



European Committee
of the Regions

Workshop of the Commission for Economic Policy on
**Delivering reforms, investments and cohesion:
How to make the European Semester work**

European Committee of the Regions, Rue van Maerlant 2, Brussels
11 December 2018, 14:30-17:30, room VMA 3

14:00-14:30 **Registration**

OPENING SESSION

14:30-14:50 **Opening speech: Structural reforms and investment for sustainable growth and cohesion: the territorial dimension of the European Semester**
Olga Zrihen, CoR Member, Chair Commission for Economic Policy (ECON)

SESSION 1

The European Semester and the local and regional authorities: developments on the ground

14:50-15:20 **The European Semester Officers' perspective**

*For each country, the following issues will be addressed: **a)** how are local and regional authorities currently involved in the ES, and at which stage of the process? **b)** are the CSRs addressed in the public discourse (re. traditional and social media, economic organizations, political parties, etc.) and how? **c)** in relation to the CSRs, is the preparation of the NRP addressed by the public discourse and how? **d)** are the new MFF package, the issue of cohesion and the latest proposal to deepen the EMU also addressed in the public discourse? how are the issues of the SDGs and the European Pillar of Social Rights addressed in this context?*

Speakers

Nora Hesse, European Commission Representation in Germany
Patrick O'Riordan, European Commission Representation in Ireland
Christos Paschalides, European Commission Representation in Cyprus

15:20-15:30 **Questions, comments**



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SESSION 2

The growing role of the European Semester for the future Cohesion Policy

- 15:30-15:45 **The links between the European Semester and Cohesion Policy in the new MFF**
Rob Jonkman, CoR Member, Rapporteur on "The European Semester and Cohesion Policy: aligning structural reforms with long-term investments"
- 15:45-16:00 **Presentation of the EPC Discussion Paper on "Strengthening cohesion in the EU: How can structural reforms contribute?"**
Fabian Zuleeg, Chief Executive and Chief Economist, **and Marta Pilati**, Policy Analyst, EPC
The study assesses the extent to which the EU agendas for structural reforms and cohesion complement each other, and points to possible policy alignments between the two agendas under the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework.
- 16:00-16:45 **Panel discussion**
- Moderator* **Bert Kuby**, Head of Unit, Commission for Economic Policy (ECON), European Committee of the Regions
- Panelists* **Mariana Hristcheva**, Head of Unit B2 "Evaluation and the European Semester", DG REGIO, European Commission
Călin Chira, Cohesion policy, Head of section, Permanent Representation of Romania to the European Union
Serafin Pazos-Vidal, Head of Brussels Office, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)
Olga Zrihen, Rapporteur on the Regulation establishing the Reform Support Programme
Fabian Zuleeg, Chief Executive and Chief Economist, EPC
Rob Jonkman

CLOSING SESSION

- 16:45-17:20 **General discussion**
- 17:20-17:30 **Wrapping up**
Olga Zrihen



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