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EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

The Coalition for Sustainable EU Funds - in cooperation with the Committee of the Regions:

***Green investments to the rescue:
How the new Cohesion Policy can steer Europe's regions towards a sustainable
economy***

Tuesday, 29 November 2011, 14:00 – 18:00

Committee of the Regions, Room JDE52

Bâtiment Jacques Delors, Rue Belliard 99-101 - 1040 Brussels

Interpretation will be provided in English, French, German and Italian

In preparation for the adoption of new regulations that will guide Cohesion and Structural funds during the next EU budget period, the Coalition for Sustainable EU funds convenes representatives from European regions, EU institutions, Member States, the European Investment Bank and multiple stakeholders to discuss the ways in which EU regional funds can steer a green recovery for EU regions. EU funds can pave the way to a green economy, where increased wealth does not lead to growing environmental risk, ecological scarcity and social disparity. The current discussion about the reform of the EU Cohesion Policy is the best to outline the shift of European regions towards this path of sustainable development.

AGENDA

Opening speech: Axel Volkery, Head of Environmental Governance Programme, Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)

14:00 – 15:45

Panel 1: EU funds as catalysts for a green recovery in European regions

Representatives from the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, Member States and the academic community will discuss the role of EU funds in transitioning to a green economy, particularly in the context of the current economic crisis.

Chair: Magda Stoczkiewicz, Director, Friends of the Earth Europe

The "Coalition for Sustainable EU Funds" is formed by leading European Environmental NGOs, with the purpose to set out and promote clear recommendations for the next EU budget to catalyse the transition towards a just society that guarantees the well-being of citizens in a globally responsible way, and within the ecological limits of the planet.

Speakers:

- Constanze Krehl, MEP (S&D), Rapporteur on “General Cohesion Policy Regulation”
- Representative of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional Policy
- Colin Hines, Convener of the Green New Deal Group
- Ezio Orzes, Councillor for the Environment of Ponte nelle Alpi/Italy, Member of Executive Committee of the Association of Virtuous Municipalities
- Bojan Ribic, Manager of the Waste Management Division, Municipal Company Cistoca, Zagreb/Croatia

15:45 – 16:15: coffee break

16:15 – 18:00

Panel 2: Conditions for EU funds to effectively support the transition to a resource efficient, eco-resilient and renewables-based economy

Experts from the green economic sector, the Commission, the European Investment Bank, city representatives and local authorities will debate how best to open the door for new investment opportunities to improve the sustainability of regional economies, to provide multiple benefits such as long-term, secure green jobs and to help achieve EU environmental objectives.

Chair: Anelia Stefanova, Policy Director CEE Bankwatch Network

Speakers:

- Elisabeth Schroedter, MEP (Greens/EFA), Member of the Working Party on Future of Cohesion Policy of the REGI committee
- Hermann Kuhn, Member of ENVE Commission of the Committee of the Regions, Member of the Bremen City Parliament, Bremen/Germany
- Mario Aymerich, Director of Environment and Regional Development Department, European Investment Bank
- Georges Bullion, Chair of Urban Working Group, CECODHAS – Housing Europe
- Lucie Tesniere, European Renewable Energy Council

Closing remarks will be followed by a cocktail reception



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