



Reflection Group on the future of Cohesion Policy

Agenda

First Meeting

Developing the European Growth Model

31 January 2023



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First Meeting on 31 January 2023

Topic

Reframe the role of cohesion policy in the context of challenges to European integration and the development of the European Growth Model.

Time

31.01.2023

Public morning session: 09h30 – 12h45

Closed afternoon session: 14h00 – 16h00

Place

Commission Berlaymont building

Room Robert Schuman

Rue de la Loi 200, Brussels

Introduction to the topic

Cohesion policy supports the balanced economic development and correction of internal disparities through investments in general public goods, innovation, digitalisation, human capital, the environment and climate, social integration and transport, which can unblock and accelerate regional development, while contributing to overall sustainable growth across Europe focussing particularly on less developed regions. The policy has put forward a narrative of achieving both efficiency and equity, convergence and competitiveness, arguing that it is possible to maximise overall growth while also achieving continuous convergence in outcomes and productivity across Europe's regions. Despite the role that it has played in promoting convergence, in delivering EU priorities, supporting investment throughout the economic and financial crises, responding to the challenges of the pandemic and the war, cohesion policy is too often seen as a purely redistributive policy. A key issue is therefore to assess whether the current balance between the Treaty objectives and the delivery of cross-cutting EU policy priorities is the correct one and whether a new approach is warranted in the context of adapting the policy to the challenges of the 21st century reinforcing the equity-efficiency nexus.

Morning session (public)

09:00 *Arrival & registration*

09:30 Welcome Speech
Elisa Ferreira – Commissioner
for Cohesion and Reforms

09:45 Welcome Speech
Nicolas Schmit – Commissioner for
Jobs and Social Rights

09:55 Introduction of the Group
Chair: Andrés Rodríguez-Pose –
Professor London School of
Economics

Block A – Academic inputs

10:15 Presentation
Michael Storper – Professor London
School of Economics

10:30 Discussion

11:15 Presentation
Nadim Ahmad – Deputy Director
OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship,
SMEs, Regions and Cities

11:30 Discussion

12:15 *Coffee Break*

Block B – Institutional input

12:30 Presentation
Krzysztof Balon & Gonçalo Lobo
Xavier – European Economic and
Social Committee

12:45 Discussion

13:00 Concluding Remarks
Chair: Andrés Rodríguez-Pose

Afternoon session (internal)

14:00	Discussion among the members of the Reflection Group	Chair: Andrés Rodríguez-Pose
16:00	Concluding Remarks	Chair: Andrés Rodríguez-Pose

List of Reflection Group Meetings

First meeting	31 January 2023	Developing the European Growth Model
Second meeting	09 March 2023	Enhancing resilience of regions against emerging challenges
Third meeting	27 April 2023	Tailored support / flexibility to support different development needs of regions
Fourth meeting	23 May 2023	Role of place-based policies and development strategies
Fifth meeting	04 July 2023	Reinforcing territorial cooperation and addressing challenges on European integration
Sixth meeting	14 September 2023	Anchoring financial support from the policy in reforms, in the context of European Semester and in synergy with other EU policies
Seventh meeting	10 October 2023	Increasing the policy effectiveness through renewed conditionality mechanisms
Eighth meeting	14 November 2023	Revisiting the delivery mode/ mechanics taking into account priorities
Ninth meeting	14 December 2023	Enhancing the policy capacity to respond to sudden shocks and crises