

European Week of Regions and Cities 2018

Workshop CALRE

**“Regional Legislative Parliaments:
what role in EU’s Cohesion Policy beyond 2020?”**

October 9, 11:30/13:00

Building SQUARE - Brussels Convention Centre, Room Copper hall

Good morning and welcome to CALRE’s workshop.

First, I would like to welcome Mr Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions, whose presence is a great honour to us. I also thank him for being here today, especially in a period of such a demanding agenda as the European Week of Regions and Cities.

Also, a word to our speakers:

Mercedes Bresso – member of the European Parliament and former President of the European Committee of the Regions, the first woman president of the CoR;

Roberto Ciambetti, President of the Regional Council of Veneto and chair of CALRE’s Working Group on Cohesion Policy;

Your presence brings great prestige to this event. Thank you all for accepting our invitation and for your contribution to the debate.

I also thank our moderator, Rodrigo Oliveira, former member of the Regional Government of the Azores, in charge of the European Affairs and Regional Cooperation, and former member of the European Committee of the Regions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the present context of the discussions on the perspectives of the financial and sectoral policies of the European Union for the post 2020,

and, no less important, of the new challenges faced by Europe in several areas (political, economic and social), considering also the changes happening at a world level, CALRE's intention was to organise a workshop focused both on cohesion policy and on the role of regional parliaments.

As a contribution to the current process of negotiations, our goal is to point out the good practises in the European regions, thus presenting the results of their governance, especially in the regions with substantial political and legislative powers.

- Do these regions have positive results to show as an example in promoting convergence and solidarity between the entire territory of the European Union?
- To what extent do European Union regional parliaments with legislative powers have an enhanced role (and an increased responsibility, too) in the implementation of key European policies such as cohesion policy?
- And for the near future, what role should Regional Parliaments play in the preparation and implementation of cohesion policy between 2021 and 2027?
- What can we learn from the lessons the current programming period, and specially the monitoring of regional operational programmes, bring?
- Finally, in this context, among other issues, will the standards in the *Common Provisions Regulation* proposal for multilevel partnership and governance be adequate and sufficient to ensure the involvement of all relevant actors at regional level?

These are some of the questions we believe will be answered during our workshop.

Dear friends,

In this debate, CALRE recognises that regions with legislative powers are of special importance, since, being endowed with self-governing political bodies, they participate actively in the implementation of the rules and policies in their territories, whether from regional, national or European origin.

This special relevance in the application of European policies in particular, which results from the institutional political powers of CALRE members, cannot – in our opinion – be separated from the greater responsibility that regions now have in showing that the European project is being well implemented in those same regions with the vital contribution and partnership of the regional government bodies.

That is precisely what we are aiming for with this workshop.

In other words, the main goal of this event is to highlight the added value brought by decentralisation, regionalism and multilevel governance to the European project and its unity. It is also to point out the role played by the regional parliaments, specially of those with legislative powers, within the building of a truly supportive Europe, which invests in all its territories and which provides equal opportunities to all citizens, regardless of where they live.

Thank you once again for your presence.