 mins)

Interactive discussion with audience (20 mins)

Case 3: Hauts-de-France Region: Xavier Bertrand, President of Hauts-de-France Region (15 mins)

Interactive discussion with audience (20 mins)

Other Cases (tbc): Minister of Environment for the Basque Country - Ana Oregi; Mayor of Cluj-Napoca - Emil Boc

12:45-14.15 Networking lunch

14.15-16.00 From a smart vision to smart delivery: Coalition building session

Introductory remarks: sustainable smart development and climate change (15 mins)

- Christian Buchmann, Chair of ECON Commission, European Committee of the Regions
- Sirpa Hertell, Vice-President of ENVE Commission, European Committee of the Regions

1. The narrative

Dominique Ristori, European Commission Director-General of DG Energy: Strategic Energy Technology Plan –main energy innovation actions (DG Energy)
(Presentation followed by discussion)

2. The governance & investment tools:

Vazil Hudák, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank
(Presentation followed by discussion)

3. Who wants to be a pioneer? Regions ready to commit to a strategy on smart sustainable development (*Interactive discussion: Based on the introduction they have seen through the morning, this would be the opportunity for Members to intervene and indicate their willingness to consider the smart cities and regions process*).

Concluding remarks: investing for smart sustainable development:

- Christian Buchmann, Chair of ECON commission, European Committee of the Regions
- Sirpa Hertell, Vice-President of ENVE Commission, European Committee of the Regions

This first-day is co-organised by the European Committee of the Regions and the European Commission. For the Members of the European Committee of the Regions, the political debate continues the following day in the Plenary session.

Wednesday 8 February

Political debate – European Committee of the Regions' plenary session

The purpose of this session is to allow regions and cities to set out their argument for investing in sustainable smarter development.

Title: *"Regions and/or cities willing to commit to be part of an active European process for smart sustainable development"*

- **Markku Markkula**, President of the Committee of the Regions (3 mins)
- **Jyrki Katainen**, Vice-President of the European Commission or **Maroš Šefčovič**, Vice-President of the European Commission (3 mins)