



**CONFERENCE ON DEVOLUTION:
LOOKING FORWARD FOR REFORMS IN EAP COUNTRIES**
28 APRIL 2014, COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS, VMA1

Draft Programme

The Eastern Partnership Initiative is undergoing dramatic changes and the crisis is not yet passed. Nevertheless, substantial structural reforms will have to follow and continue to support those countries who are committed and engaged in the EAP process. While there is a call for a reform and adjustment of the EAP the internal reform processes are proceeding. Greater differentiation between the EAP countries – following the "more for more" principle and going beyond will have to accompany in the future a greater involvement not only with national governments but with society at large, notably the local and regional authorities and civil society organisations. Experience in the European Union shows that while there is no "best model" for a particular institutional structure or the sharing of powers between the different models of governance, decentralised executives are in many policy areas more efficient and cost effective as well as more adapted to the local needs. This conference will examine the state of devolution in the EAP countries and look into the development of constitutional and other changes in the future.

9:00 – 9:15	<p>Opening session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercedes Bresso (PES/IT), CoR 1st Vice-President, CORLEAP Bureau member • Mamuka Abuladze, CORLEAP co-Chair, Georgia
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9:15 – 10:30	<p>Panel 1: Devolution in the EaP countries</p> <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercedes Bresso (PES/IT), CoR 1st Vice-President, CORLEAP Bureau member <p>Panel debate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathaniel Copsey, Aston University, UK • Marc Cools, Rapporteur of the Congress of the Council of Europe for the monitoring Report on Ukraine • Prof. Franz Schausberger (EPP/AT), Rapporteur on the CoR opinion on "Devolution in the European Union and the place for local and regional self-government in EU policy making and delivery" • Samir Aliyev, Center for Support for Economic Initiatives, Azerbaijan • Mick Antoniw (PES/UK), CoR member, Member of the National Assembly for Wales • Debate
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10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break
10:45 – 12:15	<p>Panel 2: Constitutional or legislative reforms - past and future legal challenges for inclusive governance</p> <p>Introduction and moderation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Svitlana A. Kobzar, Assistant Professor, Vesalius College & Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel <p>Panel debate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emin Yeritsyan, CORLEAP Bureau member, Armenia • Zoltán Szenté, Expert of the Monitoring Committee of the Congress of the Council of Europe • Andris Jaunsleinis (ALDE/LV), CORLEAP Bureau member • Luc van den Brande (EPP/BE), Rapporteur on the CoR opinion on "Building a European Culture of Multilevel Governance" • Debate
12:15 – 12:30	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercedes Bresso (PES/IT), CoR 1st Vice-President, CORLEAP Bureau member

Interpretation will be provided to/from: ES/EN/FR/PL/RU

Please register your participation by sending e-mail to corleap@cor.europa.eu.