

SVEREG CONFERENCE 2023



June 20-21



Committee of Regions, Batiment Jacques Delors, Rue Belliard 99/101, Brussels

Two-day conference in Brussels to discuss the future of EU cohesion policy

The debate on the future of the EU's cohesion policy is already gathering momentum. In just a few years, the European Commission will present its proposals ahead of the negotiations for the next EU programme period post 2027. EU funding has a major impact on the development at both regional and local level. In light of this, SveReg, which is a Brussels based network made up of representatives from the Swedish city and regional offices in Brussels, is organising a conference to discuss questions such as; *What are the key issues of future cohesion policy? How do Swedish regions and municipalities want to contribute to shape cohesion policy post 2027?* The purpose of this conference is to provide an EU perspective on the future policy for sustainable regional development and to promote a dialogue on the role of the local and regional level. The conference is co-hosted by the Committee of Regions.

Cohesion Alliance

The conference is in line with the **#CohesionAlliance** which is a coalition of stakeholders who believe that EU cohesion policy should remain a cornerstone of the EU in the future. Launched in October 2017, the Alliance is a collaboration between European municipalities, regions and the European Committee of the Regions. The Cohesion Alliance aims to strengthen cohesion policy and increase the territorial impact of EU investments to ensure that they are adapted to Europe's long-term challenges.



About the SveReg network

SveReg is a Brussels based network made up of representatives from the Swedish city and regional offices in Brussels and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. Together, we represent the complete collective of Swedish regions, municipalities, and the cities of Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö. This network enables our offices to work closely together, to deliver on our missions to monitor and influence the EU level.



City of Gothenburg
European Office



REGION
VÄSTRA GÖTALAND



Skåne
European
Office



Central Sweden
DALARNA, GÄVLEBORG OCH ÖREBRO LÄN



Region
Värmland



Sveriges
Kommuner
och Regioner



Region
Östergötland



STOCKHOLM
REGION
EU OFFICE



SMÅLAND
BLEKINGE
HALLAND
South Sweden



Malmö stad

SPEAKERS



ILAN DE BASSO
Member of the European
Parliament



STEF BLOK
Member of the European
Court of Auditors from
the Netherlands.



**JELENA
DRENJANIN**
Member of the European
Committee of the
Regions, Huddinge
municipality



VANIA FREITAS
Institutional Relations &
Advocacy Coordinator,
the European network
Assembly of European
Regions



ELENI MARIANO
Secretary General of the
European network
Conference of Peripheral
Maritime Regions



DORTHE NIELSEN
Executive Director at
EUROCITIES.



FABIAN ZULEEG
Chief Executive and Chief
Economist of the
European Policy Centre



ALISON HUNTER
Senior Advisor at the
European Policy Center



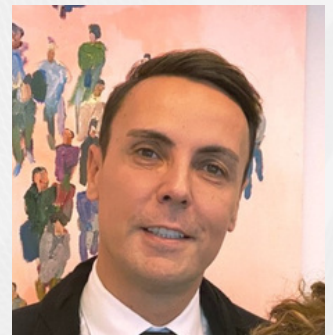
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Deputy Director-General
for Implementation and
International Relations,
European Commission's
Directorate General for
Regional Policy



**MIKEL LANDABASO
ÁLVAREZ**
Deputy Director-General
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Sustainable Economy Unit
at the European
Commission's Joint
Research Centre (JRC)



JEANETTE LUND
Counselor for Industry
Policy, Permanent
representation of Sweden
to the EU, Working
Group on Structural
Measures and Outermost
Regions



**ALEJANDRO
BLANCO**
Counsellor for Finance, The
Permanent Representation
of Spain to the EU, Council
Working Group on
Structural Measures and
Outermost Regions

PROGRAMME

Tuesday June 20

12:00 **Registration and lunch**

13:30 **Welcome**

Video greeting: **Vasco Alves Cordeiro**, President of the European Committee of the Regions.

Speaker and host: **Jelena Drenjanin**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions, Huddinge municipality.

Moderators: **Mikael Janson**, Director North Sweden European Office and **Johanna Bond**, Head of Central Sweden European Office

14:10 **Cohesion policy in a major political context**

This session aims to provide an overview of the major political context in which the new cohesion policy is being negotiated in, and what other priorities are competing for attention and resources.

Speakers:

Fabian Zuleeg, Chief Executive and Chief Economist of the European Policy Centre.

Ilan De Basso, Member of the European Parliament.

Stef Blok, Member of the European Court of Auditors from the Netherlands.

Moderator: **Mikael Janson**, Director North Sweden European Office

15:30 **Reflection**

Led by **Magnus Aspegren**, Regional Development Director, Region Jämtland Härjedalen and **Eleonore Åkerlund**, Regional Development Director, Region Värmland.

15:45 **Break**

16:15 **Issues at stake**

What might cohesion policy look like in the future? How is the discussion going at EU level and is it in line with the needs of Swedish municipalities and regions?

Key note: **Alison Hunter**, Senior Advisor at the European Policy Center.

Panel discussion:

Vania Freitas, Institutional Relations & Advocacy Coordinator, the European network Assembly of European Regions.

Eleni Marianou, Secretary General of the European network Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR).

Dorthe Nielsen, Executive Director at EURO CITIES.

Moderator: **Johanna Bond**, Head of the Central Sweden European Office

17:15 **Short break**

17:20 **Reflection**

Led by **Anna-Lena Malm**, Regional Development Director, Region Blekinge and **Elsuari Julin**, Regional Development Director, Region Dalarna.

17:45 **Mingle**

Drinks and snacks

PROGRAMME

Wednesday June 21

09:00 **Coffee and mingle**

09:30 **What do we take away from yesterday?**

Speakers:

Rachel de Basso, Chair of the Regional Board, Region Jönköping County.

Isak Utsi, Chairman of the municipal board, Arjeplog municipality

Rene Jaramillo, Chairman of the Regional Development Committee, Region Kronoberg

Madeleine Jonsson, Member of the Regional Executive Committee, Region Västra Götaland

Moderators: Johanna Bond, Director Central Sweden European Office, **Sven Kastö**, Director Småland, Blekinge and Halland South Sweden and **Mikael Janson**, Director North Sweden European Office

10:00 **How might the future tools for regional development look like?**

In just a few years, the European Commission will present proposals for EU funding programmes for the period after 2027. What is currently being discussed? What changes can regions and cities expect? How does the European Commission and the Joint Research Centre see the priorities for policy and funds moving forward?

Speakers:

Sofia Alves, Deputy Director-General for Implementation and International Relations at the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional Policy (DG Regio).

Mikel Landabaso Alvarez, Deputy Director-General in charge of the Sustainable Economy Unit at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC).

Moderator: John Kostet, Senior Adviser for regional policy at North Sweden European Office

11:15 **Reflection**

Led by **Katrien Vanhaverbeke**, Regional Development Director, Region Gävleborg and **Richard Widén**, Regional Development Director, Region Östergötland.

11:30 **Break**

11:45 **Next steps**

How do we take the local/regional and national dialog further in order to form a broad Swedish position on the issue?

Speakers: Jeanette Lund, Counselor for Industry Policy, The Permanent representation of Sweden to the EU, Council Working Group on Structural Measures and Outermost Regions

Alejandro Blanco Fernandez, Counsellor for Finance, The Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU, Council Working Group on Structural Measures and Outermost Regions

Birgitte Wederking, Director, Greater Copenhagen EU Office

Emilia Perna, Director, West Finland European Office

Moderator: Sven Kastö, Director of Småland, Blekinge and Halland South Sweden Office

12:10 **Reflection**

Led by **Karin Hermansson**, Regional Development Director, Region Jönköping County, **Janus Brandin**, Regional Development Director, Region Norrbotten and **Jelena Drenjanin**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions, Huddinge municipality.

12:30 **Closure and lunch**