



progressive
society



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament



PES GROUP
European Committee
of the Regions

No territory and No people left behind

European Cohesion policy: **A KEY TOOL TO MAKE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BECOME REALITY THROUGHOUT EU'S REGIONS**

(FINAL Draft – 4 feb 2019)

Date: 7 February 2019 from 14.30 to 18.30 + Cocktail afterwards

Place: European Parliament (Rooms ASP 3G2 + ASP 5G305 + ASP 1G369)

Languages : FR DE IT EN ES PL

Targeted audience

-) leaders, representatives and associations of local and regional authorities of the European Union belonging to the progressive families (besides the Brussels headquarters)
-) network of NGOs and social partners with whom Progressive Society has built strong partnerships

Concept

The goal of this event is to further disseminate and develop the policy approach already outlined in the Report of the Independent Commission for Sustainable Equality ¹ by producing an **Appeal entitled “No territory and no people left behind”**

The event is co - organized with the PES Group in the European Committee of the Regions, building on the dynamics of contacts established with other actors, including the Cohesion Alliance.²

The Appeal aims at bringing forward a **renewed vision for cohesion, embedded in new European solidarity, in the implementation of SDG goals at local and regional levels (which a number of local, urban and regional entities already do), and in a place-based and participatory approach through local empowerment.**

¹ <https://www.progressivesociety.eu/publication/report-independent-commission-sustainable-equality-2019-2024>

² Cohesion alliance launched by the European Committee of the Regions with the following organizations : Assembly of European Regions (AER); - Association of European Border Regions (AEBR); Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE); Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CRPM/CPMR); Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CCRE/CEMR); Eurocities

It shows that, in the context of globalization, EU cohesion policy should be a powerful driver to sharpen the European identity and should be based on a European vision of what sustainable development should be by taking into account on equal footing environmental, social and economic considerations.

The Appeal will be proclaimed at the end of the conference. It is the result of an interactive discussion with regional and local, urban and rural leaders and actors (of which mayors and municipalities) on how to frame EU policy and in particular EU cohesion policy to ensure that, **no territory and no people shall be left behind.**

Local and regional authorities are frontrunners in the implementation of the SDGs³ They are a laboratory of innovative local development logics that can be even better supported or triggered by the EU budget, and in particular (but not only) cohesion policy.

The PES Group in the European Committee of the Regions will also organize in 5 April 2019 a conference on sustainable development and regional development (in Bremen, DE)⁴. The S-D group will participate in the preparation of this conference (“Together” event with input from the Progressive Society perspective).

We will therefore ensure a continuation between both events. The Brussels S&D Group/Progressive Society/ PES Committee of Regions event of February 2019 could therefore be seen as a sort of “kick-off event” to show that the socialist/ progressive family is strongly mobilized on the territorial dimension towards a different and sustainable Europe.

³ see collection of practices by Progressive Society on “ecological transformation as a social lever”.

⁴ Ulrike Hiller *Member of the CoR, Secretary of State Federal and European Affairs and Development cooperation, Free Hanseatic City of Bremen will host the Bremen conference. She will attend the Brussels conference as well*

Draft Programme

(Version 04/02/2019)

14.30 – 15.15 - Opening Session (Webstreamed)

Sustainable Development: how territories are leading the way

Room ASP 3G2

Moderator: Anna Lisa Boni, Secretary General of EUROCITIES

-) **Opening Address:** Jeffrey D. Sachs, professor of economics at Columbia University (US), leader in sustainable development, senior UN advisor
-) **Keynote speech:** Giorgios Kaminis, Mayor of Athens (GR), Member of the European Committee of Regions
-) **Welcoming speeches / EU at a crossroad. Territories as frontrunners of sustainable development policies**
 - Udo Bullmann (DE), President S&D Group
 - Catuscia Marini (IT), President PES Group CoR, President of Umbria

15.30 – 17.00

Three Interactive workshops running in parallel

-) *For each workshop, one moderator, one rapporteur, 3 speakers*
-) *Mixing representatives of regional/local authorities, MEPs, NGOs, Trade Unions*
-) *Moderator to lead the debate in a dynamic, interactive way (including with audience) 'ping pong style'*

Workshop 1: Implementing Just transition at local level

(Room ASP 1 G 369) – IN ENGLISH ONLY

Moderator: Daniel Termont (BE), former Mayor of Ghent, former President of Eurocities

Speakers

-) Benjamin Denis (FR), Adviser ETUC Secretariat, in charge of climate change notably
-) Beata Maciejewska (PL), Special Envoy of the Mayor of Slupsk for Sustainable Development

-) Kata Tütt (HU), Local councilor, District 12 Budapest, Member of European Committee of the Regions, CoR rapporteur on energy poverty

Rapporteur: Sanjeev Kumar (UK), CEO & Founding Director of Change Partnership

Workshop 2: Repowering people at the local level - Strengthening the partnership principle within EU cohesion policy

(Room ASP 5G305 – ENGLISH ONLY)

Moderator: Carol Thomas (UK), Adviser *Governance and Institutional Relations* (Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CCRE/CEMR))

Speakers

-) Teresa Laespada (ES), *Diputada Foral* (Councillor) in charge of social policies, Province of Bizkaia
-) Olga Zrihen (BE), Member of Wallonia's parliament, Member of the European Committee of Regions
-) John Bachtler (UK), European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde, and TU Delft

Rapporteur: Mercedes Bresso (IT), S&D Vice-President in charge of economic and social issues, Member of the European Parliament

Workshop 3: Convergence between and within European territories - Time to deliver!

Room ASP 3G2 (EN, FR, ES, DE, PL, IT) / Webstreamed

Moderator: Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (ES), member of the Independent Commission on Sustainable Equality (Progressive Society initiative), Professor of Economic Geography, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Speakers

-) Juan Espadas Cejas (ES), Mayor of Seville, Member of the European Committee of Regions
-) Margit Tago / Kristina Avdonina (EE), coordinators youth policies JMK Johannes Mihkelsoni Keskus (Tallin and Hartju)
-) Ulrike Hiller (DE), Secretary of State Federal and European Affairs and Development cooperation, Free Hanseatic City of Bremen , Member of the European Committee of Regions

Rapporteur: Eric Andrieu (FR), S&D Vice-President, in charge of budget, agriculture and cohesion, Member of the European Parliament

17.15 – 18.30 - Plenary debate (webstreamed)

Room ASP 3G2

Will cohesion policy 2021-2027 be fit for purpose?

Moderator: Anna Lisa Boni, Secretary General of EUROCITIES

-) Rapporteur Workshop 1: Sanjeev Kumar (UK), CEO & Founding Director of Change Partnership
-) Rapporteur Workshop 2: Mercedes Bresso (IT), S&D Vice-President, European Parliament
-) Rapporteur Workshop 3: Eric Andrieu (FR), S&D Vice-President , European Parliament

High-level political discussion on issues raised in the 3 workshops

Isabelle Boudineau (FR), President of COTER Commission in the European Committee of Regions, Vice-President Nouvelle Aquitaine Region

Andrea Cozzolino (IT), S-D Vice-President of the REGI committee, Member of the European Parliament

Constanze Krehl (DE), S&D Coordinator REGI committee, Member of the European Parliament

Karl-Heinz Lambertz (BE), President of the European Committee of Regions

Conclusion: Proclamation of the Appeal of the Progressive family “No territory and no place left behind”

Family Photo and cocktail