



PROGRAMME

Lead Moderator: **Jacki Davis**

FIRST DAY - Thursday 11 April 2024

12:00 – 13:30 Registration and welcome lunch

13:30 – 13:40 OPENING SPEECH

- **Ursula von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission (*by video message*)

13:40 – 14:00 WELCOME SPEECH

- **Elisa Ferreira**, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission

14:00 – 14:30 KEYNOTE SPEECH

- **Enrico Letta**, President of the Jacques Delors Institute, rapporteur of the High-Level Report on the future of the Single Market, former Prime Minister of Italy (*online*)

14:30 – 16:00 1st PANEL DEBATE – **What's going on with economic and social convergence in the EU?**

Moderator: Eulalia Rubio, Jaques Delors Institute

- **Elio Di Rupo**, Minister-President of Wallonia, Belgium, Presidency of the Council of the EU
- **Younous Omarjee**, MEP, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development of the European Parliament
- **Sven Giegold**, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Germany
- **Loïg Chesnais-Girard**, President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, President of Brittany Region, France
- **Simona Iammarino**, University of Cagliari, Italy, and Department of Geography & Environment and Cañada Blanch Centre, LSE, UK
- **Agnieszka Chłoń-Domińczak**, Vice Rector for Research, Director of the Institute of Statistics and Demography, SGH Warsaw School of Economics

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 18:00 INTERVIEW: **Role of cities in regional development**

Moderator: Jacki Davis

- **Carole Delga**, President of the Occitanie/ Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region, President of Régions de France, France
- **Emil Boc**, Mayor of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, Chair of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget of the European Committee of the Regions
- **Sharon Dijksma**, Mayor of Utrecht, President of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities
- **Jānis Rozenbergs**, Chairman of the Cēsis County Council, Latvia
- **André Sobczak**, Secretary General, Eurocities

18:00 – 20:30 Reception - Walking dinner

Venue: THE SQUARE - Brussels Convention Centre, Mont des Arts, 1000 Brussels



SECOND DAY – Friday 12 April 2024

08:00 – 09:30 Welcome coffee

09:30 – 10:00 KEYNOTE SPEECHES

- **Roberta Metsola**, President of the European Parliament (*by video message*)
- **Nicolas Schmit**, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, European Commission

10:00 – 11:30 2nd PANEL DEBATE: The triple transition, an anchor for competitiveness, growth and social justice

Moderator: Javier Espinoza, Financial Times

- **Maroš Šefčovič**, Executive Vice-President, European Green Deal, Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight, European Commission
- **Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, Third Vice-President of the Government, Minister for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Spain
- **Katarzyna Pełczyńska-Nałęcz**, Minister for Development Funds and Regional Policy, Poland
- **Oliver Röpke**, President of the European Economic and Social Committee
- **Michele Emiliano**, President of the Apulia region, Italy

11:30-11:50 Coffee Break

11:50-13:20 3rd PANEL DEBATE – Cohesion: an objective shared among all policies

Moderator: Alison Hunter, European Policy Centre

- **Ivan Bartoš**, Deputy Prime Minister for Digitisation and Minister of Regional Development, Czechia
- **Wille Rydman**, Minister of Economic Affairs, Finland
- **Tibor Navracsics**, Minister of Public Administration and Regional Development, Hungary
- **Anna Diamantopoulou**, President of DIKTIO – Network for Reform in Greece and Europe, former EU Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, former Minister
- **Mirja Vehkaperä**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions

13:20 – 14:45 Lunch

14:45 – 16:15 4th PANEL DEBATE – Which EU Cohesion Policy for the future?

Moderator: Jacki Davis

- **Christopher Fearn**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for European Funds, Equality, Reforms and Social Dialogue, Malta
- **Kostis Hatzidakis**, Minister of Economy and Finance, Greece
- **Vasco Alves Cordeiro**, President of the European Committee of the Regions
- **Teodora Preoteasa**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Investments and European Projects, Romania
- **Andrés Rodríguez Pose**, Chair of the High-Level Group on the Future of Cohesion Policy
- **Rachel de Basso**, Regional councillor, Chair of the regional board of Region Jönköping County, Sweden

16:15 – 16:30 CLOSING REMARKS

- **Elisa Ferreira**, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission

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