



# REINFORCING EUROPEAN COHESION

## New Goals and Tools to Share Prosperity in Europe

Thursday, 7 March 2024, 10:30 – 12:15  
@ Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS),  
Avenue des Arts 46, 1000, Brussels

European policies and budgetary instruments have been put to the test by the recent crises. This is particularly true for Cohesion Policy, which serves the purpose of fostering economic and social development in all regions of the EU but is also often asked to help endure shocks. These objectives, however, cannot be attained properly without updating instruments and means.

Ahead of the upcoming European elections and the launch of the European Commission's report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion, this event reflects on the plans of the current Commission to bolster social and territorial cohesion in the EU and on the main lines of action to build a stronger and more effective EU budget. The gathering is useful to outline some of the key elements that will be brought forward to the next European legislature.

Together with EU Commissioner Elisa Ferreira and a panel of policy-making experts, the discussion will elaborate on the added value and performance of Cohesion Policy and will try to anticipate some of the difficult debates on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

This event will be public and livestreamed.

- 10:30 – 10:40      **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**  
**László ANDOR**, Secretary General, FEPS
- 10:40 – 10:55      **KEYNOTE SPEECH**  
**Elisa FERREIRA**, EU Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms
- 10:55 – 11:45      **TAKING STOCK AND LOOKING FORWARD: What policy actions should progressives prioritise to tackle territorial inequalities?**
- **Elisa FERREIRA**, EU Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms
  - **Rovana PLUMB**, MEP and Vice-President, S&D Group
  - **Eleni MARIANO**, Secretary General, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)
- Chair: **Riccardo CRESCENZI**, Professor of Economic Geography, London School of Economics
- 11:45 – 12:15      **COHESION & CAMPAIGNING: How to get the progressive message across?**
- **Vasco Alves CORDEIRO**, President, European Committee of the Regions (*online*)
  - **Camilla LAURETI**, MEP, S&D Group
- Chair: **David RINALDI**, Director of Studies & Policy, FEPS
- 12:15 – 13:00      **LUNCH RECEPTION & NETWORKING**