

AGENDA

High Level Conference Dedicated to EU Cohesion Policy: post-2020 Perspectives for Convergence and Sustainable Regions Sofia, 7th – 8th June 2018

7th June 2018, “Boyana” Residence

- 19:30 – 20:00** **Cultural Programme**
- 20:00 – 22:00** **Gala Dinner for the Panellists and the Heads of Delegations**

8th June 2018, National Palace of Culture, Hall No3

- 8:30 – 9:15** **Arrival of delegates and handshake with the Heads of delegations**
- 9:15– 9:30** **Opening speech:** Mr. Boyko Borisov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria
- 9:30 – 11:30** **Panel 1 “The European added value of Cohesion Policy”**
Moderator: Mr. Tomislav Donchev, Deputy Prime Minister, Bulgaria
Panellists:
- Ms. Corina Crețu, Commissioner for Regional Policy, EC
 - Ms. Iskra Mihaylova, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development, EP
 - Mr. Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions
 - Mr. Richard Rasi, Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Informatization, Slovakia
 - Mr. Lambert van Nistelrooij, Member of the European Parliament, Netherlands
 - Mr. Aaron Farrugia, Parliamentary Secretary for EU Funds and Social Dialogue, Malta
- Duration: 2 h., including 5 min. per panellist for individual speeches and a discussion.*
- 11:30 – 12:00** **Coffee Break**
- 11:30 – 11:40** **Family photo of the panellists and Heads of delegations**
- 11:40 – 12:00** **Joint briefing**

12:00 – 14:00 Panel 2 “The new EU budget – challenges and opportunities for Cohesion Policy post-2020”

Moderator: Ms. Lilyana Pavlova, Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2018

Panellists:

- Mr. Günther Oettinger, Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources, EC
- Mr. Vladislav Goranov, Minister of Finance, Bulgaria
- Mr. Jerzy Kwieciński, Minister of Investment and Economic Development, Poland
- Ms. Kerstin Westphal, Member of the European Parliament, Germany
- Mr. Marc Lemaître, Director-General, DG "Regional and Urban Policy", EC
- Ms. Andriana Sukova, Deputy Director-General, DG "Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion", EC
- Ms. Ilyana Tsanova, Deputy Managing Director EFSI, European Investment Bank

Duration: 2 h., including 5 min. per panellist for individual speeches and a discussion.

14:00 – 15:15 Lunch

15:15 – 16:45 Panel 3 “Risk and price of “non-cohesion” of the EU regions”

Moderator: Ms. Tanya Hristova, Mayor of Gabrovo Municipality, Bulgaria

Panellists:

- Mr. Nikolay Nankov, Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, Bulgaria
- Ms. Alenka Smerkolj, Minister responsible for Development, Strategic Projects and Cohesion, Slovenia
- Ms. Gabrijela Žalac, Minister of Regional Development and EU Funds, Croatia
- Mr. Michiel Rijsberman, Regional Minister of Flevoland, the Netherlands
- Mr. Petr Osvald, Member of the European Committee of Regions, Councillor of the City of Plzeň, Czech Republic
- Mr. Andrey Novakov, Member of the European Parliament, Bulgaria
- Ms. Charlina Vitcheva, Deputy Director-General, DG “Joint Research Centre”, EC
- Prof. John Bachtler, Director, European Policy Research Centre, University of Strathclyde

Duration: 1:30 h., including 5 min. per panellist for individual speeches and a discussion.

16:45 – 17:00 Closure of the Conference