



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

Commission for Economic policy (ECON)

The Head of Unit

Brussels, 15 February 2019

Memo to        Jiří Buriánek, Secretary-General  
                      Thomas Wobben, Director, Legislative Work 2

Subject         Summary of the decisions taken at the 22nd meeting of the Commission for Economic  
                      Policy on 14 February 2019 in Brussels

---

### **Attendance**

Total number of members in the Commission for Economic Policy: 109

Participants: 74

Full members: 38

Alternate members: 36

### **Organisation of future work**

The annexed ongoing work programme was approved.

#### Appointment of rapporteurs

##### **Christophe Rouillon (FR/PES)**

Opinion on the European Commission communication *Towards a more efficient and democratic decision making in EU tax policy*

Rule 41 b) i) of RoP

First discussion and adoption in ECON of 6-7 May 2019

Adoption in plenary session of 26-27 June 2019

##### **Tadeusz Truskolaski (PL/EA)**

Opinion on the *Contribution from regions and cities towards a new EU policy framework for SMEs*

Rule 41 b) ii) of RoP

Bureau decision on 9 April

First discussion and adoption in ECON of 9 July

Adoption in plenary session of 8-9 October

## **Manuela Bora (IT/PES)**

Opinion on *Improving administrative capacity of local and regional authorities to strengthen investments and structural reforms in 2021-2027*

Rule 41 b) ii) of RoP

Bureau decision on 9 April

Exchange of views in ECON of 9 July

Adoption in ECON of 22 October

Adoption in plenary session of 4-5 December

## **Contribution and Action Plans**

The ECON contribution to the CoR impact report 2018 was approved.

The 2019 Action Plan for cooperation between the CoR and the European Investment Bank was adopted.

The Action Plan for cooperation between the CoR and EUROCHAMBRES was adopted.

## **Adoption of the opinion *The European Semester and Cohesion Policy: aligning structural reforms with long-term investments***

Rapporteur Rob Jonkman (NL/ECR)

ECON-VI/040

6 amendments and 2 rapporteur amendment were tabled.

5 amendments were adopted, 2 amendments fell and 1 amendment was withdrawn.

The opinion was put to the vote and adopted by unanimity; it will be presented for adoption at the plenary session of 10-11 April.

## **Exchange of views on the opinion *Socioeconomic transformation of coal regions in Europe***

Rapporteur Mark Speich (DE/EPP)

ECON-VI/041

The members were informed that Mark Speich (DE/EPP), rapporteur on the ECON opinion on *Socioeconomic transformation of coal regions in Europe*, has agreed with Witold Stępień (PL/EPP), rapporteur on the ENVE opinion on *Implementing the Paris Agreement through innovative and sustainable energy transition at regional and local level*, to align the timeline of both opinions, so that they are both voted at the plenary session of 7-9 October.

Statement from **Aleksandra Tomczak**, policy coordinator on coal issues at the Directorate General for Energy, in charge of the Commission's Platform for Coal Regions in Transition, and from **Witold Stępień (PL/EPP)**, ENVE rapporteur and member of the Commission's Platform for Coal Regions in Transition representing the CoR.

## **Debate on the Reflection Paper Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030**

Rapporteur Arnoldas Abramavičius (LT/EPP)  
ECON-VI/044

The ECON secretariat received the referral COM(2019) 22 – final on 12 February, too late for an official exchange of views at the meeting.

However, the members were informed that ECON will prepare an opinion on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a transversal issue dealing with governance, the economic, social and environmental dimensions, policy coherence, which will involve all CoR commissions, while ENVE will prepare an opinion on the environmental and climate aspects of the SDGs. The title of the ECON opinion will be *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): a basis for a long-term EU strategy for a sustainable Europe by 2030*.

Statement from **John Watson**, Director for Single Market and Connectivity, Secretariat-General of the European Commission, from **Sirpa Hertell (FI/EPP)**, ENVE rapporteur on the environmental aspects of the reflection paper, from **Franco Iacop (IT/PES)**, CIVEX rapporteur for the first CoR opinion on sustainability adopted in June 2017, from **Spyros Spyridon (GR/EPP)**, COTER First Vice-Chair, and from **Birgitta Sacrédeus (SV/EPP)**, SEDEC rapporteur for the opinion on a renewed European agenda for research and innovation.

## **Debate on Brexit: the latest developments on the UK's withdrawal and important initiatives of the Commission**

Statement from **Dermot Ryan**, Senior Adviser in the cabinet of Phil Hogan, European Commissioner responsible for Agriculture & Rural Development, European Commission, and from **Franklin Dehousse**, Professor of international economic and EU law at the University of Liège.

Followed by a debate with members.

## **Next ECON meeting**

The next ECON meeting will be held in Druskininkai, Lithuania, on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 May 2019.

Bert Kuby

Annex. Summary of decision updated on 14 February



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

**COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC POLICY (ECON)**

**ONGOING WORK PROGRAMME**

FEBRUARY – JULY 2019

Document (Rapporteur)	Legal basis	Interinstitutional framework	134th plenary session 10-11 April	23rd external commission meeting (and conference) 6 (and 7) May	135th plenary session 26-27 June	2th commission meeting 9 July
<b>Opinion on The European Semester and Cohesion Policy: aligning structural reforms with long-term investments</b>  <b>Rapporteur: Rob Jonkman (NL/ECR)</b> <b>COR-2018-05504-00-00-PAC-TRA</b> <b>ECON-VI/040</b>	Romanian Presidency referral of 15/10/2018  Rule 41 b) i)	The 2019 AGS, which the opinion will also cover, was published on 21/11/2018	Adoption			
<b>Opinion on Socioeconomic transformation of coal regions in Europe</b>  <b>Rapporteur: Mark Speich (DE/EPP)</b> <b>COR-2018-06337-00-00-PA-TRA</b> <b>ECON-VI/041</b>	Own-initiative opinion - Rule 41 b) ii)					Adoption

Document (Rapporteur)	Legal basis	Interinstitutional framework	134th plenary session 10-11 April	23rd external commission meeting (and conference) 6 (and 7) May	135th plenary session 26-27 June	2th commission meeting 9 July
<b>Opinion on A place-based approach to EU industrial policy strategy</b>  <b>Rapporteur: Jeannette Baljeu (NL/ALDE)</b> <b>COR-2018-05941-00-00-PA-TRA</b> <b>ECON-VI/042</b>	Own-initiative opinion on the basis of Rule 41 b) ii)			Adoption	Adoption	
<b>Opinion on the Implementation report on public procurement</b>  <b>Rapporteur: Thomas Habermann (DE/EPP)</b> <b>COR-2019-0xxxx-00-00-PA-TRA</b> <b>ECON-VI/043</b>	Own-initiative opinion on the basis of Rule 41 b) ii)					Adoption
<b>Opinion on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): a basis for a long-term EU strategy for a sustainable Europe by 2030</b>  <i>COM(2019) 22 – final</i>  <b>Rapporteur: Arnoldas Abramavičius (LT/EPP)</b> <b>COR-2019-00239-00-00-PA-TRA</b> <b>ECON-VI/044</b>	Own-initiative opinion on the basis of European Commission documents -Rule 41 b) i)	Published on 30/1/2019  Council Conclusions in Sibiu 09/05/2019		Adoption	Adoption	
<b>Opinion on Towards a more efficient and democratic decision making in EU tax policy</b>  <b>Rapporteur: Christophe Rouillon (FR/PES)</b> <b>COR-2019-0xxxx-00-00-PA-TRA</b> <b>ECON-VI/0xx</b>	Own-initiative opinion on the basis of Rule 41 b) i)			Adoption	Adoption	

<b>Document (Rapporteur)</b>	<b>Legal basis</b>	<b>Interinstitutional framework</b>	<b>134th plenary session 10-11 April</b>	<b>23rd external commission meeting (and conference) 6 (and 7) May</b>	<b>135th plenary session 26-27 June</b>	<b>2th commission meeting 9 July</b>
<b>Opinion on Contribution from regions and cities towards a new EU policy framework for SMEs</b>  <b>Rapporteur: Tadeusz Truskolaski (PL/EA)</b> <b>COR-2019-0xxxx-00-00-PA-TRA</b> <b>ECON-VI/0xx</b>	Own-initiative opinion on the basis of Rule 41 b) ii)		Bureau decision			Adoption
<b>Opinion on Improving administrative capacity of local and regional authorities to strengthen investments and structural reforms in 2021-2027</b>  <b>Rapporteur: Manuela Bora (IT/PES)</b> <b>COR-2019-0xxxx-00-00-DT-TRA</b> <b>ECON-VI/0xx</b>	Own-initiative opinion on the basis of Rule 41 b) ii)		Bureau decision			Exchange of views

---