



Platform for Coal Regions in Transition 4th Working Group Meeting

Albert Borschette Conference Centre
Brussels 8-9 April 2019

Monday 8 April

8.15 - 9.00 Registration and welcome coffee

Platform for Coal Regions in Transition Plenary (Room OA)

9.00 - 13.00

Chairs:

*Klaus-Dieter Borchardt, Deputy Director General, DG ENER;
Rudolf Niessler, Director, DG REGIO.*

9.00 - 9.10 Introduction by Chairs (Room OA)

Coal Regions in Transition – recent progress (Room OA) - Followed by Q&A.

9.10 - 10.30

- Progress made by the Czech Country Team, *David Koppitz, Deputy Minister for Regional Development, Czech Republic;*
- Recommendations of the German Coal Commission, *Mr. Hendrik Fischer, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy, Brandenburg;*
- Germany's coal exit plan: role of business, *Julian Schorpp, Director European Energy and Climate Policy – Department Energy, Environment, Industry, DIHK - Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry.*

10.30 - 11.00

Keynote speeches (Room OA)

- *Dominique Ristori, Director General, DG ENER;*
- *Jerzy Buzek, Chair of ITRE Committee, Member of European Parliament.*

11.00 - 11.30

Introduction of the Platform Secretariat (Room OA) - Followed by Q&A.

- *Klaus-Dieter Borchardt, Deputy Director General, DG ENER;*
- *Robert Pollock, Secretariat of the Platform for Coal in Transition;*
- *Timon Wehnert, Secretariat of the Platform for Coal in Transition.*

11.30 - 13.00

Platform newcomers: introduction of new coal regions (Room OA) - Followed by Q&A.

- *Katarzyna Tarnowiecka, Director for Economic and Investment Promotion Department, Marshal Office of Lower Silesia;*
- *Jakub Jackowski, Deputy Director of the Economic Department, Marshal Office of Greater Poland;*
- *Leopold Vrankar, Ministry of Infrastructure of Slovenia, followed by regional representatives.*

13.00 - 14.30

Lunch break (outside Room OA)

In parallel: **Bloomberg Philanthropies Deep-Dive Session** – by invitation only.

With the support of

Monday 8 April

14.30 - 18.30 **Breakout sessions** (please follow the information provided in your badge).

	Room 3B	Room 3C	Room 3D
14.30 - 16.20	<p>Coal Regions Roundtable (I)</p> <p>Roundtable discussion reserved for representatives of coal regions laying the ground for a future coal regions network, with interventions from the Committee of Regions and the Covenant of Mayors.</p>	<p>Project Lab</p> <p>Governance of transition.</p>	<p>Project Lab</p> <p>Advanced fuels and circular carbon economy.</p>
16.20 - 16.40	Coffee break		
16.40 - 18.30	<p>Coal Regions Roundtable (II)</p>	<p>Project Lab</p> <p>Reskilling and job placement programmes.</p>	<p>Project Lab</p> <p>Energy storage.</p>

Tuesday 9 April

9.00 – 10.45 **Side Event at Committee of the Regions** Hearing on the support of coal regions in transition through Cohesion Policy post 2020. *This is a separate event for which [registration](#) is needed.*

9.00 – 13.00 **Breakout sessions** (please follow the information provided in your badge).

	Room 3B	Room 3C	Room 3D
9.00 - 10:30	<p>Shaping technical assistance for transition in your region (I)</p> <p>A facilitated workshop to inform the activities of the Platform Secretariat on delivering regional technical assistance.</p>		
10.30 - 11.00	Registration and welcome coffee		
11.00 - 13.00	<p>Shaping technical assistance for transition in your region (II)</p>	<p>Project Lab</p> <p>Reclamation and re-purposing.</p>	<p>Project Lab</p> <p>Sustainable heating.</p>

13.00 - 14.30 **Lunch break**

Plenary session (Room 1D and 3B – listening room)

Chairs:

Klaus-Dieter Bochart, Deputy Director General, DG ENER;

Hervé Martin, Head of Unit, DG RTD.

14.30 - 15.45

- Moderators of each break-out session report to the Plenary;
- Conclusions.

15.45 - 16.05 **Coffee break (on the 1st floor)**

16.05 - 18.30 **Breakout sessions (Room 1D and 3B – listening room)**

	Room 1D + 3B
16.05 - 17.15	<p>LIFE Programme and funding opportunities</p> <p><i>Angelo Salsi, Head of Unit, EASME / Maja Mikosińska, Head of Sector, LIFE Nature Biodiversity.</i></p>
17.15 - 18.30	<p>Update on EU projects supporting transition in coal regions</p> <p><i>COAL2051 (Research Fund for Coal and Steel), Brian Rickets, Secretary General, Euracoal. / TRACER (Horizon 2020), Dr. Rainer Janssen, Managing Director Projects, WIP Renewable Energies.</i></p>

Coal Regions Roundtable / Room 3B / 8th April, 14.30 - 18.30

Purpose

Coal regions across the EU have expressed their interest in engaging in an interregional dialogue on the sidelines of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition, in order to define their own agenda and pave the way for a future cooperation between EU coal regions on transition-related issues, independent from the work conducted under the Platform.

Several initiatives of this kind have emerged in the past months, with coal regions and cities coming together in various fora to discuss possible ways to structure a network of coal regions in transition at the EU level.

The purpose of this session is to give a space for regions to continue these discussions and formalise the terms of their future cooperation. Elements that will be clarified are the scope of the cooperation and the model of organisation, based on the experience of other networks and the support to be provided by other institutions and stakeholders such as the Committee of the Regions and the Covenant of Mayors.

Project Lab

Governance of transition / Room 3C / 8th April, 14.30 - 16.20

Purpose

The issue of governance is key to a successful transition in the EU's coal regions. Indeed, the transition is an all-encompassing process, reaching beyond the simple issue of transitioning away from coal-related activities. For coal regions, where coal is an element of local identification and social cohesion as much as it is the basis for regional growth and jobs, the transition to a low-carbon economy means completely reinventing the region, from the economic but also social and cultural point of view.

This process requires a close cooperation and seamless coordination between all levels of government (national, regional, local), all sectors of the economy (public and private), and a strong involvement of the civil society (local communities, NGOs, trade unions), to ensure not only acceptance but also ownership of the transition.

In this session, several governance models will be presented, from EU regions that are at a very different stage of the transition. Discussions will aim at identifying good practices, existing shortcomings and ways for fine-tuning current approaches to governance in EU coal regions.

Chair

Klaus Dieter Borchardt, Deputy Director General at DG ENER.

Co-Chairs

Birgit Urban, Brandenburg Representation to the EU;
Dimitrios Mavromatidis, Western Macedonia Development Fund.

Moderator

Robert Pollock, Senior Advisor, Secretariat of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition.

With interventions from

- **Witold Stępień**, Committee of the Regions;
- **Giorgia Rambelli**, Covenant of Mayors;
- **Christopher Lang**, Saxony Liaison Office, presenting the Vanguard Initiative;
- **Ricardo González Mantero**, Junta de Castilla-y-León, presenting FEDARENE.

Chair

Peter Berkowitz, Head of Unit, DG REGIO.

Moderator

Rachel Bernice Perks, Mining Specialist, World Bank.

Panel participants

- **Raphael L'Hoest**, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs for Germany, reporting on the outcomes of the Commission for Growth, Employment and Structural Change;
- **Katja Müller**, Wirtschaftsregion Lausitz (Germany);
- **Karel Tichý**, Ministry of Regional Development of Czech Republic;
- **Frédéric Marquet**, Région Hauts-de-France (France), Policy Officer in charge of the programme rev3, Third Industrial Revolution;
- **Philip Pearson**, Greener Job Alliance, advising organisation to the Yorkshire Just Transition Task Force (United Kingdom).

Project Lab

Advanced fuels and circular carbon economy / Room 3D / 8th April, 14.30 - 16.20

Purpose

The Project Lab on Advanced Fuels and Circular Carbon Economy will discuss examples of projects in areas such as hydrogen production and CO₂ re-utilisation. It will look into the environmental impacts of the projects and discuss relevant policy frameworks.

Chair and moderator

Anna Colucci, Head of Unit, DG ENER.

Project Presentations

- Jiu Valley Hydrogen Hub, **Dr. Eng Mihai Varlam**, General Director of National Research and Development Institute for Cryogenics and Isotopic Technologies Rm Valcea, Romania;
- Hydrogen production from coking coal, President of the Management Board, **Daniel Ozon**, JSW;
- KIC Inno Energy support for circular carbon economy projects, **Kamil Szydłowski**, Kic Inno Energy;
- Electrochaea Power to Gas Technology, **Dr. Mich Hein**, Founder and CEO of Electrochaea;
- European Network towards a Circular Carbon Economy, **Dr. Christian Growitsch**, Fraunhofer Institute for Microstructure of Materials and Systems IMWS;
- Electricity Storage through SNG production, Tauron (to be confirmed).

Project Lab

Reskilling and job placement programmes / Room 3C / 8th April, 16.40 - 18.30

Purpose

The EU's coal regions are undergoing important structural changes as part of the transition towards a low carbon economy. New economic models will arise, replacing the mono-industrial specialisation in carbon-intensive activities inherited from the last century, resulting in a significant transformation of employment structures.

In this process, some jobs will disappear, others will evolve substantially, and new ones will be created. It is therefore important to accompany the transition with programmes aimed at ensuring that people entering the workforce are equipped with the right skills to find sustainable, well-paying job in this new economy. It is equally important to facilitate the transition for affected workers, protecting livelihoods and creating new, sustainable employment opportunities.

The purpose of this session is to discuss the importance of reskilling and job placement programmes as part of the transition process towards a low carbon economy. Several ongoing projects will be presented, from Poland, the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom.

Chair

Peter Berkowitz, Head of Unit, DG REGIO.

Moderator

Corinna Zierold, Senior Policy Adviser, IndustriAll.

Panel participants

- **Suzanne Jeffery**, Chair of the Campaign against Climate Change Trade Union Group, report 'One Million Climate Jobs';
- **Sebastian Dyjeczński**, Marshal's Office of Silesia, project 'Śląskie. Zawodowcy';
- **Zdeněk Karásek**, Deputy of the Governor of Moravia-Silesia, project 'Career Consultancy and Lifelong Learning Support';
- **Gareth Lewis**, Trade Union Congress Yorkshire and Humber, 'Just Transition' taskforce.

Project Lab

Energy storage / Room 3D / 8th April, 16:40 - 18:30

Purpose

The Project Lab on Energy Storage will show examples of projects implemented in former coal mine sites and coal regions in Germany, Poland, Spain and the UK, and discuss common challenges, possible solutions and project financing.

Chair

Anna Colucci, Head of Unit, DG ENER.

Moderator

James Frith, Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Project Presentations

- Water Pump Storage Project at Prosper Haniel Coal Mine, **Prof. Dr. Ing. André Niemann**, University of Duisburg;
- Water Pump Storage Project at Krupinski Coal Mine, **Jacek Srokowski**, President, JSW Innovations;
- Energy storage systems, **Charlie Blair**, Managing Director, Gravitricity;
- Unconventional Water Pump Storage Project in Asturias, **Aarne Pérez**, Founder, Magellan & Barents;
- Thermal and Cryogenic Storage Projects in Asturias, **Rogelio Peón Menéndez**, Energy Technology Director, TSK.

Secretariat and Regions Brainstorming

Shaping technical assistance for transition in your region

Room 3B / 9th April, 09.00 - 13.00

Purpose

The purpose of this session is:

- to assess which kind of support is most needed by stakeholders in coal regions - specifically which kind of support should be delivered through the CCIRIT Secretariat: with respect to knowledge made available via written support materials and
- to consider possible forms of potential future regional technical assistance.

The focus will be on identifying specific support needs within the scope / topics preselected for the Secretariat's work.

Chair and moderator

Andrzej Blachowicz, Managing Director, Climate Strategies.

Panel participants

- **Karel Tichý**, Ministry of Regional Development of Czech Republic;
- **Hans-Rüdiger Lange**, Innovation Region Lusatia, Germany;
- **Paul Boutsen**, transit_LAB, Belgium;
- **Jan Bondurak**, Central Mining Institute (GIG), Poland.

Project Lab

Reclamation and re-purposing / **Room 3C** / 9th April, 11.00 - 13.00

Purpose

The Project Lab on reclamation and re-purposing will show examples of coal mine site reclamation and repurposing projects across several coal regions in Romania, Czechia, Spain and Poland. Project developers will discuss common challenges associated with coal site reclamation and possible solutions, as well as project financing.

Chair

Peter Berkowitz, Head of Unit, DG REGIO.

Moderator

Luc Christiaensen, Senior Economist, World Bank Africa Region, World Bank.

Project presentations

- Planeta Petrila - a post-mining community regeneration project, **Mihai Danciu**, architect, Assistant Professor, Timisoara Polytechnic University;
- Mining pit and Collieries reclamation project in Moravia Silesia, **Eva Spasovová**, Project Manager;
- Environmental solutions in former coal mines of Endesa in Spain, **Pedro Iglesia**, Director, Carbunion;
- Revitalisation of Krupinski Coal Mine in Silesia, Poland, **Jacek Srokowski**, President, JSW Innovations;
- Novihum Lignite-to-Soil Improvement for recultivation of soils of old depleted mines, **Dr. Rolf Nagel**, Managing Partner, Munich Venture Partners.

Project Lab

Sustainable heating / Room 3D / 9th April, 11.00 - 13.00

Purpose

The issue of district heating is central to the transition in most local communities in the EU's coal regions, as the closure of coal mines and related combined heat and power (CHP) plants usually means that heat networks commonly found across coal regions need to be adapted, upgraded or replaced with other heating solutions. This is of course a technical issue but also a social one – the capacity of household to keep their homes warm at an affordable cost must be preserved both during and after the transition.

Several coal regions are currently working on projects aimed at using the geothermal potential of former coal mines. Several technologies exist, some of them best adapted to specific features that coal regions might possess or not. The purpose of this session therefore is to facilitate an exchange between these projects and with experts of the field in order to open possible ways for future cooperation.

Chair

Hervé Martin, Head of Unit, DG RTD.

Moderator

Meredith Annex, Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Panel participants

- **Carsten Rothballer**, ICLEI, presenting projects THERMOS and Keep Warm;
- **Jan Bondaruk**, Central Mining Institute (GIG), Coal mine water heating solutions;
- **Antonín Tým**, Institute of Hydrogeology, Engineering Geology and Applied Geophysics, Charles University, Prague;
- **Kurt Schetelig**, IHS, GrEEN project.