





November 2025 High-Level Conference on Future of Cohesion Policy

“Cohesion 2027+: an enabler of long-term development, inclusive economic competitiveness and resilience throughout Europe”

November 21st, 2025, Bucharest, Romania

Organisers		
Ministry of Investments and European Projects	Minister Dragoș PÎSLARU	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Minister Oana ȚOIU	
Ministry of Finance	Minister Alexandru NAZARE	
Event venue		
Bucharest Sheraton Hotel	5-7 Calea Dorobanți	Google Maps 
Confirmation		
<p>Invited participants who have not yet confirmed their attendance are invited to do so at their earliest convenience. To facilitate logistics and ensure proper protocol arrangements, please confirm your participation using the following simple form: https://tinyurl.com/Cohesion2027ROConference.</p> <p>Your confirmation will greatly assist us in finalizing the conference agenda and bilateral meeting schedule. We look forward to welcoming you to Bucharest for what promises to be an important and forward-looking discussion on the future of cohesion policy in Europe.</p>		
Pre-event high-level dinner event (by invitation only)		
National Bank of Romania	25 Lipscani Street	Google Maps 
<p><i>Thursday, November 20th, 19:00</i> - Hosted in the elegant halls of the National Bank of Romania, the High-Level Dinner will bring together around 35 distinguished guests – European Commissioners, ministers, Members of the European Parliament, and institutional leaders – for an evening of meaningful dialogue and exchange.</p> <p>Beyond protocol, the evening will celebrate partnership, trust, and shared purpose – values that lie at the heart of European cooperation. The event aims to foster genuine connections among decision-makers and to set the tone for the Cohesion 2027+ High-Level Conference taking place the following day.</p>		



November 21st, 2025 - Friday

09:00 - 10:45

Ministerial Cohesion Round Table: The role of the traditional policies in the context of the new MFF (1+2 format)

Host country:

5 minutes

- **Mr. Dragoș PÎSLARU** 🇷🇴 Romania
Minister of Investments and European Projects

European Union:

5 minutes each

- **Mr. Raffaele FITTO** 🇪🇺 European Commission
Executive Vice-President | Cohesion and Reforms
- **Mrs. Roxana MÎNZATU** 🇪🇺 European Commission
Executive Vice-President | Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness
- **Mr. Siegfried MUREȘAN** 🇪🇺 European Parliament
Member, MFF Rapporteur
- **Mrs. Kata TÜTTŐ** 🇪🇺 European Committee of the Regions
President

Member States:

3 minutes each

- **Mrs. Nataša MIKUŠ ŽIGMAN** 🇭🇷 Croatia
Minister of Regional Development and EU Funds
- **Mr. Petr KULHÁNEK** 🇨🇪 Czechia
Minister for Regional Development
- **Mr. Nikos PAPATHANASIS** 🇬🇷 Greece
Alternate Minister of Economy and Finance
- **Dr. Tibor NAVRACSICS** 🇭🇺 Hungary
Minister of Public Administration and Regional Development
- **Mr. Stefan ZRINZO AZZOPARDI** 🇲🇹 Malta
Minister for European Union Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme
- **Mr. Samuel MIGAL'** 🇸🇰 Slovakia
Minister of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization





















- **Mr. Aleksander JEVŠEK** 🇸🇮 Slovenia
Minister of Cohesion and Regional Development
- **Mr. Tomislav DONCHEV** 🇧🇬 Bulgaria
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Innovations and Growth (TBC)
- **Mr. Makis KERAVNOS** 🇨🇾 Cyprus, Incoming EU Council Presidency
Minister of Finance (TBC)
- **Mr. Jürgen LIGI** 🇪🇺 Estonia
Minister of Finance (TBC)
- **Mrs. Françoise GATEL** 🇫🇷 France
Minister of Spatial Planning and Decentralization (TBC)
- **Mr. Tommaso FOTI** 🇮🇹 Italy
Minister for European Affairs, NRRP and Cohesion Policy (TBC)
- **Mr. Arvils AŠERADENS** 🇱🇻 Latvia
Minister of Finance (TBC)
- **Mr. Januš KIZENEVIČ** 🇱🇹 Lithuania
Vice-Minister, Ministry of Finance
- **Mrs. Monika SIKORA** 🇵🇱 Poland
Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy
- **Mr. Daniel LILJEBERG** 🇸🇪 Sweden
State Secretary, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise
- **Mrs. Mercedes CABALLERO FERNÁNDEZ** 🇪🇸 Spain
Secretary General for EU Funds, Ministry of Finance
- **Mr. Georg SCHADT** 🇦🇹 Austria
Head of Directorate, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- **Dr. Claudia KUTZSCHBACH** 🇩🇪 Germany
Head of Division ID2 - European Cohesion and Structural Policy, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
- **Mr. Tjerk OPMEER** 🇳🇱 Netherlands
Director for Innovation, Ministry of Economic Affairs
- **Mr. Gaetan POELMAN** 🇧🇪 Belgium
General Representative, Delegation of Flanders to the EU
- **Mrs. Anni STÅHLE** 🇫🇮 Finland
Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Finland in Romania



MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS AND EUROPEAN PROJECTS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Denmark 🇩🇰 (TBC)• Ireland 🇮🇪 (TBC)• Luxembourg 🇱🇺 (TBC)• Portugal 🇵🇹 (TBC) <div>Conclusions: 5 minutes</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Dragoș PÎSLARU 🇷🇴 Romania Minister of Investments and European Projects
10:45 - 10:50	Family Photo
10:50 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 11:30	<div>Opening Remarks: 5 minutes each</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Nicușor DAN 🇷🇴 Romania President (TBC)• Mr. Ilie BOLOJAN 🇷🇴 Romania Prime-Minister (TBC)• Mr. Raffaele FITTO 🇪🇺 🇮🇹 European Commission Executive Vice-President Cohesion and Reforms• Mrs. Roxana MÎNZATU 🇪🇺 🇷🇴 European Commission Executive Vice-President Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness• Mrs. Oana ȚOIU 🇷🇴 Romania Minister of Foreign Affairs• Mr. Alexandru NAZARE 🇷🇴 Romania Minister of Finance (TBC) <div>Host:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Dragoș PÎSLARU 🇷🇴 Romania Minister of Investments and European Projects
11:30 - 12:00	Press Statement / Coffee Break



12:00 - 14:30	<p>Plenary Session: Positioning Cohesion Policy in a newly proposed EU budget landscape</p> <p><i>Theme: The future of the Cohesion Policy: how to maintain its strategic value? (choices, priorities and trade-offs). This session provides a political overview of the future architecture, linking all three pillars at the strategic level.</i></p>
	<p>Speakers: 5 minutes each</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Siegfried MUREȘAN   European Parliament Member, MFF Rapporteur• Mrs. Kata TÜTTŐ   European Committee of the Regions President• Mrs. Nataša MIKUŠ ŽIGMAN  Croatia Minister of Regional Development and EU Funds• Mr. Petr KULHÁNEK  Czechia Minister for Regional Development• Mr. Nikos PAPATHANASIS  Greece Alternate Minister of Economy and Finance• Mr. Victor NEGRESCU   European Parliament Vice-President• Mrs. Antonella BASSANI   World Bank IBRD & IDA Vice-President, Europe and Central Asia• Mr. Dan BARNA   European Parliament Member (TBC)• Mrs. Monika SIKORA  Poland Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy• Mr. Januš KIZENEVIČ  Lithuania Vice-Minister, Ministry of Finance• Dr. Claudia KUTZSCHBACH  Germany Head of Division ID2 - European Cohesion and Structural Policy, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy• Mr. Alejandro BLANCO FERNANDEZ   European Court of Auditors, Rapporteur



	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Teodora PREOTEASA 🇷🇴🇵🇱 Investments and Development Bank, Director of European Funds Administration
14:30 - 15:30	<p>Lunch time & Networking</p>
15:30 - 16:30	<p>Parallel Session #1: Economic Pillar Cohesion, Competitiveness and Convergence - How can they work together?</p> <p><i>Theme: Delivering on the green, digital and industrial transitions while reducing disparities. Focuses on cohesion as an enabler of Europe's competitiveness and industrial renewal.</i></p>
	<p>Speakers: 5 minutes each</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Nataša MIKUŠ ŽIGMAN 🇭🇷 Croatia Minister of Regional Development and EU Funds• Mr. Petr KULHÁNEK 🇨🇪 Czechia Minister for Regional Development• Mr. Stefan ZRINZO AZZOPARDI 🇲🇹 Malta Minister for European Union Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme• Mr. Victor NEGRESCU 🇷🇴🇵🇱 European Parliament Vice-President• Mrs. Mercedes CABALLERO FERNÁNDEZ 🇪🇸 Spain Secretary General for EU Funds, Ministry of Finance• Mr. Daniel LILJEBERG 🇸🇪 Sweden State Secretary, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise• Mr. Tjerk OPMEER 🇳🇱 Netherlands Director for Innovation, Ministry of Economic Affairs• Mr. Radu BURNETE 🇷🇴 Presidential Administration of Romania Presidential advisor - Department of Economic and Social Policies• Mr. Sorin MAXIM 🇷🇴🇵🇱 West Regional Development Agency, Director General• Mr. Emil BOC 🇷🇴 Mayor of Cluj-Napoca, CoR Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget Vice-President (TBC)



	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Corina-Andreea MURAFĂ-BENGA 🇷🇴 Bucharest University of Economic Studies, University Lecturer
15:30 - 16:30	<p>Parallel Session #2: Social Pillar People at the centre - Cohesion Policy for skills, inclusion and social equity <i>Theme: How can Cohesion Policy better respond to Europe's social transformation? Grounded in people-centred cohesion - social investment, human capital, and equal access.</i></p>
	<p>Speakers: 5 minutes each</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Ana Maria DOBRE 🇷🇴 🇪🇺 European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Director • Mr. Florin ZAHARIA 🇷🇴 Ministry of Finance State Secretary (TBC) • Ms. Ștefania ANDREESCU 🇷🇴 Ministry of Labor, Family, Youth and Social Solidarity, Director General • Mr. Roman ZHUKOVSKIY 🌐 🇺🇦 World Bank Senior Social Protection Specialist • Mr. Sterică FUDULEA 🇷🇴 🇪🇺 Economic and Social Council of Romania, President • Member States representatives, upon request <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Florian MARIN 🇷🇴 🇪🇺 European Economic and Social Committee Member, President of the Federation of Free Trade Unions of Romania
15:30 - 16:30	<p>Parallel Session #3: Territorial Pillar A future for all places - Cohesion Policy as a driver of spatial justice <i>Theme: Reinforcing the place-based logic in an enlarged, complex and asymmetric Europe. Strategically anchors the territorial dimension in enlargement, resilience, and multilevel governance.</i></p>



	<div>Speakers: 5 minutes each</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Tibor NAVRACSICS 🇭🇺 Hungary Minister of Public Administration and Regional Development• Ms. Orsolya Maria KÖVER 🇷🇴 Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration, State Secretary• Mr. Vasco ALVES CORDEIRO 🇵🇹 European Committee of the Regions - Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget, President (TBC)• Dr. Wiktor SZYDAROWSKI 🇵🇸 ESPON 🇷🇺 European Spatial Planning Observation Network - European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, Director• Mr. Marcel-Ioan BOLOȘ 🇷🇴 North-West Regional Development Agency, Director General• Mr. Alexandru VĂRZARU 🇷🇴 Eurocities / Timișoara City Hall Head of International Affairs (TBC)• Member States representatives, upon request <div>Moderator:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Alexandru KELEMEN 🇷🇴 🇨🇪 Jiu Valley Integrated Territorial Development Association, Executive Director
16:30 - 16:45	Coffee Break
16:45 - 18:00	<div>Plenary Session: Making Cohesion a Success Story. Delivery, Results and Strategic Drivers</div> <div><i>Theme: Rethinking delivery: how cohesion is financed, managed, and measured</i></div>
	<div>Speakers: 5 minutes each</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Carmen MORARU 🇷🇴 Romania State Secretary, Ministry of Investments and European Projects• Ms. Sofia ALVES 🇵🇹 European Commission Director, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (TBC)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Anna AKHALKATSI 🌐 🇷🇺 World Bank Director for the EU, Europe and Central Asia, ECA• Mrs. Teodora PREOTEASA 🇷🇺 🇵🇸 Investments and Development Bank, Director of European Funds Administration• Mr. Marius CARA 🇷🇺 🇵🇸 European Investment Bank Head of EIB Group Office in Romania• Mr. Vasile ASANDEI 🇷🇺 🇵🇸 North-East Regional Development Agency Director General• Member States representatives, upon request <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Dragoș DINU 🌐 🇷🇺 World Bank Senior Public Sector Consultant
18:00 - 18:15	<p>Closing Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Dragoș PÎSLARU 🇷🇺 Romania Minister of Investments and European Projects
18:15 - 19:00	Networking Cocktail Reception

A dedicated time slot for **bilateral meetings** will be available on the day of the conference, between 11:30 and 18:00, at the same venue – Sheraton Bucharest Hotel. Our team will provide logistical support to facilitate these meetings upon request.



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