Reflecting on Europe is an initiative of the European Committee of the Regions, offering a space for citizens to present their concerns, thoughts and ideas on the future of Europe. We take the commitment to make the citizens' voices heard!

**Speakers and Debate**

Władysław Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region  
Beata Szydło, Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland  
Markku Markkula, President of the European Committee of the Regions  
Jerzy Kwieciński, Secretary of State, Ministry of Regional Development  
Kinga Bielec, President of the Public Benefit Works Council, NGO representative

The debate was moderated by Adam Głączyński, Polish Radio Rzeszów, and provided the opportunity for citizens to ask questions and join the discussion.

Many questions from the participants were focused on: sustainable development and territorial investments, youth policies, migration, social dialogue to build Europe, its values and democratic dimension, Brexit.

**Key Messages**

*For Polish people, it is clear that the EU needs to reform. Europeans must feel that the EU is for them, to deal with their affairs.* - **Beata Szydło**

*The EU finds itself in difficult times, with Brexit etc. We want to continue Cohesion Policy, which is why this policy must prepare and plan better, to give a chance to local governments at all levels of economic development.* - **Władysław Ortyl**

*Poland is Europe's flagship example that Europe matters, by showing that through dedication and hard work, the EU can benefit communities. But the question is: do the citizens, their families, friends and communities also feel or see those benefits the EU brings in their daily lives? We are here to listen to everyone about his/her concerns, local challenges and vision for Europe.*" - CoR President **Markku Markkula.**
Follow-Up

Sharing the experience of Poland, inspiring other CoR Members to go local and listen to their citizens. A new CoR online survey to report back to the CoR the main concerns and ideas of citizens in local events was tested at the local event in Podkarpackie. The CoR gathers audience feedback and the data collected will be used in the CoR contribution to the Reflection on Europe in May 2017.

The survey has shown that citizens in Podkarpackie region consider unemployment, mobility, public transport and environment to be among the main problems of the region.

What are the main concerns that you want to share with the representatives of the EU institutions?

Press/Media Coverage

Media coverage - Large coverage by national and regional media

- **Polish Press Agency PAP (1)**
- **Polish Press Agency PAP (2)**
- **Polish Public TVP3 Rzeszów**
- **Polish Radio (1)**, **Polish Radio (2)**
- **Wyborca Rzeszów**
- **Portal Samorządowy**
- **Biznes onet**

Websites

- **CoR Local Event Page**
- **CoR Press Release**
- **Podkarpackie Region website**
- **Video Summary of the Event, Video Press Conference**

Services Supported by the CoR

- **Interpretation [PL / EN] & Moderator**
- **Co-Creation of the Event** Preparation with moderator and speakers, venue setting support
- **Press & Social Media** Local event page, FB/Twitter, media partnership, Flickr gallery
- **CoR Corner** Materials for participants

Contact

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