

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION TO ENHANCE RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE EU

The predecessor of the European Union, the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), was centred on energy. By creating a common market for two crucial resources, Europe was brought closer together after the Second World War. Today, the crisis-stricken continent needs to come together again. Territorial cooperation in the form of cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation must strengthen the economic and social cohesion of the European territory and again today, energy plays a crucial role in that. Under the umbrella of an Energy Union, European Member States are developing a framework for a secure, affordable and climate-friendly energy system, in which renewable energy sources (RES) will have to play a predominant role. One of the key building blocks to implement this vision is regional cooperation.

Legislation in the Clean Energy Package for All Europeans addresses regional cooperation on the supra-national or macro-level, meaning between two or more Member States. However, a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue facilitated by the World Future Council and the Heinrich Boell Foundation EU unveiled that sub-national or micro-level cooperation between local and regional governments across national borders is crucial to unleash the full potential of renewable energy deployment. In fact, the major conclusion was that the European Union must cater for cities and municipalities to exchange ideas, test innovations, compete over best solutions and collaborate across borders. This micro-level cooperation is indispensable because it offers the best possibility to create fitted-solutions for local needs and establish adequate frameworks on national and European level. A common cross-border identity is facilitated, while the revenues generated by decentralized renewable energy plants are more likely to stay in the region. The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation plays a crucial role in facilitating this approach.

This conference facilitated by the Committee of the Regions provides an interactive platform to develop concrete strategies for implementation, following a two-day workshop, a study tour and two parliamentary policy dialogues hosted by the World Future Council and the Heinrich Boell Foundation EU since April 2016. The upcoming policy debate at the CoR will build on the recommendations summarized in the report [“Enhancing Regional Renewables Cooperation in the EU”](#) and deepen the discussion with EU policy-makers, regional and local authorities, as well as civil society representatives on how to mobilize existing tools and approaches to foster cross-border cooperation for renewable energy. The goals of the conference are to:

- inform European regions and EU policy makers about the opportunities of cross-boarder cooperation to enhance renewable energy;
- offer a platform to regional and local authorities to fill the political space in the debate about regional cooperation in the policy process of the “Clean Energy Package for All Europeans”
- establish a cross-border and multi-stakeholder dialogue on solutions for regional cooperation to enhance renewable energy in the EU

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AGENDA Tuesday 6 June, 14:00h – 18:00h

13. 30 **Registration**

14. 00 **Opening**

Pavel Branda, CoR Member and Chair of the Interregional Group

Welcome and Introduction to the topic

Anna Leidreiter, WFC & Klaus Linsenmeier/Radostina Primova, HBS EU

14. 30 **How can cross-border cooperation enhance renewable energy in the EU?**

Panel discussion, moderated by Anna Leidreiter and Radostina Primova

- Richard Tuffs, ERRIN Director
- Roberto Zangrandi, Secretary General, EDSO for Smart Grids
- Susanne Nies, ENTSO-E (tbc)
- José Blanco López, Rapporteur for the Renewable Energy Directive, S&D (tbc)
- Krišjānis Kariņš, Rapporteur for the new EU Electricity Directive, EPP(tbc)
- Melinda Loonstra, SEREH, Netherlands

16. 00 **Coffee and Tea Break**

16. 30 **What tools and approaches exist to foster cross-border cooperation for renewable energy?**

Fishbowl discussion, moderated by Anna Leidreiter and Radostina Primova

Initial

- Slaven Klobučar, European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)
- Alexandra Lafont, Mission Opérationelle Transfrontalière, France
- Thiemo Eser, Government of Luxembourg (tbc)
- Magdalena Jaworska-Duzynska, City Office of Karlino, Poland (tbc)
- Claude Turmes, Rapporteur for the Governance Regulation in the Clean Energy Package, Greens/EFA, European Parliament
- Brendan Devlin, EC DG Energy

All participants are invited to join the fishbowl discussion as the method entails that speakers will rotate. As soon as one of the speakers finished his/ her intervention, he/ she leave the chair and a new participant can take the floor

17. 45 **Closing Remarks**

Anna Leidreiter and Radostina Primova

