



**European Committee
of the Regions**



Hearing on the support of coal regions in transition through Cohesion Policy post 2020

April 9th 2019, 9.00 – 10.45

**European Committee of the Regions
JDE 51**

Languages: EN/DE/POL

Objectives:

As part of the next meeting of the Coal Regions in Transition Platform and in collaboration with the European Committee of the Regions a dedicated hearing will take place focusing on the future role of cohesion policy in supporting coal regions in transition. Taking into account the proposals of the European Commission about the future of cohesion policy, the existing EU legislation on energy and climate, as well as the recent report of the Coal Commission in Germany the Hearing will address particularly the following questions:

- How can we holistically contribute to the transition in coal regions to foster policy, infrastructural, economic and technological change and secure sustainable future?
- What are the needs and main challenges of coal regions in the EU for a comprehensive support for their structural and environmental change? What are the best instruments to address them?
- Are the current proposals for the cohesion policy beyond 2020 sufficient to address these needs? and, if not
- What additional measures could be envisaged within the context of the ongoing debate on the future Multiannual Financial Framework?

The meeting will also allow an exchange of views with the CoR rapporteurs on the *Socioeconomic transformation of coal regions in Europe*, Mark Speich and the CoR rapporteur Witold Stępień, on the *Implementing the Paris Agreement through innovative and sustainable energy transition at regional and local level* so that the possible answers to the questions raised at the hearing could also be taken

up in these reports. The members of the Coal Regions in Transition Platform, as well as the representatives of other national, regional and local public authorities, civil society and social partners will be invited.

Draft Agenda:

Moderator: Thomas Wobben, Director C Legislative Works CoR

- *"The need for structural policies for the socioeconomic transformation of coal regions – lessons from the Coal Commission in Germany"* - Dr. Torsten Schmidt, RWI - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research
- *"Key priorities for the CoR for supporting the socioeconomic transformation of coal regions in Europe"* - Mark Speich, European Committee of the Regions
- *"Local and regional pathways for a sustainable energy transition: exploring essential drivers to implement the Paris Agreement"* - Witold Stępień, European Committee of the Regions
- *"The current proposals for supporting coal regions in transition through cohesion policy beyond 2020"* - Rudolf Niessler, Director DG Regio
- Anna Colucci, Head of Unit ENER.B.3 - Retail markets; coal & oil
- *"The possible role of cohesion policy in designing or re-designing regional innovation strategies in coal regions"* – Prof. John Bachtler, Director of the European Policies Research Centre

Discussion with the audience