



PROGRAMME

Lead Moderator: Jacki Davis

FIRST DAY - Thursday 11 April 2024

12:00 – 13:20	Registration and welcome lunch
13:20 – 13:30	OPENING SPEECH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission (<i>by video message</i>)
13:30 – 14:00	WELCOME SPEECHES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elisa Ferreira, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission • Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, European Commission
14:00 – 14:30	KEYNOTE SPEECH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrico Letta, former Prime Minister of Italy, President of the Jacques Delors Institute, and rapporteur of the High-Level Report on the future of the Single Market by the Council
14:30 – 16:00	1st PANEL DEBATE – What's going on with economic and social convergence in the EU? <i>Moderator: Eulalia Rubio, Jaques Delors Institute</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elio Di Rupo, Minister-President of Wallonia, Belgium, Council Presidency of the European Union • Younous Omarjee, MEP, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development of the European Parliament • Sven Giegold, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Germany • Simona Iammarino, University of Cagliari, Italy, and Department of Geography & Environment and Cañada Blanch Centre, LSE, UK • Agnieszka Chłoń-Domińczak, Vice Rector for Research, Director of the Institute of Statistics and Demography, SGH Warsaw School of Economics
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee/ Comfort break for virtual audience
16:30 – 18:00	INTERVIEW: Role of cities in regional development <i>Moderator: Jacki Davis</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carole Delga, President of the Occitanie/ Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region, President of Régions de France, France • Emil Boc, Mayor of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, Chair of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget of the European Committee of the Regions • Sharon Dijksma, Mayor of Utrecht, the Netherlands • Jānis Rozenbergs, Mayor of Cēsis, Latvia • André Sobczak, Secretary General, Eurocities
19:00 – 21:00	Reception

Venue: THE SQUARE - Brussels Convention Centre, Mont des Arts, 1000 Brussels



SECOND DAY – Friday 12 April 2024

09:30 – 09:50 KEYNOTE SPEECH

- **Roberta Metsola**, President of the European Parliament (*by video message*)

9:50 – 11:20 2nd PANEL DEBATE: The triple transition, an anchor for competitiveness, growth and social justice

Moderator: Paola Tamma, Financial Times

- **Maroš Šefčovič**, Executive Vice-President, European Green Deal, Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight, European Commission
- **Katarzyna Pełczyńska-Nałęcz**, Minister for Development Funds and Regional Policy, Poland
- **Oliver Röpke**, President of the European Economic and Social Committee
- **Michele Emiliano**, President of the Apulia region, Italy
- **Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl**, Director-General of DIGITALEUROPE

11:20-11:45 Break

11:45-13:15 3rd PANEL DEBATE – Cohesion: an objective shared among all policies

Moderator: Alison Hunter, European Policy Center

- **Ivan Bartoš**, Deputy Prime Minister for Digitisation and Minister of Regional Development, Czechia
- **Wille Rydman**, Minister of Economic Affairs, Finland
- **Tibor Navracsics**, Minister of Public Administration and Regional Development, Hungary
- **Iliana Ivanova**, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, European Commission
- **Anna Diamantopoulou**, former EU Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, former Minister, President of DIKTIO – Network for Reform in Greece and Europe
- **Mirja Vehkaperä**, European Committee of the Regions

13:15 – 14:45 Lunch

14:45 – 16:15 4th PANEL DEBATE – Which EU cohesion policy for the future?

Moderator: Jacki Davis

- **Vasco Alves Cordeiro**, President of the European Committee of the Regions
- **Teodora Preoteasa**, State Secretary, Ministry of Investments and European Projects, Romania
- **Andrés Rodríguez Pose**, Chair of the High-Level Group on the Future of Cohesion Policy
- **Rachel de Basso**, Regional councillor, Chair of the regional board of Region Jönköping County, Sweden

16:15 – 16:30 CLOSING REMARKS

- **Elisa Ferreira**, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission

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