

## KARLOVY VARY Annual Policy Dialogue STATEMENT

*Coal Regions need further support beyond 2027 to leave no one behind!*

The Fourth Annual Policy Dialogue of the EU Coal Regions in Transition Initiative, taking place on 27-28 June 2023 in Karlovy Vary (Czech Republic), aimed to:

- Transformation of the European energy system for fulfilling the European Union's commitment to the Paris Agreement is taking place with wide ranging impacts on coal, peat and oil shale regions (later referred to jointly as '*coal regions*') and their economy, especially as this entails ending a specific sector's industrial and economic activity;
- Coal regions in Europe are very diverse, in terms of both their dependence on fossil fuels for employment and industrial output, and their potential for economic reconversion;
- The transition of these coal regions is far from complete and needs sustained financial and policy support beyond 2027 to ensure that no one is left behind; While these regions face a number of challenges, they are also hubs for ideas, green and digital transition projects and innovation examples that may be of inspiration for the other EU regions that face twin transition or need to support their industries to boost competitiveness of the EU on the global market
- Therefore, the focus should be on:
  - **continuation of strong support for coal regions throughout the course of their entire transition** in the EU policy and funding framework beyond 2027 that can ensure the long-term success of transformative pathways for the economies and citizens of these regions;
  - maintaining a strong focus on **place-based solutions for the just transition** that address specific development challenges in the affected areas, that are developed in an inclusive way by involving **all relevant stakeholders** and that provide the **necessary scope of support**;
  - **complementarities and synergies between EU policies** to support the transition of coal regions, such as through the promotion of concept of smart territories, EU support for priority ecosystems, such as the bio-economy, and EU innovation policy combined with a financially strengthened Just Transition Mechanism to reach a successful EU industrial green transition pathway;
  - reinforced efforts for **effective coordination of public and private investments in coal regions** across all levels of government and other relevant stakeholders based on **partnership and multi-level governance**;
  - optimisation of **delivery systems** based on lessons learned from implementation of current programmes, while **measuring success based on impact** on supported regions;

- a **continuation of the specific provisions with regard to state aid to facilitate support in the context of the just transition** as in the current financing period;
- more **dedicated support for the cross-border and inter-regional cooperation** to further promote peer learning and capacity building;
- **better communication and storytelling** of the ongoing efforts of coal regions in transition;
- **all EU institutions** to seek an **early dialogue with coal regions** in the design and implementation of the next generation of EU policies to ensure a fair and just transition of these regions;
- the European Commission to conduct a **study, focusing on regions that are in the process of transitioning** and following up on the 2018 Joint Research Centre study which was entitled "EU coal regions: opportunities and challenges ahead"<sup>1</sup>;
- a **continuation of the high-level EU Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition's Annual Political Dialogue** beyond 2027 with the regular involvement of all key actors of the EU institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> "EU coal regions: opportunities and challenges ahead", JRC 2018, <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC112593>

**Petr KULHÁNEK**  
Governor of the Karlovy Vary Region  
Czech Republic



Signature, date and place:  
**Brussels, 24. 10. 2023**

**Jan KRKOŠKA**  
Governor of the Moravian-Silesian  
Region  
Czech Republic



Signature, date and place:  
**Brussels, 24. 10. 2023**

**Iva DVOŘÁKOVÁ**  
Member of the Ústí Region Council  
Czech Republic



Signature, date and place:  
**Brussels, 24. 10. 2023**

**Thomas Gottfried SCHMIDT**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Free State of Saxony  
Germany



Signature, date and place:  
**Dresden, 30. 9. 2023**

**George KASAPIDIS**  
Regional Governor  
of Western Macedonia  
Greece



**Περιφέρεια Δυτικής Μακεδονίας**  
Γρεβενά | Καστοριά | Κοζάνη | Φλώρινα

Signature, date and place:  
**Kozani, 18. 10. 2023**

**Jakub Piotr CHEŁSTOWSKI**  
Marshal of the Śląskie Region  
Poland



**Województwo  
Śląskie**

Signature, date and place:  
**Brussels, 24. 10. 2023**

**Maciej SYTEK**

Plenipotentiary of the Management Board of the Wielkopolska Region for Restructuring of Eastern Wielkopolska, President of the Regional Development Agency S.A. in Konin  
**Poland**



**WIELKOPOLSKA  
REGION**

Signature, date and place:  
**Brussels, 24. 10. 2023**

**Florin-Tiberiu IACOB-RIDZI**

Mayor of Petrosani Municipality  
**Romania**



Date and place of signature:  
**Petrosani, 23. 10. 2023**

**Jaroslav BAŠKA**

President of the Trenčín Self-Governing Region  
**Slovakia**



Signature, date and place:  
**Trenčín, 19. 10. 2023**

**Peter DERMOL**

Mayor of Municipality Velenje  
**Slovenia**



Signature, date and place:  
**Brussels, 24. 10. 2023**

**Iva RADEVA**  
Regional Governor Stara Zagora  
Province  
**Bulgaria**



Signature, date and place:  
**Stara Zagora, 25. 9. 2023**

**Pentti MÄKINEN**  
Regional Mayor of Etelä-Savo  
**Finland**



Signature, date and place:  
**Mikkeli, 16. 10. 2023**

**Satu SIKANEN**  
Regional Mayor of South Karelia  
**Finland**



Signature, date and place:  
**Lappeenranta, 5. 10. 2023**

**Mona NEUBAUR**  
Deputy Premier and Minister for  
Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate  
Action and Energy of the State of North  
Rhine-Westphalia  
**Germany**

Die Landesregierung  
Nordrhein-Westfalen



Signature, date and place:  
**Düsseldorf, 11. 10. 2023**

**Rainer ROBRA**  
Minister of European Affairs  
Head of the State Chancellery and  
Minister for Culture  
**Germany**



**SACHSEN-ANHALT**

Signature, date and place:  
**Magdeburg, 10. 10. 2023**

**Panagiotis NIKAS**  
Regional Governor of Peloponnese  
**Greece**



Signature, date and place:  
**Tripoli, 10. 10. 2023**

**Robert POWER**

Chair Eastern and Midland Regional  
Assembly  
**Ireland**



Signature, date and place:

**Dublin, 29. 9. 2023**

**Cezary PRZYBYLSKI**

Marshal of the Lower Silesia Region  
**Poland**

Signature, date and place:

**Wrocław, 27. 9. 2023**



**Grzegorz MACKO**

Deputy Marshal of the Lower Silesia  
Region  
**Poland**

Signature, date and place:

**Wrocław, 26. 9. 2023**

**Witold Rafal KOZŁOWSKI**  
Marshal of the Małopolska Region  
**Poland**



Signature, date and place:

**Kraków, 20. 9. 2023**

**Carlos FERNÁNDEZ CARRIEDO**  
Regional Minister for Economy and  
Finance of Castilla and León  
**Spain**



Signature, date and place:

**Valladolid, 11. 10. 2023**

**Nieves ROQUEÑÍ GUTIÉRREZ**  
Regional Minister for Ecological  
Transition, Industry and Economic  
Development  
**Spain**



Signature, date and place:

**Oviedo, 10. 10. 2023**