

(Re)New EUrope

8th European Summit of Regions and Cities



Bucharest

14 -15 March 2019

#EULocal

Draft Media Programme

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8th European Summit of Regions and Cities

Practical information

Venue

The 8th European Summit of Regions and Cities is being held at the Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest: Strada Izvor 2-4, București (Calea 13 Septembrie 1, Sector 5).

Journalists will enter via the S2 entrance (Izvor Street) where they will pick up their badge.

Media Center

The main hub for the press will be the Media Center at the Palace of Parliament (on S1 floor).

It is equipped with:

- 250 work spaces with broadband, phone and ISDN connections
- 20 soundproofed media booths with A/V editing facilities and broadband
- a TV studio
- 10 stand up positions to record one-to-one TV/ radio interview (TV crew at disposal)
- 250 lockers.

Wi-Fi


There will be free Wi-Fi access inside the meeting rooms and throughout the building. No password is needed.

Web-streaming

The Summit's sessions will be recorded live and broadcast on www.eulocal-summit.eu

Social Media

Share your comments on the conference and engage with others via Twitter

 #EULocal

Social media visuals are available for download on the Summit website in 4 languages (EN, FR, DE, RO):

<https://cor.europa.eu/en/summit2019/Pages/media.aspx>

Image disclaimer

During the Summit, you may be photographed or filmed by a photographer or camera operator working on behalf of the CoR. Please note that the CoR is responsible solely for photos and videos taken by its staff or contractors.

**Media materials are available
on the Media page of the
Summit website:**





Thursday 14 March 2019

12:00-13:30 Press welcome

Theme: Short introduction to the Summit: your questions answered

Where: Media Centre – Iuliu Manu (1st floor)

Who will be there: European Committee of the Regions Press Team

Language: EN

Lunch will be provided

13:30-14:15 Press conference

Theme: Proximity, Democracy, Solidarity - the EU's future priorities to preserve cohesion in Europe

Where: Press conference room Spiru Haret (same floor as the Media center)

Speakers:

Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions

Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations (tbc)

Robert Sorin Negoită, Mayor of Bucharest-3rd District 3, President of the Association of Romanian Municipalities and President of the Romanian delegation to the European Committee of the Regions

Gabriela Firea, Mayor of Bucharest (tbc)

In line with its international environmental commitments, including the UN's Paris Climate Agreement and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the EU is committed to making the transition to a low-carbon economy. Creating a truly sustainable Europe largely depends on its regions and cities, which are responsible for areas such as air quality, transport, biodiversity, renewable energy, energy efficiency and waste management. This session will demonstrate how regions and cities are unlocking investment, driving innovation and showing ambition in the area of mitigating and adapting to climate change. It will consider how to strengthen their role in the design and delivery of the EU's environmental, climate and energy policies.

Moderator:

Serafino Nardi, Head of Press, European Committee of the Regions

Interpretation: EN/RO ; passive: EN/RO/FR

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8th European Summit of **Regions** and **Cities**

14:30-16:00 Opening session

Where: room Alexandru I. Cuza

Introductory address by:

Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions

Gabriela Firea, Mayor of Bucharest

Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations

Keynote speech:

Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă, Prime Minister of Romania

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-18:00 Thematic debates | Making a difference to people's lives

Theme 1: Social cohesion and integration in regions and cities

Where: Room Nicolae Bălcescu

Speakers:

Annika Annerby Jansson, President of the Regional Council of Skåne, Sweden

Philippe Close, Mayor of Brussels, Belgium

Adrian Florin Dobre, Mayor of the Municipality of Ploiești, Romania

Christiana Kalogirou, Governor of North Aegean Region, Greece (tbc)

Theme 2: EU regions and cities building a sustainable future

Where: Room Nicolae Iorga

Speakers:

Markku Markkula, First Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions

Magnus Berntsson, President of the Assembly of European Regions and of R20 (Regions for climate action) and Regional Minister of the Environment and Vice-President of the Regional Council of Västra Götaland, Sweden

Vasco Alves Cordeiro, President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions and of the Regional Government of Azores, Portugal

Astrid Fodor, Mayor of the Municipality of Sibiu, Romania



Theme 3: Territorial cohesion to bring the EU's citizens together

Where: Alexandru I. Cuza

Speakers:

Corina Crețu, European Commissioner for Regional Policy

Rena Dourou, Regional Governor of Attica, Greece

Juraj Droba, President of the Bratislava Self-Governing Region, Slovakia

Oliver Paasch, President of the Association of European Border Regions and Minister-President of the German-speaking Community of Belgium

Moderator:

David Herszenhorn, Chief Brussels correspondent, POLITICO

18:15-19:15 Debate between Michel Barnier and EU's regional & local leaders

Where: Alexandru I. Cuza

Theme: Building a common future: what lessons learnt from Brexit?

Speaker:

Michel Barnier, EU's Chief Negotiator for Brexit

In the context of Brexit and of the Summit's Declaration on the future of Europe, Michel Barnier will discuss the role of regions and cities in the EU in the years to come in order to build a stronger Europe.

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19:30-20:00 Press conference (tbc)

Theme: Brexit: What impact on EU's regions and cities and lessons learnt?

Where: Press conference room Spiru Haret

Speakers:

Michel Barnier, EU's Chief Negotiator for Brexit (tbc)

Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions

Michel Barnier and Karl-Heinz Lambertz will answer questions from the press on the impact of Brexit on the EU's regions and cities. They will discuss how the EU will support cities and regions most exposed to Brexit, and lessons learnt for the future of the EU. They will also react to recent calls from regions for improved access to funding in the next EU long-term budget needed to support the regions most affected.

Interpretation: EN/RO ; passive: EN/RO/FR

20:00-22:00 Reception and cultural event

Where: Romanian National Opera (shuttles will transfer participants to the venue)

Welcome by **Gabriela Firea**, Mayor of Bucharest, and **Robert Sorin Negoită**, Mayor of District 3 of Bucharest, President of the Romanian delegation of the European Committee of the Regions

Accredited journalists are welcome to attend the reception.



Friday 15 March 2019

09:00-10:00 Keynote and debate: Building the EU from the ground up with our regions & cities

Where: room Alexandru I. Cuza

Welcoming remarks by **Vasile-Daniel Suci**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Regional Development and Public Administration

Theme: Working together to reinforce Europe

Keynote speeches:

Video message of **Jean-Claude Juncker**, President of the European Commission
Corina Crețu, Commissioner in charge of Regional Policy

10:00-10:30 Coffee break

10:00-10:30 Interview opportunities

Who: 100 young elected politicians

Theme: What do young people expect from the EU? How to increase young people engagement in European affairs?

Where: Alexandru I. Cuza

Following a call for interest, 100 young local and regional politicians have been invited to Bucharest to contribute to the debate on the future of Europe.

The selected young representatives will share their views on issues such as how to better involve young elected politicians in European affairs; how the European Committee of the Regions can establish a permanent exchange with young local and regional leaders?; and what the EU regions, cities, parliaments and political parties can do to increase their engagement in European affairs.

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10:30-12:00 **Thematic debates | The way forward for EU democratic revival**

Theme 1: **Active subsidiarity: shaping Europe together**

Where: Room Nicolae Iorga

Speakers:

Video message by **Frans Timmermans**, First Vice-President of the European Commission

Dumitru Buzatu, President of Vaslui County Council, Romania

Peter Kaiser, Governor of Carinthia, Austria

Donatella Porzi, President of the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies and President of the Regional assembly of Umbria, Italy

Paolo Rangel, Member of the European Parliament (tbc)

Theme 2: **Strengthening European democracy: citizens' participation through local and regional authorities**

Where: Room Nicolae Bălcescu

Speakers:

Luca Jahier, President of the European Economic and Social Committee

Elżbieta Anna Polak, Marshal of the Lubuskie Voivodeship, Poland

Gilles Simeoni, President of the Executive Council of Corsica, France

Bettina Vollath, President of the regional assembly of Styria, Austria

Theme 3: **What young local and regional leaders expect from the EU**

Where: Room Alexandru I. Cuza

Speakers:

Anna Widegren, Secretary General of the European Youth Forum (tbc)

Aleksandra Dulkiewicz, acting Mayor of Gdansk, Poland

Reili Rand, Mayor of Hiiumaa, Estonia (tbc)

Jiří Štěpán, Governor of Hradec Králové Region, Czech Republic



12:00-12:15 Interview opportunities

Theme: Launching of the Network of Regional Hubs project

Where: Room Nicolae Iorga

Who will be there:

Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions

Representatives of the 20 regions selected to participate in the pilot phase of the project

The CoR President and representatives of the 20 regions selected for the project will be available for media interviews to present and discuss the initiative.

The European Union is often criticised for producing too many, too bureaucratic laws, which can be seen as interfering with the lives of citizens and business. The European Commission has responded to this criticism by giving priority to “Better Regulation”, aiming at avoiding unnecessary burdens and red tape, encouraging citizens and stakeholders’ contribution to policy-making, and ensuring that EU action is based on evidence and clearly assessed impacts.

Considering that two-thirds of EU legislation are implemented at local and regional level, cities and regions have valuable first-hand experience in applying EU rules on the ground. As the institutional voice of regions and cities in the EU, the CoR is uniquely placed to collate the experience from cities and regions in the implementation of European law, and channel it back to the EU legislators.

With this in mind, the Committee is setting up a pilot project (2019-2020) consisting of a [Network of “Regional Hubs”](#) (contact points) to monitor and assess the implementation of EU legislation locally. The initiative was one of the recommendations of the European Commission’s [Subsidiarity Task Force](#) and is part of the “New way of working” advocated by the Task Force.

Following a call for applications and based on a set of specific criteria, the Committee has selected 20 regions to serve as regional hubs during the pilot phase of the project.

[See the list of participating regions](#)

The Network will start its work focussing on three EU policy areas having significant impact at local level: public procurement, air quality and cross-border health-care.

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12:30-12:55 Closing: The path to Sibiu and beyond

Theme: Delivery of the Summit Declaration Building the EU from the ground up with our regions and cities

Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions

The Summit Declaration by local and regional leaders on the future of Europe will be formally handed over to the President of the Romania, Klaus Iohannis. The Declaration will serve as the position of regions and cities to the leaders of the EU institutions and Heads of State and government who will gather in Sibiu, Romania, on 9 May to discuss the future of the EU27.

Keynote speeches - Governing the EU together with its regions and cities:

Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania

12:55-13:00 Closing remarks

Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions

Markku Markkula, First Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions

13:00-13:45 Press Conference

Theme: What does the future hold for an EU of 27?

Where: Press conference room Spiru Haret

Speakers:

Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania

Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions

Markku Markkula, First Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions

The future of the European Union has dominated much of the EU's agenda since mid-2016, when a majority of British people voted to leave the Union. Referring to the Summit Declaration, the speakers will set out what the EU27's priorities must be and how to strengthen its democratic legitimacy among citizens. The speakers will discuss the current challenges facing Europe, and the future role of regions and cities in the EU through improved governance, decision-making and investment.

Moderator:

(tbc)

Interpretation: EN/RO ; passive: EN/RO/FR



14:00-15:00 Lunch

Media Center



Created in 1994 following the signing of the Maastricht Treaty, the European Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of 350 regional and local representatives from all 28 Member States, representing over 507 million Europeans. Its mission is to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the EU's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies. The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council are obliged to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union if its rights are infringed or it believes that EU law infringes the subsidiarity principle or fails to respect regional or local powers.

Edited by the Directorate for Communication of the European Committee of the Regions

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