

Session:

Developing better policies

Subject:

"Macro-regional strategy as a chance to ensure cohesion and sustainable social and economic development in the Carpathians" Władysław Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region, Poland

Background:

The four existing macro-regional strategies of the European Union (*EUSBRS*, *EUSDR*, *EUSAIR*, *EUSALP*) are recognised as an important and tested tool for deepening European integration and strengthening territorial cohesion. Their advantage is that they are based on a model of multi-level governance, involving the concerted cooperation of parties representing the EU, national, regional and local levels, including economic and social partners, academic centres and civil society organisations. As a result, they not only provide a platform for cooperation, but also make it possible to mobilise available resources in order to achieve common objectives which are part of European Union policies, while embedding them in specific territorial conditions. In this way, European policies on society, the environment, climate, mobility or economic innovation are transferred into joint initiatives, programmes and projects that are coordinated across regions and countries.

It should also be stressed that macro-regional strategies enable deeper and broader interaction at cross-sectoral, regional and cross-border level between Member States and neighbouring countries. In this way, they become a tool to help deal with common problems and challenges, as well as to build European integration and solidarity and promote common European values.

The important role of macro-regional strategies and their still not fully exploited potential is indicated by the European Commission in its reports to the European Council every two years from 2016 onwards. In turn, the European Council, in its conclusions, stresses that remains open to consider any jointly agreed and mature initiatives of Member States facing the same challenges in a specific geographical area, aimed at establishing a new macro-regional strategy.

Initiatives aimed at creating a macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian area, which is to be the next EU macro-regional strategy, should be seen in this respect. The actions taken at all levels of public authority, with the strong involvement of regional and local authorities and communities, show the maturity of this initiative and its public support. Clear support for the creation of the new strategy was expressed by the European Committee of the Regions, when adopted its opinion on 4 December 2019: Macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian region (COR-2019-03425-COTER-VI/057).

This will be another European macro-regional strategy developed for the mountain region, after the EUSALP, which will also strengthen the impact of the Danube Strategy in terms of this area. It is therefore necessary, taking into account the voice of the experts, to make use of the experience gained from the current strategies and properly outline the framework for

the new macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian region. Discussion of these issues is the aim of this session.

Speakers:

Władysław Ortyl - Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region, Chair of the Interregional Carpathians Group in the European Committee of the Regions

Tbc - Member of the European Parliament

Matteo Bianchi - Member of the European Committee of the Regions, Italy

Tbc - Representative of the European Commission, DG REGIO

Prof. Jacek Szlachta - Polish economist, employee of the Department of Regional and Spatial Development of the Warsaw School of Economics, expert in European and national regional and cohesion policy

Paweł Wais PhD - Director of the Regional Development Department, Podkarpackie Marshal's Office

Alternatives:

Prof. Tomasz Grosse - Expert in European integration and geoeconomics, University of Warsaw

Tbc - Member of the Interregional Carpathians Group, European Committee of the Regions, Romania

Tbc - Representative of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention in Vienna