

BSSSC Annual Conference

Workshop No. 4

In defence of EU regional policy

Event location: ATLANTIC Hotel Kiel, Room (tbc)
Date: Thursday, 19th Sep. 2024 15:15-16:45 h
Moderation: **Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp** (Brandenburg Ministry of Finance and for European Affairs)

ABSTRACT

Despite undoubted achievements in the positive (economic) development of many regions in the EU in recent decades, Cohesion Policy is under pressure with a view to the next programming period 2028-2034: challenges such as strengthening the EU's competitiveness, repaying the debt-based EU reconstruction program NextGenerationEU or supporting Ukraine require further investment. As a result, there are fears of a turn away from a Cohesion Policy for all regions. There is an open discussion to centralize Cohesion Policy along the lines of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). At the same time, the recently published Letta report highlights cross-border obstacles for the final integration of the Single Market.

How can we successfully counter these trends in view of the proposals for regulations expected from the next European Commission in the first half of 2025? What is the role of interregional and cross-border cooperation? What lessons can we draw by innovative solutions such as the instrument for interregional cooperation (I3)?

PROGRAMME

- 15:15 **Welcome**, *Jobst-Hinrich Ubbelohde*, State Secretary for European Affairs, Brandenburg Ministry of Finance and for European Affairs (tbc)
- 15:20 **Thematic introduction**, *Karsten Uno Petersen*, Member European Committee of the Regions (tbc)
- 15:25 **Panel debate**, *Prof. Andrés Rodríguez-Pose*, London School of Economics (tbc); *Thomas Wobben*, Director European Committee of the Regions (tbc); *Ann Irene Saeternes*, Eastern Norway County Network
- 16:30 **Open discussion**

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