

// For immediate release

Just Transition and Recovery for Cities and Regions in Europe

November 2020

While Europe accelerates its plans to support areas in need of phasing the coal industry, the pandemic hits hard European regions and cities threatening economic and social cohesion.

Is Europe ready to fight on two fronts?

To answer this question, the ESPON Programme and the German EU Council Presidency bring together top policymakers and global thinkers in two online events, open to the journalists and the public to interact.

On **18 November 2020, at 14.00**, one of the world's leading experts on sustainable development, **Jeffrey Sachs**, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and ex-advisor to three UN Secretary Generals, exchanges with **Markus Kerber**, the State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community of Germany, on the topic of: **“Is energy decarbonization compatible with just economic transition for regions and cities?”**

And the next day, **19 November 2020, at 10.30**:

- **Elisa Ferreira**, the EU Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms
- **Apostolos Tzitzikostas** - the President of the Committee of the Regions
- **Volkmar Vogel**, the Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of the Interior, Building and Community of Germany and
- **Jerzy Buzek**, Polish MEP and former President of the EU Parliament

discuss live **how the EU Just Transition can bring recovery for regions and cities**. The debate is well-timed as the trilogue among the EU institutions is in process to finalize the scope, amount and conditionalities of the allocated EU funds.

Twitter and Facebook from the ESPON account [@ESPON_Programme](#). Participants and journalists are invited to ask questions either during the debate or by sending them in advance using [#ESPONweek](#) or by direct messaging on Twitter. You can subscribe to receive updates for [this event here](#)

Not to miss:

In the morning of 18 November 2020, the biannual online Magazine, **TerritoriALL** will be published on ESPON's website focusing on the coal phase out regions and the territorial impacts of COVID-19. The President of the European Parliament, **David Sassoli**, Professor **Jeffrey Sachs**, the EU Parliament rapporteur of Just Transition Fund, **Manolis Kefalogiannis** and the CoR rapporteur on cross-border public services, **Pavel Branda**, Deputy Mayor of Rádlo Municipality are among the hosted authors.



Note to the Editors

ESPON is the European Territorial Observatory Network that provides scientific analyses and advice for territorial and sectoral policies in a number of contexts including economy and finance, unemployment, foreign direct investment, circular and low-carbon economy, healthcare, migration, etc. **ESPON** supports the discussions on the future of EU policies, notably the Cohesion Policy, as well as the upcoming preparation for the next generation of strategies and programmes at national, regional and local scales. **ESPON** is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund. More at: www.ESPON.eu

The **ESPON** 2020 Programme is a pan-European programme managed by the Luxembourgish Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure on behalf of all EU Member States, Island Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland and co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund under Interreg.

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