

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

An investment plan for **Europe:** joining forces

[15 April 2015]

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Conference programme



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An Investment Plan for Europe: joining forces

Conference of the European Committee of the Regions

Jacques Delors Building
rue Belliard 101, 1040 Brussels

15 April 2015

Shortly after starting its 2014-2019 mandate the European Commission proposed a new Investment Plan for Europe to **strengthen Europe's competitiveness and to stimulate investment for the purpose of job creation.**

Backbone of the Investment Plan is a joint strategy of the Commission and the European Investment Bank to mobilise **315 billion euro of investments.** Priority would be given to the areas of infrastructure, education, research and innovation, and renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The Investment Plan explicitly mentions the role **regional authorities** should play in supporting or managing the investment projects, making finance reach the real economy and in improving the investment environment. Regions and cities need to bring in their knowhow to channel public and private money - including the European Structural and Investment Funds to **viable projects with a real added value** for the European economy. In terms of **improving the investment environment**, all levels of government have a share in providing greater regulatory predictability, removing barriers to investment and creating the optimal framework conditions.

On **15 April 2015** the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) will bring together EU policy makers and regional and local representatives to assess the Investment Plan from a local perspective. The conference is organised with the support of the European Investment Bank and the OECD. The event takes place before the CoR Plenary meeting of 16-17 April, during which the Committee will discuss and adopt its opinion on the draft regulation setting the rules for the Investment Plan (rapporteur Claude Gewerc).

Political leaders and investment experts will discuss three main questions:

- Is the Investment Plan for Europe an answer to the **needs at local and regional level?** What is its potential to support growth and jobs in Europe's regions and cities?
- What role can regions and cities play in the **local roll-out** of the Investment Plan in the three main strands (mobilisation of investments, managing the project pipeline and improving the investment environment)?
- How to guarantee and improve the **investment capacity of regional and local authorities** in times of austerity?

All presentations, background documentation and audiovisual material:

www.cor.europa.eu/investment

Programme

9:30-11:15

Opening session

"An Investment Plan for Europe: Brussels' cosmetics or a response to local and regional needs?"

Room JDE 62 (listening room JDE 52). Interpretation from/into English, French and Italian.

Plenary opening session, introducing the main conference themes and presenting the state-of-play of the Investment Plan for Europe.

Welcome speeches:

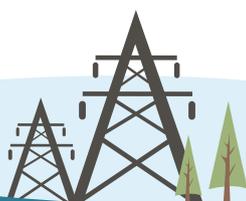
- **Karl-Heinz Lambertz**, First Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions
- **Wilhelm Molterer**, Vice-President for Cohesion of the European Investment Bank

Panel debate:

- **Roberto Gualtieri**, Chair of the European Parliament Committee for Economic and Monetary Affairs
- **Raffaele Cattaneo**, President of the Regional Council of Lombardy, Italy, Chair of the CoR Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget
- **James Watson**, Director for Economic Affairs, BUSINESSEUROPE
- **Anne Bucher**, Director for Structural reforms and competitiveness, DG Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission
- **Rudolf Niessler**, Director for Policy, DG for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
- **Luiz de Mello**, Deputy Director of the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD

Moderator:

- **Chris Burns**, journalist Euronews





11:30-13:00
Parallel workshops A & B

Workshop A: "Local involvement in EU investment management"

Room JDE 62. Interpretation from/into English, French and Italian.

Thematic workshop on the role regions and cities can play in selecting, supporting and/or managing the projects of the new investment strategy. How to make use of the investment resources at a local/regional level? How will the project pipeline and the "Investment Advisory Hub" be managed? What about the accessibility for small-scale projects contributing to job creation at local level? How to come to a balanced urban-rural investment plan?

Chair of the session:

- **Bas Verkerk**, Mayor of Delft, The Netherlands, member of the CoR

Panel members:

- **Werner Schmidt**, Director for Environment and Regional Development, Task Force for the Investment Plan, European Investment Bank
- **Jérôme Hamilius**, Director European Cooperation and Strategy, Council of Europe Development Bank
- **Dominique de Crayencour**, Secretary-General, European Association of Long-Term Investors
- **Graça Fonseca**, Deputy-Mayor for Economy, Innovation, Modernisation and Decentralisation, Lisbon City Council, Portugal
- **Alessandro Laterza**, Vice-President for Southern Italy and regional policies, Confindustria

Workshop B: "Investment capacity of regions and cities"

Room JDE 52. Interpretation from/into English and French.

Thematic workshop on the access to financial resources for public investment in times of austerity. How to turn the investment decline of the past 7 years? How to create synergies among the different levels of government? How to promote public entrepreneurship and to improve the capacity of local and regional authorities to generate viable investment projects that allow private investors' involvement? How to get more investment out of EU Funds?

Chair of the session:

- **Wim van de Donk**, Governor chair of the Council of the Province of Noord-Brabant, The Netherlands, Member of the CoR

Panel members:

- **Brian Field**, Senior Advisor, European Investment Bank
- **Marcel Roy**, Secretary-General, European Association of Public Banks
- **Ken Bishop**, Head of Partnerships and Investment, Northern Ireland Local Government Association, UK
- **Marc-Etienne Pinault**, Director for Territorial Capacity Building, General Commissariat for Territorial Cohesion (CGET), France
- **Joan Carles Rovira**, General Director, Catalan Institute of Finances, Spain

13:00-14:30
Networking lunch
Atrium 5th Floor

14:30-15:45
Parallel workshops C & D

Workshop C: "Local and regional authorities improving the EU investment environment"

Room JDE 62. Interpretation from/into English and French.

Thematic workshop on how regions and cities can improve the investment climate locally. How to make regulation, tax systems and public administration better performing and more transparent? How to remove regulatory barriers in key sectors such as energy, transport or digital services? How to contribute to the investment chapters in the National Reform Programs?

Chair of the session:

- **Claude Gewerc**, President of the Picardy Regional Council, France, CoR rapporteur on the investment package





Panel members:

- **Lambert van Nistelrooij**, Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur on the REGI Committee Opinion on the European Fund for Strategic Investments
- **Cristina Mazas Pérez Oleaga**, Regional Minister for Economy and Budget, Cantabria, Spain, Member of the CoR
- **Didier Herbert**, Director for Internal Market, Enterprise, Competitiveness, Industry and Growth Policies, DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission
- **Jorge Núñez Ferrer**, Associate Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies

Workshop D: “Guaranteeing innovation and quality in local public finances and investment”

Room JDE 53. Interpretation from/into English and French.

Thematic workshop on the new perspectives for public investment by local and regional authorities. How to support capacity building on the use of innovative financial instruments? What is the future potential of public-private partnerships? How to implement the OECD principles for “Effective Public Investment across Levels of Government and the Modernising Public Administration Toolbox of the European Commission?”

Chair of the session:

- **Paul-Emile Mottard**, Provincial Deputy of Liège, Belgium, Chairman of the European Confederation of Local Intermediate Authorities

Panel members:

- **Bogdan Nawrocki**, Deputy Director in the Debt and Financial Policy Department, City of Warsaw, Poland
- **Simon Barnes**, Director Advisory Services / fi-compass, European Investment Bank
- **Manuela Geleng**, Head of Unit ESF Policy and Legislation, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- **Dorothee Allain-Dupré**, Project Manager – Public Investment & Multi-level Governance, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD

16:00-16:45
Closing session

“Future perspectives for a multilevel alliance”

Room JDE 62 (listening room JDE 53). Interpretation from/into English and French.

Plenary closing session to look at the next steps for the Investment Plan from the perspective of the EU and of the local and regional level.

Key note speeches:

- **Jyrki Katainen**, Vice-President of the European Commission
- **Markku Markkula**, President of the European Committee of the Regions

Moderator:

- **Brian Ager**, Secretary-General of the European Round Table of Industrialists

All presentations, background documentation and audiovisual material: www.cor.europa.eu/investment

April 2015

Edited by Committee of the Regions – Directorate
for Communication, Press and Events

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