Monday, 18 June 2018

13:30 – 14:30  Registration and welcome coffee  Charlemagne Building

Opening Plenary  De Gasperi Room

Moderator: Nathalie VERSCHELDE, Deputy Head of Unit, Interreg, Cross-Border Cooperation, Internal Borders Unit, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

14:30 – 15:00  Opening Remarks:
Marc LEMAÎTRE, Director-General, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
Joachim ZELLER, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Regional Development Committee (REGI)

15:00 – 16:00  Plenary Session I – Implementation State of Play
• State of play of Interreg programme implementation and follow-up to the Communication on EU Border Regions
Lena ANDERSSON PENCH, Director, Territorial Cooperation, Macro-regions and Programme Implementation I Directorate, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
• Assessment of the implementation of Interreg Programmes – Facts and Figures
John WALSH, Evaluation and European Semester Unit, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
Q&A session

16:00 -16:20  Coffee break

Workshops on Implementation

16:20 - 18:00  Workshop 1 - Simplification and simplified cost options  De Gasperi Room

• Chair:
Ana-Paula LAISSY, Head of Unit, Interreg, Cross-Border Cooperation, Internal Borders Unit, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

• Panellists:
Isabel PARDO-GARCIA, External Auditor, Audit Unit, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
Antje HELWIG, Programme Manager, Germany- Denmark Interreg Programme
Stef PEETERS, Quality Manager, Flanders-Netherlands Interreg Programme
Maria José BÚRDALO, Sub-directorate General for Management of the European Regional Development Fund, Spain
Liga LACE, Deputy Director, Development Instruments Department, Latvia-Lithuania Interreg Programme

• Rapporteur:
Melina SOUMELA, Policy assistant, Better Implementation Unit, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Workshop 2 - Performance review 2019  Mansholt Room

• Chair:
Mariana HRISTCHEVA, Head of Unit, Evaluation and European Semester Unit, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

• Panellists:
Bernhard SCHAUSBERGER, EGTC and Interreg Post 2020 Expert, Interact
Martin BURSIK, Head of the unit for preparation and methodology of CBC programmes, Department of European territorial cooperation, Ministry for Regional Development, Czech Republic
Merike NITEPOLD, Head of Managing Authority, Regional Council of South-West Finland
Barbara Di PIAZZA, Head of Joint Secretariat, ADRION Interreg Programme, Italy

• Rapporteur:
Dorota WITOLDSON, Desk Officer, Interreg, Cross-Border Cooperation, Internal Borders Unit, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission.

Workshop 3 - Capitalisation of results and Communication  Jenkins Room

• Chair:
Tomasz PETRYKOWSKI, Coordinator, Interact
18:30 – 21:30
Networking Tables and Standing dinner  Berlaymont Building, Piazza

Tuesday, 19 June 2018

8:15 – 9:00
Welcome coffee  Charlemagne Building

Plenary  De Gasperi Room

Moderator: Nathalie VERSCHELDE, Deputy Head of Unit, Interreg, Cross-Border Cooperation, Internal Borders Unit, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

9:00 - 9:30
European cross-border cooperation, Historical perspective
  Birte WASSENBERG, Professor, University of Strasbourg
  Q&A session

9:30 – 10:45
Plenary Session II – Future orientations
  • Multianual Financial Framework: presentation of the new proposal
    Eric von BRESKA, Director, Policy Directorate, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
  • New regulatory proposal for European Territorial Cooperation post-2020
    Moray GILLAND, Head of Unit, Policy development and Economic Analysis Unit, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
  • Future of cross-border cooperation - view of the Committee of the Regions
    Pavel BRANDA, Vice-Mayor of Rádlo municipality (Czech Republic), Member of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER), European Committee of the Regions
  Q&A session

10:45 – 11:00
Coffee break

Workshops on the Future

11:00 – 12:00
Workshop 1 - Reinforcing territorial coherence  De Gasperi Room

  • Chair:
    Kai BÖHME, Director of Spatial Foresight

  • Panellists:
    Ilona RAUGZE, Director of ESPON programme
    Luca FERRARESE, Director of Central Europe Programme
    Ludger SIPPEL, co-drafter of an analysis of the existing cross-border rail transport connections and missing links on the internal EU borders-2018, KCW GMBH

  • Rapporteur:
    Jean-Marc VENINEAUX, Quality Management Officer, Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional cooperation, IPA, Enlargement Unit, DG Regional and Urban policy, European Commission
Workshop 2 - Sea basins and maritime cooperation

Mansholt Room

- Chair: Jean-Pierre HALKIN, Head of Unit, Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional cooperation, IPA, Enlargement Unit, DG Regional and Urban policy, European Commission

- Panellists:
  - Christos ECONOMOU, Head of Unit, Sea Basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security Unit, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
  - Philipp SCHWARTZ, Capitalisation and Inter-programme capacity and competence, Interact
  - Sophie SCARVELIS, Head of the Project and Programme Development Unit, Joint Secretariat, Interreg MED Programme
  - Ruut LOUWERS, Director, Interreg North-West Europe Programme
  - Pauline CAUMONT, Executive Secretary of the Atlantic Arc Commission, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Region (CPMR)

- Rapporteur: Jean-Pierre HALKIN, Head of Unit, Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional cooperation, IPA, Enlargement Unit, DG Regional and Urban policy, European Commission

Workshop 3 - External border cooperation

Jenkins Room

- Chair: Nicholas CENDROWICZ, Deputy Head of Unit, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes Unit, DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR), European Commission

- Panellists:
  - Iulia HERTZOG, Head of Managing Authority, Interreg IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme
  - Ivana LAZIC, European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, Interact
  - Valentina VIDOVIC, Ministry of European Integration, Government of the Republic of Serbia – INTERREG IPA CBC Bulgaria-Serbia Programme
  - Simona POHLOVA, IPA team leader, Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional cooperation, IPA, Enlargement Unit, DG Regional and Urban policy, European Commission
  - Carlos Javier BOLAÑOS, Team leader, Technical Support to the Implementation and Management of ENI CBC Programme (TESIM)

- Rapporteur: Simona POHLOVA, IPA team leader, Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional cooperation, IPA, Enlargement Unit, DG Regional and Urban policy, European Commission

Closing Plenary

De Gasperi Room

Moderator: Nathalie VERSCHELEDE, Deputy Head of Unit, Interreg, Cross-Border Cooperation, Internal Borders Unit, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

12:00 - 12:40
Restitution of workshops by rapporteurs (6’ each)

12:40 – 13:00
Conclusions and Closing Remarks
- Denitsa NIKOLOVA, Deputy Minister for Regional Development and Public Works, Bulgaria, Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- Karl-Heinz LAMBERTZ, President of the European Committee of the Regions
- Video message – Corina CREŢU, Commissioner for Regional Policy, European Commission

13:00 – 14:00
Standing lunch

14:00
Meeting on ground floor of the Charlemagne building for departure to the optional Project visits

14:30
Bus transport to the following Project venues:
- Option 1: Eurorinetropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai (Tournai) www.eurornetropolis.eu
- Option 2: North-West Europe (Jemeppe-sur-Sambre) www.nweurope.eu

At walking distance from the Charlemagne building:
- Option 3: House of European History (Parc Leopold, Brussels) www.historia-europa.ep.eu

20.00
Bus transport back to the Charlemagne building, Brussels

End of the Event
Speakers

Monday, 18 June 2018

Opening remarks

Marc Lemaître studied at Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and Bruges (College of Europe) and holds a Master in European Economics. He brings 20 years of profound experience in European Affairs, both in the European Commission and in the diplomatic service of Luxembourg. Between 1996 and 2006, he worked in the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the European Union, dealing with budgetary, trade and general affairs issues. He joined the Commission in 2007 as Head of the private office of Regional Policy Commissioner, Danuta Hübner, and then her successor, Paweł Samecki. Between 2010 and 2013, he led the private office of Budget Commissioner Janusz Lewandowski. Between 2013 and 2016, he managed, as Director, the Office for Administration and Payment of individual entitlements (PMO). Since 1 September 2016 he is Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy.

Plenary Session I – Implementation State of Play

Lena Andersson Pench is Director in the European Commission’s DG Regional and Urban Policy department with responsibility for “European Territorial Cooperation, Macro-regions, Interreg and Programmes Implementation I”. She was previously Audit Director in the same DG and held management positions in different Commission departments since 1998. Between 1995-1998, she was a Member of Commissioner Gradin’s cabinet in charge of economic, financial, budgetary, research and competitiveness matters. She holds a degree in Economics and Business Administration from Uppsala University and has also studied in France.

John Walsh is a team leader in the Evaluation and European Semester unit of the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy in the European Commission.
In his functions he works on ESIF Open Data, and the monitoring and evaluation of 2014-2020 programmes. He was a coordinator for the 2016 Annual Summary report.
He has a wide experience in issues linked to coordinating the implementation of the Structural and Cohesion Funds. In 2010 and 2013 he was involved in producing the Commission Strategic reports on implementation of the 2007-2013 programmes across the EU 27. Previously, he worked on thematic coordination and good practice exchange and supported the independent jury for the annual RegioStars awards from 2008-2013. From 1999-2003 he was desk officer for Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund activities in the UK and Ireland.
Before working in DG Regional Policy he worked in policy coordination functions in DG Research and DG Industry. His started his public sector career in the Irish Department of Enterprise and Employment working on EC affairs.
Tuesday, 19 June 2018

Opening

Birte Wassenberg

is Professor in Contemporary History at the Institute for Political Studies (IEP) of the University of Strasbourg and member of the Research Institute for History Raymond Poidevin at the UMR DynaGéo europénnes. She holds a Jean Monnet Chair and is director of the Master in International Relations. From 1993 to 2006 she was responsible for cross-border cooperation at the Région Alsace. She teaches on International Relations, Border studies, regionalism, the history of European Integration and Franco-German Relations. Her research fields are: border regions, Euro-scepticism and the history of European organizations, especially the Council of Europe. She is also a former student from the College of Europe, promotion Charles IV (1992-1993).


Plenary Session II – Future orientations

Eric von Breska

was appointed Director of the “Policy” Directorate at the DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission, in 2016, responsible for the overall policy strategy for cohesion policy and the preparation of the post-2020 framework. His Directorate is also responsible for the Evaluation and the European semester, for Financial instruments and the relations with the EIB group and other International Financial Institutions and Legal affairs.

Eric von Breska has been working for the DG Regional and Urban Policy since 1999, responsible for socio-economic analysis of EU Member States and candidate countries. In 2004 he joined the Cabinet of Danuta Hübner, Commissioner for Regional Policy. He became Head of the “Economic analysis” unit in 2010, coordinating the work of the DG on the multiannual financial framework and cohesion policy financial allocations. He holds a PhD in political science and economics.

Moray Gilland

has worked for the European Commission since 1996. He has over 20 years of experience in regional policy including a decade spent travelling to all corners of Europe in the name of Interreg. He is currently Head of Policy Development and Economic Analysis in DG Regional and Urban Policy and has led the preparation of the new cohesion policy proposals over the last two years.

Pavel Branda

is a deputy mayor of Rádlo municipality. He is the chairman of the Commission for international cooperation of the Union of towns and municipalities of the Czech Republic (SMO ČR). He is also a member of the Czech delegation to the Committee of the Regions (CoR). Pavel has been the CoR rapporteur on the own initiative opinion on People-to-people and small-scale projects in CBC programmes. He has been involved in cross-border cooperation most of his professional and academic career and he follows this topic also within the CoR where he initiated and is currently chairing an interregional group on cross-border cooperation. He is a vice-president of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) and also member of Advisory committee of the AEBR. He graduated from the University of Economic in Prague majoring in European Integration and later received his Ph.D. in European studies focusing on cross-border cooperation structures. Currently he is teaching at the Technical university of Liberec (applied geography programme). He is married and has 4 children.
Conclusions and Closing Remarks

**Denitsa Nikolova**

is Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works of Bulgaria, responsible for the Regional Development programmes, European Territorial Cooperation programmes, Solidarity Fund and the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. Mrs. Nikolova holds a Master of Finance and has numerous specializations as well as practical knowledge and experience in the overall management, financial control and implementation of EU funded programmes. In her capacity as the Head of the Managing Authority of OP Regional Development 2007-2013 programming period Ms. Nikolova has developed and implemented effective management and control system by achieving above 95% absorption of funds as well as has steered the 2014-2020 programming of the regional development. As a Head of the Accounting department within the Certifying Authority in the period 2009-2010 and previously as a control and certification expert she has gained competencies in the certification process of the EU funds. Her broad professional experience also includes project management, coordination and procurement, consultancy on foreign investments, structuring and financial instruments in Bulgaria.

**Karl-Heinz Lambertz**

was elected as President of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) in July 2017 after serving a two and a half year term as First Vice-President. He is also a member of the Belgian Senate representing the German-speaking Community.

Born on 4 June 1952 in Schoppen, Karl-Heinz’s interest in politics came early in his career having served as President of the German-speaking Youth Council (1975-1980). After a number of functions linked to his academic background in law, he became Member of Parliament of the German-speaking Community in 1981.

Between 1990 and 1999 he held numerous ministerial posts in the German-speaking Community Government before being elected its Minister-President (1999-2014). He was then President of Parliament until 2016 before taking post as Senator.

Karl-Heinz has been a CoR member since 2001 and was President of the CoR’s PES Group (2011-2015). Since 2000, he has been a Member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in which he is currently Vice-President.

He is married to his wife Sylvie, has two children and four grand-children.

**Corina Crețu**

was born in Romania in 1967. She studied at the Academy of Economic Studies, Department of Cybernetics, graduating in 1989, the year of the Romanian Revolution. She started a career in journalism, working as a reporter and political commentator for several newspapers, before joining the Spokesperson’s office of Romania’s first democratically elected President in 1992.

After a successful career in journalism, Corina Crețu has joined politics. In 1996 she became a member of the Romanian Social Democratic Party and led its Media Relations department, during which the party was in the Opposition. In 2000, she became Spokesperson of the President of Romania and the Head of the Public Communication Department of the Presidency.

In the same year she was elected Member of the Parliament in the Chamber of Deputies and later, in 2004, in the Senate. In 2005, she was part of the Romanian delegation to the European Parliament. She was elected Member of the European Parliament (sitting with the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats) in 2007, following the accession of Romania to the European Union. She was re-elected as MEP in 2009 and in 2014. In her role as MEP Corina Crețu was part of the following committees and delegations: Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL), Delegation for relations with the United States and Delegation to the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee. Between 2009 and 2014 she held the position of Vice-President for the Development Committee.

In 2013, she was elected Vice-President of the Romanian Social Democratic Party and then, in 2014, she served as Vice-President of the European Parliament.

Since November 2014, she has been the European Commissioner for Regional Policy.
Please note that the agenda has been printed on 11 June and that last-minute changes may occur.