

## Strategic Planning and Future of Cohesion Policy after 2020

Schedule of the Ministerial meeting and Conference of the Visegrad Group Countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia), Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Slovenia

### 25 January 2016 – Informal session of Ministers

Venue: Hotel Lindner, Prague 1, Strahovská 128 / Interpretation: EN

- 17:30** Arrival of ministers and distinguished guests to Prague, refreshment
- 18.00** Welcome word by Minister of Regional Development of the Czech Republic  
**Ms Karla Šlechtová and welcome drink**
- 18:15** Cultural programme  
**Photo of the group**
- 19:15** Beginning of diner (3 course menu served)
- 21:00** End of the dinner

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#### Parking:

Possible at the hotel Lindner



## 26 January 2016 – Ministerial meeting

Venue: [Hotel Grandior](#), Prague 1 (Na Poříčí 42) / Interpretation: EN / CZ / Parking available

### 9.00 Welcome Coffee

### 9.30 Welcome speech by Minister of Regional Development of the Czech Republic, Ms Karla Šlechtová

Statement by **Ms Corina Crețu**, Commissioner for Regional Policy

Statement by **Mr Stanislav Polčák**, Vice Chair of the EP REGI Committee

Statement by **Mr Markku Markkula**, President of the European Committee of the Regions

*(The schedule of the presentation is 30 minutes for the Minister, 10 minutes for other speakers, in total 60 minutes)*

### 10:30 Coffee break

### 10:45 Statements of the ministers (the topics and questions)

- *What is the impact of Cohesion Policy on V4+4 national policies? What impact do national policies have on Cohesion Policy? Is cohesion policy fulfilling its original goals?*
- *Meeting conditions and new tools for better pipelining of funds – first experience*
- *Cohesion policy and Multiannual financial framework, linkage to usage of different funds (ESI funds vs. Community funds)*
- *Do more coordination and heavier legislation lead to less bureaucracy and more simplification? How to ensure more simplification in shared management?*
- *Cohesion Policy - long term framework for EU policy actions versus short term or newly emerging challenges – flexibility of funding*
- *Cohesion Policy and governance in the EU – challenges and opportunities*
- *Preventive measures and role of auditing in better implementation and achieving results*

*(The statements are supposed to be approx. 8 minutes, in total 60 minutes)*

### 11:45 Statement by Ms Olga Letáčková, representative of High Level Group of Independent Experts on Monitoring Simplification for Beneficiaries of the European Structural and Investment Funds and Deputy Minister responsible for Cohesion Policy at the Ministry of Regional Development

### 11:55 Conclusions and signing of the V4+4 Joint Statement

### 12.15 Family Photo of Head of Delegations

### 12.30 Lunch (hosted under the auspices of Minister of Regional Development of the Czech Republic)

### 14.00 End of the ministerial session



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## 26 January 2016 - Conference

Venue: [Hotel Grandior](#), Prague 1 (Na Poříčí 42) / Interpretation: EN / CZ

### 13:00 Registration

### 14:00 Opening ceremony (Future Vision / perspectives of Cohesion Policy)

- Reflection of the Joint statement of V<sub>4</sub>+4 countries
- Role of Cohesion Policy - present and future insight (from perspective of the Member States and EU institutions):
  - Main aspects of Cohesion Policy in practise in the past, presence and future
  - Influence of Cohesion Policy on Member States at the EU and national level
  - Implementation of the 2014 – 2020 programming period
  - New challenges to fulfil Cohesion Policy targets in the future
- Discussion

*Moderator: **Olga Letáčková** (Deputy Minister for National coordination authority Section, Ministry of regional development of the Czech Republic)*

*Opening statement by Minister of Regional Development of the Czech Republic **Karla Šlechtová***

*Statements of particular **Ministers of the V<sub>4</sub>+4 countries***

*Statement by Deputy Director-General European Commission, DG Regional Policy **Nicholas Martyn***

*Statement by European parliament Regional Committee Vice Chair **Stanislav Polčák***

*Statement by President of the Committee of the Regions **Markku Markkula***

### 16:00 Coffee break

### 16:30 Panel 1 “ESI Funds 2014 – 2020 and best practice”

- Impact of Cohesion Policy from the perspective of past decade
- Main factors influencing present programming period 2014 – 2020
- Experience with preparation of Partnership agreement, operational programmes; first calls, territorial dimension
- Effective implementation and key factors for successful usage of the European structural and investment funds
- Discussion

*Moderator and key speaker: **D. Ahner** (Special Advisor of Commissioner C. Crețu)*

*Further speakers: representatives of selected V<sub>4</sub>+4 countries (**the Czech Republic - O. Letáčková**, Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic; **representative of Hungary**; **representative of Romania**)*



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Panel experts: **E. Unterwurzacher** (Director for Operational Efficiency and Central Europe, DG REGIO); **S. Polčák** (European parliament Regional Committee Vice Chair); **P. Osvald** (President of Czech delegation at CoR, First Vice President of COTER coordinators); **Z. Semorád** (Deputy Minister of European programmes Section, Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic); **D. Jiránek** (CEO of the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic)

**18:30** Conclusions of the day

**19:00** Dinner for invited guests

## 27 January 2016 - Conference

Venue: [Hotel Grandior](#), Prague 1 (Na Poříčí 42) / Interpretation: EN / CZ

**9:30** Registration

**10:00** Panel 2 "Strategic planning as an X-factor for effective management of ESI funds"

- Public administration as a prerequisite for effective realization of Cohesion Policy
- ESI funds as a key factor for successful implementation of longer term strategies tackling big societal problems
- Strategic documents (and planning generally) as the key factor for successful implementation of Cohesion Policy – institutional point of view, processes, evaluation, contribution of ESI funds to national strategies fulfilment, territorial aspects
- Interrelation of the Cohesion Policy and other EU policies
- Integrated approach to territorial development – new tools in 2014-2020
- Discussion

*Moderator and key speaker: **B. Wauters** (Director responsible for innovations, evaluations and methodology at Flemish Ministry of Employment and Social Economy, Flanders, Belgium)*

*Further speakers: representatives of selected V4+4 countries (**the Czech Republic - V. Kváča**, Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic; **representative of Poland**; **representative of Slovenia**, **representative of Croatia**)*

*Panel experts: **Z. Kazatsay** (Deputy Director-General, DG EMPL); **V. Špidla** (Director of advisors of Prime Minister, The Office of the Government of the Czech Republic); **D. Koppitz** (Director of Regional policy Department, Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic);*

**12:00** Lunch



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**13:00 Panel 3 “Expected trends and scenarios (incl. macroeconomic insights) after 2020”**

- Cohesion Policy and future trends and development scenarios
- Strategic priorities of V<sub>4+4</sub> countries in context of Cohesion Policy
- Conditions and specific mechanism influencing targeting and utilization of ESI funds
- Future of Cohesion Policy in context of the Multiannual Financial Framework
- Future role of the EU financial tools, directly managed funding on the EU level
- Discussion

*Moderator and key speaker: **D. Ahner** (Special Advisor of Commissioner C. Crețu)*

*Further speakers: representatives of selected V<sub>4+4</sub> countries (**the Czech Republic - J. Gregor**, Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic; **representative of Bulgaria; representative of Slovakia**)*

*Panel experts: **A. Novakov** (representative of the European Parliament, Bulgaria); **J. Blažek** (Charles University); **O. Letáčková** (Deputy Minister for National coordination authority Section, Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic); **M. Havránek** (Charles University)*

**15:00 Conclusions of Conference and main outputs**

**15:30 Informal part**

