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# Future of Europe/EWRC: The role of cohesion policy beyond 2020 in addressing insularity challenges

<b>Event type:</b> Political Debate	<b>Date:</b> 16 November 2018	<b>Organiser:</b> Sardinia Region	<b>Partners:</b> EC, EP, EESC, CoR
<b>Initialising member:</b> Francesco Pigliaru (IT/PES)	<b>Audience:</b> 132 (local and regional authorities, economic and social stakeholders, students, researchers, civil society, citizens)	<b>Themes:</b> Cohesion policy beyond 2020 (focus on insularity challenges), Mediterranean islands regions, job creation, economic development	



## Speakers

- **Francesco PIGLIARU**, President of Sardinia Region, CoR Member (IT/PES);
  - **Gilles SIMEONI**, President of Corsica Region, CoR Member (FR/EA);
  - **Stavros ARNAOUTAKIS**, President of Crete Region, CoR Member (EL/PES) video message;
  - **Philip VON BROCKDORFF**, Member of the Board of Directors UHM Voice of the Workers, EESC Member;
  - **Henri MALOSSE**, 30th President of the EESC;
  - **Jan Mikołaj DZIĘCIOŁOWSKI**, Member of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Regional and Urban policy, EC;
  - **Tereza KRAUSOVA**, Programme Manager EU Policies Italy and Malta, Directorate General for Regional and Urban policy, EC;
  - **Raffaele PACI**, Regional Minister for Budget, Credit and Planning of Sardinia Region;
  - **Roberto Doneddu**, Director of the Training Department of the Regional Ministry for Employment, Sardinia Region;
  - **Isabel BUSQUETS I HIDALGO**, Vice President and regional minister of Innovation, Research and Tourism of the Balearic Islands Government;
  - **Tonino PICULA**, MEP, Vice-Chair of the Intergroup SEARICA;
  - **Monika MROCZEK-COMPARETTO**, Head of Division Financial Instruments & Implementation, Lending Operation, EIB;
- Moderator: Giuseppe SCIACCA**, CPRM



## Key messages

The local event was organised in the framework of the EWRCs - Future of Europe initiative within the partnership "Green Islands for sustainable cohesion policy", composed by Sardinia Region, Balearic Islands, Corsica and Crete. The political debate focused on the importance of Cohesion Policy funds in addressing insularity challenges. Specific measures need to be identified at EU level to compensate for the disadvantages related to territorial discontinuity: accessibility, limited internal markets, energy supply. One of the key messages from the event was that, despite the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Article 174, which recognizes that particular attention shall be paid to islands because of their specific condition, actions taken by the EU to implement this provision are considered inadequate. The cohesion policy post-2020 could represent a unique opportunity to allow citizens and business of EU islands to compete on an equal footing with other territories.

**G. Simeoni:** "Nous devons impérativement unir nos forces pour obtenir la prise en compte pleine et entière du fait insulaire dans le cadre de toutes les politiques publiques de l'UE et plus particulièrement celui de la politique de cohésion."  
**F. Pigliaru:** "As island regions we are carrying out a joint initiative to call on both our respective Governments and the EU to allow us more flexibility in spending the financial resources to compensate for the disadvantages related to insularity status. This is a battle to ensure the principle of equality of Sardinian people and the other EU islanders, and more generally to guarantee the same competitive conditions other EU regions have".



## Press/Social media coverage

Media coverage

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