



Committee of the Regions

Brussels, 26 May 2016

ENLARGEMENT DAY

Contribution of the subnational authorities to the enlargement process

Organised in cooperation with DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

1- 2 June 2016, European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99-101, Brussels

| Day 1: Wednesday, 1 June 2016 | | |
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| 09:30 – 13:00 | <p>Working Group on the Western Balkans (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania and Kosovo*) – meeting room VMA1</p> | <p>Working Group on Turkey – meeting room JDE52</p> |
| | <p><u>Main topic:</u> <i>Cross-border cooperation projects in the Western Balkans: The involvement of local and regional government</i></p> <p><u>Key speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Franz Schausberger (AT/EPP), chair of the Working Group ▪ H.E. Suela Janina, Ambassador, Head of Mission of Albania to the EU ▪ Michela Matuella, Head of Unit: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, DG NEAR | <p><u>Main topic:</u> <i>Shared Challenges – the Refugees Crisis and the Role of Sub-National Authorities</i></p> <p><u>Key speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jean-Luc Vanraes (BE/ALDE), chair of the Working Group ▪ H.E. Selim Yenel, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Turkey to the EU ▪ Patrick Paquet, Deputy Head of Unit: Turkey, DG NEAR ▪ Turkish members of the Congress of the Council of Europe |
| 14:30 – 18:30 | <p>Joint Consultative Committee with Montenegro – meeting room JDE53</p> | |
| | <p><u>Main topic:</u> <i>Economic governance and economic development at local level</i></p> <p><u>Key speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aleksandar Bogdanović, Mayor of the Old Royal Capital Cetinje, co-chair of the JCC ▪ Rasko Konjevic, Minister of Finance, Montenegro (tbc) ▪ Hughie McGrath, Tipperary County Council, co-chair of the JCC ▪ HE Ivan Leković, Ambassador of the Montenegro to the EU ▪ Angela Longo, Policy Officer, European Integration - Co-political desk for Montenegro, DG NEAR | |
| 19:00 | <p>Official dinner (CoR, Atrium 5, 5th floor of JDE building)</p> | |

ENLARGEMENT DAY

Plenary Session

| Day 2: Thursday, 2 June 2016 – meeting room JDE52 | |
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| 9.00–10.00 | <p>Opening session: The involvement of the sub-national authorities in the EU enlargement process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome statement by Karl-Heinz Lambertz (BE/PES), First Vice-President of the CoR• Maciej Popowski, Deputy Director-General in charge of Migration/Refugees and Security related issues, DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission <p>Exchange of views followed by Reporting back from the meetings of the Joint Consultative Committee and Working Groups</p> |
| 10.00–11.30 | <p>First roundtable discussion: Fundamentals first - multi-level governance and the rule of law; freedom of expression; respect of minorities and fighting discrimination</p> <p><u>Main objective:</u> <i>to share experiences of EU Member States and enlargement countries on local self-governance policies and share lessons learned from projects on the support of good governance at local and regional level. The spectrum of tools that can help local authorities to improve their key functions and contribute to achieving the modernisation agenda will also be dealt with.</i></p> <p><u>Key speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elmar Brok, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs (tbc)• Gudrun Mosler-Törnström, Vice-President of the Congress of the Council of Europe and President of the Chamber of Regions• Anna Magyar (HU/EPP), CoR rapporteur on <i>Enlargement strategy 2015-2016</i>• Allan Jones, Head of Unit, Strategy, Policy, Planning; EEA/EFTA, DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)• Oriano Otočan, President of European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), Director of Department in charge of international cooperation and European integration in the Region of Istria <p>Exchange of views</p> |
| 11.30–11.45 | Coffee break/ Group picture/ Technical briefing |

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| 11.45–12.55 | <p>Second roundtable discussion: EU local and regional authorities experience in using structural and cohesion funds: transposing lessons to Pre-Accession funds</p> <p><u>Main topic:</u> <i>The Committee of Regions has consistently argued for a greater degree of involvement by local and regional authorities in disbursing Pre-Accession funds (IPA) effectively. The case for such involvement by LRAs is clear given that the purpose of IPA funds is to improve the quality of public administration, the rule of law, democratic governance, to support economic development and to assist in the fight against both organised crime and corruption. In particular, the CoR believes that IPA should be made more targeted, efficient and coherent, and that this instrument should devote more attention to strengthening administrative capacity at local and regional level.</i></p> <p><u>Key speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goran Svilanović, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) • Emil Drăghici (RO/EA), CoR member and former President of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS) • Petr Osvald (CZ/PES), CoR rapporteur on <i>Simplification of European Structural and Investment Funds</i> (ESIF) • Argyrios Pisiotis, Head of Sector, IPA/Accession negotiations, Directorate General for for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission <p>Exchange of views</p> |
| 12.55–13.00 | Concluding remarks by Markku Markkula , CoR President |

Working languages: 23 BG/ES/CS/DA/DE/ET/EL/EN/FR/HR/IT/LV/LT/HU/MT/NL/PL/PT/RO/SK/SL/FI/SV

Interpreting:

(participants may listen in) 17 BG/ES/CS/DE/EL/EN/FR/HR/IT/HU/PL/PT/RO/NL/FI/LT/TR

(participants may speak in) 13 BG/ES/CS/DE/EL/EN/FR/HR/IT/HU/PL/PT/RO

N.B.: Only JCC/WG members and alternates delegated to attend the meeting will be entitled to travel and subsistence payments.

Members are asked to use the online system for delegation of presence in order to confirm their attendance at the meeting or to notify the secretariat of any delegation of presence to another member or alternate under Rule 5(2) of the Rules of Procedure. The online system is accessible through the Members' Portal on the CoR main website.

The Helpdesk (+32-2-546-9697; email: helpdesk@cor.europa.eu) will be happy to provide any further assistance you may need.