

INVESTING IN EUROPE INVESTING IN PEOPLE

European Investments at local and regional level

Extraordinary meeting of the
PES Group in the European Committee of the Regions

Valencia

15 September 2017

Programme

Background



Against the background of the decrease of public investments by Local and Regional Authorities since the outbreak of the crisis in 2008 (a reduction of 15%), this year's extraordinary meeting of the PES Group in Valencia will take stock on the European investments at local and regional level and outline policy proposals to relaunch them.

After setting the scene, a first workshop will focus on how the EU budget (and in particular the cohesion policy) should look like after 2020 in order to ensure the investments that are needed for our citizens. The session will also draw the first lessons from the functioning of the Juncker Plan, and from other EU investment tools for instance for transport (Connecting Europe Facility) or for Research (Horizon 2020) among others. Finally, the discussions will lead to some concrete proposals for the future like, for example, establishing fiscal stimulus programmes at regional level focused on investments which favour sustainable growth.

The focus in the second part of the meeting will be to evaluate to what extent loans, innovative financial instruments and innovative public procurement can be an alternative to a grant-based policy. With the potential consequences of Brexit on the EU budget, new approaches to funding basic needs are needed at EU level. At the same time, financial instruments are largely incompatible with the financing features of the welfare state and services of general interest.

Interpretation



Venue



Museo del Carmen
Carrer del Museu 2
Valencia, Spain

- 🕒 9.00 – 9.30 **Registration and coffee**
- 🕒 9.30 – 10.00 **Welcome addresses**
Sandra Gómez, Deputy Mayor of Valencia, Spain
Catiuscia Marini, President of the PES Group in the Committee of the Regions and President of the Umbria Region, Italy
Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions, Belgium
- 🕒 10.00 – 11.15 *Roundtable*
Investing in Europe – The current situation and perspectives
Moderated by
Dennis Abbott, Managing Director of Communications at Burson-Marsteller
Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, MEP (S&D), member of the Committee on Budgets, Spain
Vasco Alves Cordeiro, President of the Regional Government of the Azores and President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), Portugal
Manuel Illueca, Economist, Director of the Valencian Institute for Finances, Spain
Debate with the participants
- 🕒 11.15 – 11.30 **Keynote speech**
Pedro Sánchez, PSOE Secretary-General, Spain
- 🕒 11.30 – 12.45 *Roundtable*
Investing in Europe – News tools to finance investment
Moderated by
Dennis Abbott, Managing Director of Communications at Burson-Marsteller
Pascal Bolo, First Deputy Mayor of Nantes and Vice-President of Nantes Metropolis in charge of finances, France
Ivailo Kalfin, Special adviser on the relations with the European and National Parliaments, as well as on the budget revenue 2014-2016 to the European Commissioner Günther H. Oettinger, Bulgaria
Claire Dhéret, Senior Adviser, Programme Leader of FutureLab Europe, Social Europe and Well-being Programme, European Policy Centre (EPC), Belgium
Debate with the participants
- 🕒 12.45 – 13.00 **Conclusions**
Ximo Puig i Ferrer, President of the Valencian Region and Secretary General of the PSPV, Spain
- 🕒 13.00 **Lunch/Press Conference**