

PRESS RELEASE

ATHENS, 14 FEBRUARY 2012

EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn, visits Greek regions (14– 15 February), to ensure that Regional Funds are used for growth and innovation.

This visit is part of the Commissioner's "tour" of all 13 Greek regions, to make sure Regional Funds - the country's main source of public investment- are spent more effectively.

An important objective of the mission is to push the use of Regional Funds for research and development, innovation, support for Small and Medium-sized businesses, and sustainable tourism. He'll also be speaking to regional representatives about how to tackle the problem of illegal landfill sites which blight areas and discourage investment in the local economy. Waste management plants can be financed with Cohesion Funds.

Programme:

On Thursday, 14 February, Commissioner Hahn is in it **Patras**, the capital of Western Greece Region. He'll meet the **Governor of the Region, Mr Apostolos Katsifaras** and will participate in a meeting of representatives of local authorities, professional associations, business and NGOs. Mr Hahn's speech will deal with **"The future of EU cohesion policy"**.

Later the same day, Commissioner Hahn will visit **Tripolis**, the capital of Peloponnese Region, where he will meet business and regional representatives.

On Friday, 15TH, the Commissioner will will hold a **press conference** with the participation of local media (*at 11.30 local time, Conference Hall of Peloponnese Region*).

During his visit to Patras and Tripolis, Mr. Hahn will also visit EU co-funded local projects including the Ancient Olympia Western Greece project, and the Institute of Chemical Sciences in Patras.

Photos and video coverage:

<http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/ebs/schedule.cfm>

Further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/hahn/index_en.cfm

http://ec.europa.eu/ellada/index_el.htm