

7th EUROPEAN SUMMIT
OF REGIONS AND CITIES
BRATISLAVA 8-9 | 7 | 2016



INVEST AND
CONNECT

WELCOME TO THE 7TH EUROPEAN SUMMIT OF REGIONS AND CITIES IN BRATISLAVA



Markku Markkula,

President of the European Committee of the Regions

“ We need a better connected Europe which means improving investment in people, places, resources and ideas – these are exactly the topics we will discuss in the coming two days. Through promoting entrepreneurship and making the most of EU, national, local and private funds we can overcome regional inequality, contribute to tackling broader issues such as climate change, promote community cohesion and boost competitiveness.”



Pavol Frešo,

President of the Bratislava Self-Governing Region

“ More than 70% of European legislation has a direct impact on regions and cities so it is important we are not just passive subjects of decisions taken at the EU level, but actively shape the debate on matters that affect us. The Summit will draw attention to problems that plague the residents of the Bratislava region and raise topics important to us. Among the priorities that we want to highlight at the Summit is the importance of the EU's Cohesion Policy to Slovakia.”



Ivo Nesrovnal,

Mayor of Bratislava

“ The Summit is an extraordinary opportunity for Bratislava to raise its profile and an opportunity to determine how best to implement the EU's Urban Agenda. More than two-thirds of the EU's policies and legislation affect urban areas. Therefore, the EU needs a more integrated approach towards urban issues and it needs to be more responsive to the needs of cities to deal with issues such as unemployment, climate protection and social inclusion. Better legislation goes hand in hand with better investment and we hope the Summit will contribute to this new urban agenda for Europe.”

INTRODUCTION

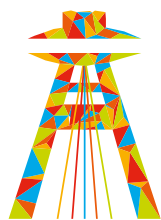
Every two years, the European Committee of the Region's (CoR) European Summit of Regions and Cities marks a political moment in the EU calendar and provides a platform for high-level discussions between the EU institutions, local politicians and other experts and stakeholders on a selected theme. The 7th Summit, jointly held with the Bratislava Self-Governing Region and the City of Bratislava, will be one of the key events during the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU.

The debates will address the question of how to overcome Europe's persistent investment gap in partnership with regions and cities. This gap represents a threat to future growth and job creation. In addition

to national differences, there is a regional dimension to the investment challenge. This is the case for public investment (60% of which in the EU is done by local and regional authorities) and also for private investment, which is heavily determined by local and regional factors and constraints. Furthermore, Summit participants will discuss how to facilitate synergies between EU funds and other financial resources. It will also consider how to improve the effectiveness of the € 351.8 billion – almost a third of the total EU budget – set aside for Cohesion Policy.



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OVERVIEW

Around 800 EU, national, regional and local leaders are expected to attend the event in Bratislava in the Slovak National Theater (SND) close to the Danube river. Under the title "Danube Up", in front of the SND, cultural events and information stands of the Danube regions will inform the public about start-ups and tourism focused

on the issue of water. During the Summit, the European Committee of the Regions will also adopt its "Bratislava Declaration" which, complemented by an Action Plan for Investment, will set out its vision on how the EU must shape its long-term investment plan.



Slovak National Theater (SND)

SPEAKERS

The conference will be addressed by high-level speakers from the European Parliament, the Slovak government, the European Commission, the European Investment

Bank, regional presidents and mayors as well as business representatives from all over Europe.

KEY MESSAGES

In view of the overall slogan of the Summit **"Invest and Connect"**, the following messages will be centre of debate:

- 1 Europe's regions and cities stand ready to play their part in addressing the investment gap.
- 2 Investment, both private and public, is key to future growth and job creation, and therefore crucial for long-term economic, social and territorial cohesion.
- 3 Funds and instruments at EU, national, regional and local level need to be better connected, complementary and easy-to-use.
- 4 The CoR invites all partners to work together on five issues: integrated territorial strategies; a change of mind-set and results-orientation of investment; better coordination of policy cycles across all levels of government; dialogue, partnership and capacity-building; citizens involvement and (re-)connecting them with Europe.



FRIDAY, 8 JULY

Venue: Slovak National Theatre, SND, (new building)

13:15 – 13:45 PRESS CONFERENCE

Venue: Theatre Hall | Interpretation: EN, SK

14:00 – 14:45 PLENARY OPENING

Venue: Opera Hall | Interpretation: BG, DE, EN, ES, FR, HU, IT, PL, RO, SK | Passive: CS, EL, FI

After a short welcome by the hosting authorities and a presentation of priorities of the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU, the opening high-level debate will set the main themes of the first day of the Summit. The purpose is to highlight, from a Slovak and European perspective, the importance and main concerns at local and regional level in terms of investment in infrastructure and entrepreneurship. Special attention will be given to infrastructure gaps as a source of territorial disparities and how best to build partnerships across all sectors to address them at EU level.

Welcome address

- » **Pavol Frešo**, President of the Bratislava Self-Governing Region, CoR member
- » **Ivo Nesrovnal**, Mayor of Bratislava, CoR member

Keynote speech

- » **Markku Markkula**, President of the European Committee of the Regions

State address

- » **Robert Fico**, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic

Slovak Presidency of the EU: priorities for regions and cities

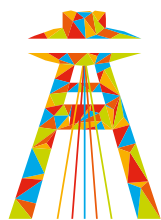
- » **Ivan Korčok**, Ministre délégué for the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU

European Commission: investing in Europe's future

- » **Maroš Šefčovič**, Vice-President of the European Commission for the Energy Union

Moderators

- » **Shirin Wheeler**, Principal Advisor International Media, European Investment Bank
- » **Vladimír Bilčík**, Head of the EU Programme at the Research Centre of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association



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14:45 – 16:15 PLENARY DEBATE - UNLOCKING EU FUNDS IN CITIES AND REGIONS

Venue: Opera Hall | **Interpretation:** BG, DE, EN, ES, FR, HU, IT, PL, RO, SK | **Passive:** CS, EL, FI

The second part of the plenary will review the EU's various funding programmes with the overall objective of unlocking its investment potential and tackling growing regional disparity among Europe's cities and regions. Looking ahead to reform after 2020, the debate will consider ways to simplify the EU's tools, propose solutions to foster synergies between private and public investment and thus contribute to creating sustainable growth.

Initial statements

- » **Peter Pellegrini**, Deputy Prime Minister for Investments of the Slovak Republic
- » **Laszlo Baranyay**, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank
- » **Jan Olbrycht**, MEP, European Parliament co-rapporteur on revising the Multiannual Financial Framework, 2014-2020

Debate

- » **Pavol Frešo**, President of the Bratislava Self-Governing Region, CoR member
- » **Ivo Nesrovnal**, Mayor of Bratislava, CoR member
- » **Petr Osvald**, Councillor of the City of Plzeň, CoR rapporteur on Simplification of Cohesion Policy

Moderators

- » **Shirin Wheeler**
- » **Vladimír Bilčík**

16:15 SUMMIT FAMILY PHOTO

Venue: Opera Hall

All participants and speakers will be asked to gather in the main plenary room for a Summit Family photo.



EUROVEA - shopping center

16:30 – 18:00 PARALLEL THEMATIC SESSIONS I

A. CONNECTING RESOURCES: GETTING EU INVESTMENT WORKING FOR REGIONS AND CITIES

Venue: Opera Hall | **Interpretation:** DE, EN, FR, PL, SK | **Passive:** BG

The session will review the €315bn European Investment Plan launched by the European Commission and its role for driving investment at regional and local level. It will take into account the cooperation between the European Commission, the CoR, the European Investment Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on the topic of long-term investments.

Initial statements

- » **Jyrki Katainen**, Vice-President of the European Commission for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness
- » **Karl-Heinz Lambertz**, First Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions

Debate

- » **Michal Sýkora**, President of ZMOS, The Slovak Association of Cities and Municipalities
- » **Iskra Mihaylova**, MEP, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee for Regional Development
- » **Adam Struzik**, President of Mazovia Region, CoR member
- » **Wilhelm Molterer**, European Investment Bank Managing Director for EFSI

Moderator

- » **Shirin Wheeler**

B. CONNECTING IDEAS: FOSTERING INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR THE FUTURE

Venue: Theatre Hall | **Interpretation:** DE, EN, FR, SK | **Passive:** CS, FI

Regions and cities are increasingly promoting entrepreneurship as an integral part of their business model. With eight out of ten new jobs created by small and medium size enterprises in Europe, they are recognised as the main engine for creating sustainable growth and jobs. The debate will consider the EU's SME policies, how best to support start-ups and clusters and how key policies can foster a truly entrepreneurial spirit in Europe.

Initial statements

- » **Michael Häupl**, Mayor and Governor of Vienna, CoR member
- » **Richard Weber**, President of EUROCHAMBRES

Debate

- » **Christian Buchmann**, Regional Minister for Economy in Styria, CoR member
- » **Hella Dunger-Löper**, State Secretary of the Land of Berlin, CoR member
- » **Vladimír Šucha**, Director-General Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

Moderator

- » **Vladimír Bilčík**



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C. INVESTMENT IN MOTION — 16:30-18:00

(OPEN NETWORKING SESSION)

Venue: Foyer 2nd floor

| **Consecutive interpretation :** EN, SK

The open networking session allows participants to share their experiences, explore networking opportunities, learn from inspiring practices and case studies. The focus will be on investing resources, funding and time to improve connections in Europe.

Presentations (15 min each,
followed by Questions and Answers)

- » **Michael Green**, Executive Director, Social Progress Imperative: EU Regional Social Progress Index
- » **Martin Čaja**, Head of department of strategy, Nitra Self-governing Region, Slovakia: The three most important strategic investment projects in Nitra Region
- » **Julianna Orbán Máté**, Director of the Via Carpatia European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), Košice Self-governing Region, Slovakia: The Northern-Southern transport corridor Via Carpatia
- » **Rafael Agostinho**, Interact Programme, Turku, Finland: The KEEP project on cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation projects
- » **Måns Lindberg**, Policy Officer with the European Commission, DG MOVE: The EU and investing in smart mobility industry
- » **Vincenzo Alberto Vella**, Researcher and Project Officer at AQUAS (Agency for Health Quality and Assessment of Catalonia): presentation of the DECIPHER project – joint presentation with:
- » **Nuria De Lama**, Representative of Atos Research & Innovation to the EC: presentation of the FIWARE project

Moderator

- » **Zuzana Gabrižová**, EurActiv Slovakia

**19:30 - 21:00 SUMMIT GALA
DINNER (SND)**



SATURDAY, 9 JULY

Venue: Slovak National Theatre, SND

08:45 – 10:30 INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE CITIES & REGIONS

Venue: Opera Hall | Interpretation: BG, DE, EN, ES, FR, HU, IT, PL, RO, SK | Passive: CS, EL, FI, NL

Opening debate

During this keynote speech, Jeremy Rifkin will set out the scene for a debate on investing in sustainable cities and regions, a concept which the European Commission is expected to further develop in the months following the Summit. Jeremy Rifkin is an American economic and social theorist, writer, political adviser and author of several books about the impact of scientific and technological changes on the economy, the environment and the society. He is also the President of the TIR Consulting Group, LLC, comprising companies in the fields of renewable energy, construction, IT and logistics, among others.

Keynote speech

- » **Jeremy Rifkin**, President of The Foundation on Economic Trends

Debate

- » **Maroš Šefčovič**, Vice-President of the European Commission for the Energy Union

- » **Showcase 1 - Hauts-de-France: Philippe Rapenau**, Vice-President of the Regional Council; **Philippe Vasseur**, President of the Chamber of Commerce

- » **Showcase 2 - The Hague: Ingrid van Engelshoven**, Vice Mayor; **Hans Beekman**, Executive Director

Moderators

- » **Shirin Wheeler**
- » **Vladimír Bilčík**

10:45 – 11:45 PARALLEL THEMATIC SESSIONS II

A. "CONNECTING PLACES: INNOVATING EUROPE'S TRANSPORT AND ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE"

Venue: Opera Hall | Interpretation: BG, DE, EN, FR, SK | Passive: IT

The debate will include a stock-taking analysis of different European Union instruments for supporting the infrastructure in Member States - the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), Cohesion Fund and innovative financial instruments. It will also make the link with the cooperation on cross-border infrastructure.

Initial statements

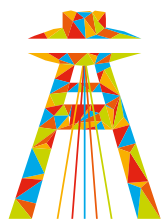
- » **Violeta Bulc**, European Commissioner for Transport and Mobility
- » **Raffaele Cattaneo**, President of the Regional Council of Lombardy, CoR member

Debate

- » **Yordanka Fandakova**, Mayor of Sofia
- » **Michael Cramer**, MEP, Chair of the European Parliament's Transport and Tourism Committee
- » **Jozef Dvonč**, Mayor of Nitra, CoR member
- » **Jochen Kley**, CEO ZSE, a.s.

Moderator

- » **Vladimír Bilčík**



B. "CONNECTING PEOPLE: DIGITAL AND SMARTER: CITIES AND REGIONS OF THE FUTURE"

Venue: Theatre Hall | **Interpretation:** DE, EN, FR, SK | **Passive:** ES, FI, IT

Round-table

Thematic session on how investments in digital infrastructure, education and public e-governance can make a region or a city 'smarter', more competitive, innovative and efficient. The debate can build on the CoR experiences of the Urban Agenda events in Amsterdam (May 2016) and on the CoR's legislative activities on the Digital Single Market and the New Skills Agenda.

Initial statements

- » **Adriana Krnáčová**, Mayor of Prague, CoR member
- » **John Higgins**, Director General, Digital Europe

Debate

- » **Iñigo de la Serna Hernáiz**, Mayor of Santander, CoR member, President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions
- » **Dirk Ahlborn**, CEO Hyperloop
- » **Tuija Hirvikoski**, President of European Network of Living Labs

Moderator

- » **Shirin Wheeler**



EUROVEA - shopping center

C. OPEN CONNECTIONS: "INVESTMENT IN MOTION" (OPEN NETWORKING SESSION)

Venue: Foyer 2nd floor | **Consecutive interpretation:** EN, SK

The open networking session allows participants to share their experiences, explore networking opportunities, learn from inspiring practices and case studies. The focus will be on investing resources, funding and time to improve connections in Europe.

Presentations

- » **Andrea Novakovic**, Director at City of Dubrovnik Development Agency DURA, URBACT network
- » **Ján Ferenčák**, Mayor of Kežmarok, Slovakia, CoR alternate: Historical, cultural and natural route around High Tatra Mountains – strategic project of Slovak-Poland cross-border programme
- » **Federica Bordelot**, Policy advisor in Eurocities on investment activities and projects in cities

Moderator

- » **Zuzana Gabrižová**

12:00 – 13:00 INVESTING FOR A CONNECTED EUROPE

Venue: Opera Hall | **Interpretation:** BG, DE, EN, ES, FR, HU, IT, PL, RO, SK | **Passive:** CS, EL, FI

The closing session will debate the main conclusions of the Summit and discuss what Europe must do to create sustainable growth. It will consider how to better use investment to create a better connected Europe.

Summit Conclusions

- » **Markku Markkula**, President of the European Committee of the Regions
- » **Pavol Frešo**, President of the Bratislava Self-Governing Region, CoR member
- » **Ivo Nesrovnal**, Mayor of Bratislava, CoR member
- » **European Youth representatives**

Moderators

- » **Shirin Wheeler**
- » **Vladimír Bilčík**

13:00 – 14:00 PRESS CONFERENCE

Venue: Theatre Hall | **Interpretation:** EN, SK

13.00 RECEPTION DRINK

SIDE EVENTS FOR PUBLIC

THE MUSIC OF EUROPE AT DEVÍN

Gala concert and fireworks – **Thursday 7 July – Time: 19:30 - 23:00** – Location: Devín castle

DANUBE UP 2016

(M.R. Štefánik Square) – **Friday 8 July, 15:00-22:00 – Saturday 9 July, 9:00-14.00**

Two-days event in front of the Slovak National Theatre presenting tourism attractions of the regions, innovations and start-ups on the topic of water and water protection, with concerts, interactive debates and activities on the promotion of science through the eyes of children and youth.

BRATISLAVA PRESENTS: MOTION. INNOVATION. CONNECTING

(Old Market Hall - Stará tržnica) – **Wednesday 6 July – Friday 8 July / 14:00 – 20:00**

A three-days series of events for the public will present Bratislava as a creative, modern, open and dynamic city through a range of interactive exhibitions, space technologies (including the first Slovak satellite), transportation innovations (including the hyperloop concept) and live concerts of popular bands (Bratislava Hot Serenaders) as well as performances of students of elementary art schools.

The series of events will be concluded on 8 July 2016 at 18:00 by a discussion panel entitled „From Innovative Solutions Towards Smart Cities“ followed by a live concert.

REGIONAL INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS: BOOK LAUNCH

Saturday 9 July, 10:30, SND Foyer

This book is produced by members of the European Committee of the Regions in close collaboration with many other of Europe's cities and regions. Presenting some of the most inspiring projects across the EU, the book offers readers an opportunity to understand and explore how Europe's cities and regions are breaking new ground in regional development.

[Y]FACTOR

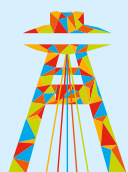
(M.R. Štefánik Square) – **Friday 8 July, 10:00-18:00 – Saturday 9 July, 8:00-14.00**

The [Y]Factor is an event organised by the trainees of the European Committee of the Regions. It will be a virtual road trip through the regions and cities of Europe. The trainees will build bridges between CoR members, Summit participants and young people's concerns,

particularly of youth unemployment. Information and lively discussions will be posted on social media. It will take place outside the SND building, alongside the Danube Up 2016 events.



For more information: www.cor.europa.eu/BratislavaSummit



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