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

*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)
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?

**Session 2**  Refocusing the European Semester to integrate the Sustainable Development goals: setting goals and targets in partnership with cities and regions

**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