



5th Working Group Meeting
**Platform for Coal
Regions in Transition**

Albert Borschette Conference Centre
Brussels / 15-16 July 2019

Monday 15 July

08.15 - 09.00 Registration and welcome coffee.

Morning plenary. Room O.A. Interpretation in EN-DE-PL-CZ-ES-EL-RO-FR-SK.

09.00 - 13.00

Chairs:

- Klaus-Dieter Borchardt - Deputy Director General, DG ENER.
- Nicola De Michelis - Director, DG REGIO.

09.00 - 09.20

Introduction by the European Commission:

- Klaus-Dieter Borchardt - Deputy Director General, DG ENER.
- Nicola De Michelis - Director, DG REGIO.

09.20 - 10.00

Progress made in the EU coal regions:

- Tomasz Dąbrowski - Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Energy of Poland.
- Ladislav Šimko - Deputy Prime Minister's Office for Investment and Informatisation, Slovakia.
- Denisa Žiláková - General Director for Central Coordination Body, Deputy Prime Minister's Office for Investments and Informatisation, Slovakia.

10.00 - 10.30

Workers in the clean energy transition:

- Claudia Brânduș - President, Romanian Wind Energy Association
- Sebastian Enache - Member of the Management Board, Romanian Wind Energy Association
- Alicja Messerszmidt - Chairwoman, Trade Union of the Brown Coal Mine, Konin.

10.30 - 11.00

Coffee break.

11.00 - 11.40

Transition stories - Lessons learned:

- Robert Pollock - Secretariat of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition - Moderator.
- Limburg experience: Frank Zwerts - Director, Locate Limburg
- UK experience: Phil Asquith - The Lucas Plan.

Q&A from the floor.

11.40 - 13.00

International initiatives and perspectives:

- Laura Martín Murillo - Advisor on Just Transition to the Minister for Ecological Transition, Spain.
- Martin Brechter - Policy Adviser, Strategic Partnerships for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPIPA).
- Michael Stanley - Global Lead Extractives, Energy & Extractives - World Bank.
- Matthew Webb - Head, Powering Past Coal Alliance.
- Gianpiero Nacci - Deputy Head of Energy Efficiency and Climate Change, EBRD.
- Kieran Kearney - Regional Development Division, EIB.

Monday 15 July

13.00 - 14.30 Lunch.

14.30 - 18.30 Afternoon breakout sessions. *Intepretation in EN-DE-PL-CZ-EL-RO.*

	Room O.A	Room O.B	Room O.C
14.30 - 16.20	Success stories: how to bring new investments to reconversion areas.	Clean energy potential in coal regions: industry dialogue.	Technical assistance opportunities.
16.20 - 16.40	Coffee break.		
16.40 - 18.30	International initiatives supporting coal transition.	Inter-regional network: a way to bring different partners into discussion and action.	Participatory workshop on transition experiences in coal regions: finding a basis for better targeted exchanges between coal regions.

Tuesday 16 July

09.00 - 13.00 Morning breakout sessions. *Interpretation in EN-DE-PL-CZ-EL-RO.*

	Room O.A	Room O.B	Room O.C
09.00 - 10.50	Transition Strategy I: the cases of Slovakia and Greece.	Coal mine closure companies/authorities and their role in transition: insights and lessons.	Country Teams' X-Change (Coal regions hangout).
10.50 - 11.10	Coffee break.		
11.10 - 13.00	Financing for projects in coal regions: development banks, EU funds and regional grants.	Transition Strategy II: Guidance.	Workshop on National Energy and Climate Plans and Long-term Strategy.

13.00 - 14.30 Lunch break.

Afternoon plenary. Room O.A. *Interpretation in EN-DE-PL-CZ-ES-EL-RO-FR-SK.*

14.30 - 17.00

Chairs:

- Hervé Martin – Head of Unit, DG RTD.
- Klaus-Dieter Borchardt – Deputy Director General, DG ENER.

14.30 - 15.45 Report from breakout sessions.

Presentation on Current Practices (including Q&A).

15.45 - 16.15

- Philip Schepelmann – Secretariat of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition.
- Kata Gyori – Secretariat of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition.

16.15 - 16.35

Presentation on Platform communication tools.

- Martín Freire – Secretariat of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition.

16.35 - 17.00

Conclusions and recommendations for future meetings.

- Hervé Martin – Head of Unit, DG RTD.
- Klaus-Dieter Borchardt – Deputy Director General, DG ENER.

Success stories: how to bring new investments to reconversion areas

Room OA / 15th July, 14.30 - 16.20

Purpose

This breakout session is a follow-up to the presentations of transition stories in the plenary session. It will give speakers an opportunity to dive deeper into their respective cases, to provide more details and a more in-depth analysis of the main reasons for success (or failure) of the examples they came to present.

Three speakers will participate, each from a different European region, bringing a different perspective. From Belgium, the success story of the reconversion of Limburg, told by regional authorities. From the UK, the inspiring story (but ultimate failure) of a trade union mobilisation and preparation of a plan – so-called ‘Lucas Plan’ – addressing the need for industrial transition in the aerospace sector. From Poland, the example of the recent renewal of Katowice, a city at the very heart of the Polish coal mining industry that has now become a centre of urban regeneration and economic growth.

Moderator

- **Gergana Miladinova** - Team Leader for Sustainable Growth, DG REGIO.

Speakers

- **Phil Asquith** – The Lucas Plan.
- **Frank Zwerts** – Director, Locate Limburg.
- **Jan Bondaruk** – Deputy Director for Environmental Engineering, Polish Mining Institute.

Clean energy potential in coal regions: industry dialogue

Room OB / 15th July, 14.30 - 16.20

Purpose

This session will explore the case for various renewable energy sources (wind, solar, geothermal, etc.) in the EU coal regions, as shown by preliminary results of an ongoing JRC study, followed by a discussion with the industry.

Moderator

- **Ewa Krukowska** - Reporter, Bloomberg LP.

Speakers

- **“Preliminary findings of the JRC study on clean energy potential in coal regions.” José Moya** – JRC – Scene setter.
- **Pierre Tardieu** – Chief Policy Officer, WindEurope.
- **Walburga Hemetsberger** – CEO, Solar Power Europe.
- **Gilda Amorosi** – Sustainability Adviser, Eurelectric.
- **Anna Chmielewska** – Senior Banker Energy, EBRD Poland Office.
- **Emmanouil Kakaras** – Vice President, Mitsubishi Hitachi Power System Europe.

Technical assistance opportunities

Room OC / 15th July, 14.30 - 16.20

Purpose

This session will present the technical assistance support available through the Secretariat of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition, outlining its scope, resources, and request procedures. It will position the Secretariat's technical assistance and capacity building support among current EU technical assistance mechanisms (e.g. JASPERS, SSRS) that offer opportunities for support to Coal Regions in their transition strategy formulation and project identification and development.

Moderator

- **Carlo Della Libera** - Secretariat of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition.

Speakers

- **Ariane De Dominicis** – Policy Officer, SRSS.
- **Šarūnas Bruzė** – Environmental Economist, JASPERS/EIB.
- **Philipp Horn** - EIB AS-JASPERS, Head of the Energy & Solid Waste Division.
- **Robert Pollock** - Secretariat of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition.
- **Paul Baker** - Secretariat of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition.

International initiatives supporting coal transition

Room OA / 15th July, 16.40 - 18.30

Purpose

An in-depth look at the international initiatives presented in the first plenary session. Panellists will provide an overview of actions taken outside of Europe and at a global level to support just transition activities in areas such as energy sector transition, social dialogue, sustainable financing, technical assistance and knowledge sharing.

Speakers

- **Matthew Webb** – Head, Powering Past Coal Alliance.
- **Faltan Slye** – Director of the System Operator, National Grid.
- **James Rydge** – Policy Fellow, London School of Economics.
- **Samantha Smith** – Director, Just Transition Center.
- **Michael Stanley** – Sector Lead, Oil / Gas / Mining, World Bank.

Moderators

- **Klaus Dieter-Borchardt** – Deputy Director General, DG ENER.

Inter-regional network: a way to bring different partners into discussion and action

Room OB / 15th July, 16.40 - 18.30

Purpose

This session will present and discuss the vision and objectives of a new network of coal regions and the themes it aims to develop and address. It will also consider how best to collate and share relevant information among the coal regions.

Moderators

- **Dimitrios Mavromaditis** – Regional Development Fund of Western Macedonia.
- **Birgit Urban** – Desk Officer, Representation of the Land Brandenburg to the EU.
- **Robert Pollock** - Secretariat of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition.
- **Paul Baker** - Secretariat of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition.

Participatory workshop on transition experiences in coal regions: finding a basis for better targeted exchanges between coal regions

Room OC / 15th July, 16.40 - 18.30

Purpose

This session will provide space for an interactive discussion on the links between socio-economic conditions and similarities and differences in challenges faced by European coal regions in transition, and on potential opportunities for better targeted and more intensive exchanges of transition experiences. The discussion will be informed by an analysis of key macro-socio-economic indicators for Europe's coal regions.

Moderator

- **Andrzej Blachowicz** – Secretariat of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition.
- **Dorit Lehr** – Climate-KIC Re-Industrialise project.

Speakers

- **Matteo Mura** – Associate Professor, University of Bologna.

Transition Strategy I: the cases of Slovakia and Greece

Room OA / 16th July, 09.00 - 10.50

Purpose

This breakout session (Transition Strategies I) is the first of a series of two practical discussions on transition strategies.

It focuses on two transition strategies already developed or currently being developed under the initiative for coal regions in transition, in Slovakia and Greece.

In Slovakia, consultancy PwC has performed a technical assistance project under SRSS funding, in which it developed a transition strategy and action plan for the region of Upper Nitra. The process started in October 2018 and ended in July 2019, with the official adoption of the action plan by the Slovak government on 3 July 2019. The project has been positively perceived by local stakeholders; it is the first time that a regional development project is adopted following a participatory approach of this scale in Slovakia.

In Greece, the World Bank is performing a technical assistance project funded under SRSS funding, in which it looks at transition-related issues in the coal mining regions of Western Macedonia. Work has officially started in February 2019, and will continue until February 2021. Some early deliverables, including local consultations and review of existing project pipelines, are already under preparation.

Another breakout session (Transition Strategies II) will focus on some guidance on transition strategies provided by the Secretariat.

Moderator

- **Andreas Von Busch** – Head of Unit, DG REGIO.

Speakers

- **Ondrej Seban** – Manager, PwC Slovakia.
- **Ivo Dolezal** – Partner, PwC Slovakia.
- **Michael Stanley** – Global Lead Extractives, Energy & Extractives – World Bank.
- **Chrysanthos Steiakakis** – World Bank.

Coal mine closure companies/authorities and their role in transition: insights and lessons

Room OB / 16th July, 9.00 - 10.50

Purpose

Companies and authorities responsible for managing the closure of coalmines and rehabilitation of coal mine sites have a key role in the transition process. The aim of this session is to exchange experience of coal mines' closure (institutions) and revitalisation as well as identify the systemic barriers and knowledge gaps in effective transformation of post-mining assets in European Coal Regions.

A number of case studies will be presented followed by reflections on challenges and opportunities.

Moderator

- **Jan Bondaruk** – Deputy Director for Environmental Engineering, Polish Mining Institute.

Speakers

- **Claudia Neculau** – Associate Manager, Head of the Development Commercial Department, Spaque, Wallonia, Belgium.
- **Vít Kopecký** – Project Manager, Palivový kombinát Úst.
- **Michal Herman** – Chairman of the Board and Managing Director OKD, Czechia.
- **Janusz Gałkowski** – CEO, SRK, Poland.
- **Petre Dragoescu** – SNIMVJ, Romania.
- **Tomasz Rogala** – Chairman of the Board, Polish Mining Group.
- **Mihai Danciu** – Planeta Petrița Association, Romania.
- **Jakub Chelstowski** – Marshal of Silesia Voivodeship.

Country Teams' X-Change (Coal regions hangout)

Room OC / 16th July, 09.00 - 10.50

Purpose

This session will provide a space for country teams and local stakeholders to exchange on strategies and good practice of multi-level government cooperation as well as related issues, challenges, and opportunities in an informal but structured setting. This will allow for quality interactions and dialogue on participatory methods, communication strategies, stakeholder engagement plans as well as experiences of implementation.

Moderator

- **Carsten Rothballer** – Secretariat of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition.

Speakers

- **Pavλίna Kaletová** – Ministry of Regional Development of Czech Republic.
- **Wojciech Kaluza** – Vice-Marshal of Silesia Voivodeship.
- **Martin Klika** – Ústí Region.

Financing for projects in coal regions: development banks, EU funds and regional grants

Room OA / 16th July, 11.10 - 13.00

Purpose

As coal regions start refining their transition strategies and project ideas it is important to explore financing and funding opportunities at different levels and scales. This session will feature contributions from the EIB, the EBRD, the World Bank, the EEA and Norway Grants and the European Commission and regional initiatives which can provide some food for thought for project developers and public authorities in the coal regions.

Moderator

- **Kai Stryczynski** – Deputy Head of Unit, DG REGIO.

Speakers

- **Sumeet Manchanda** – Principal Manager, Energy Efficiency and Climate Change, EBRD.
- **Russel Bishop** – Principal Economist, EBRD.
- **Michael Stanley** – Global Lead Extractives, Energy & Extractives - World Bank.
- **Roman Doubrava** – Deputy Head of Unit, DG CLIMA.
- **Katja Müller** – Wirtschaftsregion Lausitz GmbH "Zukunftswerkstatt Lausitz".
- **Tina Sølvsberg** – Senior Sector Officer for Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy, EEA / Norway Grant.

Transition Strategies II: Guidance

Room OB / 16th July, 11.10 - 13.00

Purpose

One of the key elements of coal regions' just transition is the overall strategy development. For this purpose a slide deck has been developed. The presentation illustrates a sequence of steps towards a strategy supported by examples from regions that have successfully designed transitions strategies and illustrative flagship transition projects.

The focus will be on identifying necessary elements of policy-making to support the just transition in national and regional strategies in a step-by-step guideline.

Moderator

- **Philipp Schepelmann** - Secretariat of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition.

Workshop on National Energy and Climate Plans and Long-term Strategy

Room 0C / 16th July, 11.10 - 13.00

Purpose

As coal regions plan their transition towards low-carbon economy this session will help provide an overview of broader EU policy tools such as National Energy and Climate Plans and aspirations set in out in the context of the Long-term Strategy. Invited experts will comment on how the transition away from coal is expected to be addressed in final National Energy and Climate Plans.

Moderator

- **Clément Serre** - Policy Officer, DG ENER - Preliminary remarks in National Energy and Climate Plans.

Speakers

- **Alban Kitous** – Policy Analyst, DG ENER.
- **Joanna Flisowska** – Senior Coal Policy Coordinator, CAN Europe.
- **Victor Marcos Morell** – Ministry for the Ecological Transition, Spain.
- **German Government representative (TBC).**
- **Laura Buzatu** - Legal advisor, South West Oltenia Regional Development Agency.