

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions



Europe's Macro-Regions Integration through territorial co-operation

FORUM AT THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS, BRUSSELS

13 April 2010

Conference Programme



PRESENTATION

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) invites interested regional representatives, experts and other stakeholders from existing and emerging 'macro-regions' to discuss issues related to strategy development and implementation and other themes of common interest at the CoR headquarters in Brussels (101 rue Belliard) on Tuesday, 13 April 2010.

- Territorial cohesion: Which link to macro-regional strategies?
- What lessons can be drawn from existing and emerging 'macro-regional strategies'?
- What is the role of local and regional authorities in the development and implementation of 'macro-regional strategies'?
- To which extent can macro-regions be comprehensive in their approach, covering several policy areas?
- Should macro-regions become a means to deliver significant EU funding?
- What can macro-regions deliver in terms of economic and environmental benefits?

Implementation of the EU strategy for the **Baltic Sea Region** (adopted in June 2009 by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council in October 2009) has already started, while a similar strategy is under development for the **Danube Region**. Stakeholders from the **North Sea-English Channel Region** are at the beginning of discussions to move towards a more integrated approach. This Forum will enable participants to share experience across these macro-regions which are at different stages of development.

Registration:
www.cor.europa.eu/macroregions

PROGRAMME

8:00-9:00

Registration

9:00-10:45

OPENING SESSION:

Keynote speeches

- **Mercedes Bresso**, President of the Committee of the Regions
- **Johannes Hahn**, European Commissioner for Regional Policy
- **Manuel Chaves González**, Third Vice President of the Government of Spain, Minister for Territorial Policy, on behalf of the Spanish Presidency (tbc)
- **Danuta Hübner**, Chairwoman of the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development (tbc)

Academic comment:

Martin Dangerfield, Wolverhampton University, United Kingdom

What is the added value of macro regions?

Debate with the floor moderated by **Jacki Davis**, Senior Adviser, European Policy Centre, Brussels

10:45-11:00

Coffee break

11:00-12:15

Four parallel thematic workshops

WORKSHOP 1: Lessons from implementing the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

CHAIR: **Pauliina Haijanen**, Member of the Regional Council of South West Finland, Rapporteur for the CoR Opinion on the Baltic Sea Strategy

SPEAKERS:

- **David Hunt**, B7 Facilitator, Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation, Hamburg, Germany
- **Merten Barnert**, Deputy Director of the Representation of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Brussels
- **Thorsten Kohlisch**, Berlin Senate Department for Economics, Technology and Women's Issues, Joint SME Finance for Innovation (Project JOSEFIN), Berlin, Germany
- **Ralf Barnim Foth**, Office of the Mayor of the City of Hamburg, Germany

WORKSHOP 2: Territorial aspects of co-operation in the Danube area

CHAIR: **Ion Prioteasa**, President of Dojl County Council, Romania (tbc)

SPEAKERS:

- **Ján Oravec**, Mayor of Stúrovo, Slovakia, Member of the CoR (tbc)
- **Jaroslav Drozd**, Vice President of the Zlin Region, Czech Republic



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- **Gyula Hegyi**, Advisor to the Commissioner for Social Affairs, European Commission, former Hungarian National Coordinator for the Danube Strategy
- **Kurt Puchinger**, Group Director of Urban Planning, City of Vienna, Austria

WORKSHOP 3: **How does a North Sea-Channel strategy meet the priorities of the 'EU 2020 strategy' and cohesion policy after 2013?**

CHAIR: **Rob Bats**, Member of the Executive Board of the Province of Drenthe, The Netherlands, Member of the CoR

SPEAKERS:

- **Michel Delebarre**, Mayor of Dunkerque, France, President of the CoR COTER Commission, President of the EGTC Côte d'Opale-West Flanders
- **Anneli Hulthén**, Mayor and Chairman of the City Executive Board of the City of Gothenburg, Sweden
- **Gunn-Marit Helgesen**, President of the North Sea Commission, Skien, Norway
- **Jean-Marc Venineaux**, Directorate-General for Regional Policy, European Commission
- **Ulf Savbäck**, Swedish Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications

WORKSHOP 4: **Challenges for the North Sea-English Channel region: Adaptation to climate change and economic development**

CHAIR: **Lenie Dwarshuis-Van de Beek**, Member of the Executive Board of the Province of South Holland, The Netherlands, Member of the CoR

SPEAKERS:

- **Bas Eickhout**, Member of the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
- **Annelie Stark**, Member of the Executive Committee of Region Västra Götaland, Sweden, Member of the CoR, Member of North Sea Commission's Strategic Committee
- **Wolfgang Gibowski**, State Secretary of Lower Saxony, Germany, Member of the CoR
- **Brad Watson**, Vice-President, Channel Arch Manche Assembly and Cabinet Member for Communications, West Sussex County Council, United Kingdom
- **Haitze Siemers**, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

12:30

Opening of the Alps-Adria Exhibition

SPEAKERS:

- **Mercedes Bresso**, President of the CoR
- **Renzo Tondo**, President of the Alps-Adria Working Community, President of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region
- **Henrik Gjerkeš**, Minister for Local Selfgovernment and Regional Policy of the Republic of Slovenia

12:45-14:00

Lunch reception and interregional jam session

14:00-15:00

Three parallel panel debates

Moderated debates with political representatives and experts

PANEL 1: **Challenges, vision and reality: The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region**

MODERATOR: **Tuomas Muraja**, Brussels Correspondent, Turun Sanomat, Finland

SPEAKERS:

- **Heinz Maurus**, State Secretary for Europe and Federal Affairs of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, Member of the CoR
- **Carl Haglund**, Member of the European Parliament, on behalf of the EP Intergroup "Baltic Europe", Finland
- **David Sweet**, Advisor to the Director General for Regional Policy, European Commission
- **Rikard Bengtsson**, Lund University, Sweden

PANEL 2: **The added value of an EU strategy for the Danube Region**

MODERATOR: **Zoltán Gyévai**, Editor-in-Chief, BruXInfo, Brussels

SPEAKERS:

- **Peter Straub**, President of the Baden-Württemberg State Assembly, Germany, President of the CoR Intergroup "Danube"
- **Silvia-Adriana Țicău**, Member of the European Parliament, Romania
- **Gábor Demszky**, Mayor of Budapest, Hungary
- **Colin Wolfe**, Directorate-General for Regional Policy, European Commission

PANEL 3: **Towards an EU strategy for the North Sea-English Channel area**

MODERATOR: **Jacki Davis**, Senior Adviser, European Policy Centre, Brussels

SPEAKERS:

- **Alain Cadec**, Member of the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development
- **Hermann Kuhn**, Member of the Bremen Regional Parliament, Germany, President of the CoR Intergroup "North Sea-English Channel"
- **Gunn-Marit Helgesen**, President of the North Sea Commission, Skien, Norway
- **Ernesto Penas Lado**, Director, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

15:00-15:15

Coffee break

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15:15-16:15

Three parallel meetings

MEETING 1: **A Baltic Sea Strategy beyond 2013**

CHAIR: **Uno Aldegren**, Member of the Executive Committee of Skåne Region, Sweden, President of the CoR Intergroup "Baltic Sea Regions"

SPEAKERS:

- **Mieczysław Struk**, Marshal of the Pomorskie Region, Poland
- **Haitze Siemers**, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
- **Pertti Joenniemi**, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute of International Studies, Copenhagen, Denmark

MEETING 2: **Policy input and expectations for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region**

CHAIR: **Penka Nedelkova Penkova**, Mayor of Lom, Bulgaria, Member of the CoR

SPEAKERS:

- **Aleksandra Gjoeska**, Executive Coordinator, Southeast European Cooperative Initiative, Vienna, Austria
- **Antonella Valmorbida**, Director, Association of the Local Democracy Agencies, Brussels, Belgium
- **Andreas Beckmann**, Director, WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme, Vienna, Austria
- **Harald Kutzenberger**, International Association for Danube Research, Wilhering, Austria

MEETING 3: **Conclusions for moving forward with a North Sea-English Channel Strategy**

CHAIR: **Gunn-Marit Helgesen**, President of the North Sea Commission, Skien, Norway

SPEAKERS:

- **Lenie Dwarshuis-Van de Beek**, Member of the Executive Board of the Province of South Holland, The Netherlands, Member of the CoR

- **Annelie Stark**, Member of the Executive Committee of Region Västra Götaland, Sweden, Member of the CoR, Member of North Sea Commission's Strategic Committee
- **Rob Bats**, Member of the Executive Board of the Province of Drenthe, The Netherlands, Member of the CoR
- **Eleni Marianou**, Secretary General of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)

16:30-17:45

Closing Session

Macro regions: Implications for territorial cohesion, multi-level governance and European integration

Opening remarks

Sen. Alfredo Mantica, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Italy, current presidency of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative

Panel debate

MODERATOR: **Jacki Davis**, Senior Adviser, European Policy Centre, Brussels

SPEAKERS:

- **Wolfgang Reinhart**, Minister for Federal, European and International Affairs of the State of Baden-Württemberg, Germany, Member of the CoR (tbc)
- **Uno Aldegren**, Member of the Executive Committee of Skåne Region, Sweden, President of the CoR Intergroup "Baltic Sea Regions"
- **Hermann Kuhn**, Member of the Bremen Regional Parliament, Germany, President of the CoR Intergroup "North Sea-English Channel"
- **Renzo Tondo**, President of the Alps-Adria Working Community, President of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region
- **Peter Schmitt**, Senior Research Fellow, Nordregio (Nordic Centre for Spatial Development), Stockholm, Sweden

Closing remarks

Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, President of the Spanish region of Murcia, First Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions



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