



Committee of the Regions

The EU's Assembly of Regional and Local Representatives

COR/12/42

Brussels, 13 July 2012

Tackling the crisis: European Investment Bank to discuss ways to further cooperate with cities and regions during CoR Plenary

- **President of the European Investment Bank to debate with CoR members**
- **EU Cypriot Presidency to present its agenda**
- **Next Committee of the Region's President to be appointed**
- **EU Commissioner Malmström and CoR member Vendola to discuss asylum and immigration**

During the next Committee of the Region's (CoR) Plenary to be held on 18-19 July, **Werner Hoyer**, President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), will join the CoR President **Mercedes Bresso** and the incoming CoR President, **Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso**, to discuss how the two institutions can work together to increase the quality of development projects and their implementation, as well how the EIB can intervene to grant the continuity of co-financing of the operational programmes for structural funds 2014-2020. The discussions will review the enforced role of the EIB in supporting local economies in reacting to the crisis, with a view to introduce measures, such as the project bonds, to further improve cooperation with local and regional authorities. The panel will be open to questions from the press during a press conference to be held on 18 July (see media programme below).

Financial investment will continue to be debated on the first day with the re-launch and the quality of public and private investments being the main aspects of the opinions on "Connecting Europe Facility" (Rapporteur: **Ivan Žagar** (SL/EPP)) and the "Award of public concessions" (Rapporteur: **Henk Kool** (NL/PES)) that will be submitted for adoption by CoR members.

The priorities of the EU Council **Cypriot Presidency** will be presented by **Andreas Mavroyannis**, Cypriot Deputy Minister for European Affairs.

CoR members are then expected to elect **Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso** (EPP/ES) as the successor of the current President, **Mercedes Bresso** (PES/IT), who will formally take over the CoR Presidency this year. The new political priorities of the institution reflecting the working programme of the European Commission will be presented on this occasion.

Asylum and immigration will also be high on the Plenary's first day agenda with four opinions presented for adoption, including the opinion of **Nichi Vendola** (IT/PES), President of the Puglia Region on "The Global Approach to Migration and Mobility". European Commissioner for Home Affairs, **Cecilia Malmström**, will present the European Commission's perspective on the issue with a statement ahead of the presentation of the CoR opinions.

On Thursday 19 July, issues related to **environmental policy** will heavily feature within the discussions. Three opinions will be presented for adoption, including "Future cities: Environmentally and social sustainable cities" (Rapporteur: **Hella Dunger-Löper** (DE/PES)), "A mechanism for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions" (Rapporteur: **Neil Swannick**, (UK/PES)) and the "Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)" (Rapporteur: **Kay Twitchen**, (UK/NI)).

The CoR Plenary will also consider the new Regulation for the European Territorial Cooperation, presented in the opinion drafted by **Petr Osvald** (CZ/PES).

Further information:

- [Full Plenary Session Agenda](#)
- [Plenary Media Programme](#)

The debates will be streamed live at www.cor.europa.eu on Wednesday 18 July from 3 pm and Thursday 19 July from 9 am.

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The Committee of the Regions

The Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of regional and local representatives. The mission of its 344 members from all 27 EU Member States is to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the EU's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies. The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council are obliged to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the EU Court of Justice if its rights are infringed or it believes that an EU law violates the subsidiarity principle or fails to respect regional or local powers.

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