



European Committee
of the Regions

Workshop of the Commission for Economic Policy on

**Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals in the
European Semester**
**Lessons learnt and next steps to deliver investments and structural
reforms in partnerships across levels of government**

European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99-101, Brussels
12 December 2019, 14:15-17:30, room JDE 52

From 13:00 **Registration**

13:30-14:15 **Light lunch**

14:15-14:30 **Welcome address and opening remarks**

Arnoldas **Abramavicius**, CoR Member, Acting Chair of the CoR ECON Commission,
Rapporteur of the CoR Opinion on 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): a basis for
a long-term EU strategy for a sustainable Europe by 2030'

Session 1	Delivering on investments and structural reforms: the 2019 European Semester on the ground
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The 2019 European Semester, also called 'Investment Semester' included, for the first time, an analysis of regional disparities and investment needs, as well as guidance on investment priorities for the years to come. This session will hear from European Semester Officers how the Semester worked on the ground, and will discuss on fresh research into the limits of a top-down approach to the Semester priorities.

Moderator: Andrea **Forti**, CoR, ECON Secretariat

14:30-15:00 ***The 'Investment' Semester: reports from European Semester Officers***

Vesa-Pekka **Poutanen** (Finland)
Hans **Naudts** (The Netherlands)
Catarina **Dantas Machado** (Portugal)

15:00-15:15 ***Presentation of EPC paper 'From mission letter to mission impossible: Can a top-down approach to 'Cohesion and Reforms' really deliver?'***

Alison **Hunter**, Senior adviser to EPC on regional policy, regional innovation and industrial growth

15:15-15:45 ***Comments from panelists and European Semester Officers***

Mariana **Hristcheva**, Head of Unit 'Evaluation and European Semester', DG REGIO, European Commission
Andrea **Ciaffi** (Conferenza delle Regioni)



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15:45-16:00 *Debate with the audience*

16:00-16:15 **Coffee break**

Session 2	Refocusing the European Semester to integrate the Sustainable Development goals: setting goals and targets in partnership with cities and regions
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In July 2019, Commission President von der Leyen stated her intention to 'refocus the European Semester into an instrument that integrates the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals'. Her mission letters to the new Commissioners stressed that 'Each Commissioner will ensure the delivery of the UN SDGs within their policy area. The College as a whole will be responsible for the overall implementation of the Goals'. How could this be implemented in order to give a long-term orientation to the investment and reform priorities of the European Semester? And how could EU cities and regions be involved as partners in this process?

Moderator: Bert **Kuby**, CoR, HoU ECON Secretariat

16:15-16:30 *What does the European Semester need/miss to become an effective strategic policy instrument?*

Haris **Martinos** (Metis GmbH)

16:30-17:10 *Statements from panelists*

Enrico **Giovannini** (LUISS University, Rome)

Iain **Begg** (London School of Economics)

Andrea **Mairate** Head of Unit 'Impact of EU policies on national economies', DG ECFIN, European Commission

17:10-17:30 *Debate with the audience*

17:30 **End of the workshop**