

EELGA Chairman: Councillor Tom FitzPatrick

Managing Director: Cecilia Tredget

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Date: 5th December 2016

Dear Ms Clarke,

Invitation to speak at our future of regional policy conference, 28 February, Brussels

On behalf of the East of England European Partnership office in Brussels we would like to invite you to participate as a speaker at our forthcoming conference on the future of EU regional policy post-2020 in the context of Brexit. The conference will take place on **28 February 2017 between 14:00 and 17:00** in the Committee of the Regions building in Brussels.

The title of the conference is **'Brexit: the impact on regional policy post-2020'** and will be split into two panel debates with the first panel examining the implications on the UK's domestic regional policy, whilst the second panel will examine the impact upon the rest of the EU.

Questions to be examined include: the UK is a net contributor to the EU's budget, how will the rest of the EU react to this reduction in funding and the impact upon the regional policy? Should the UK seek to continue to participate in cross-border programmes (Interreg)? What's the future of regional development in the UK? How will Brexit impact upon the economic development of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland? What's the future of English regional development once the EU framework is removed? What can we learn from non-EU countries like Norway about how to organise and deliver domestic regional funding? Should the EU adapt and change its regional policy in response to Brexit? What are the future prospects for regional policy in the EU?

In light of your expertise and experience in this policy area, we would like to include you in the **FIRST panel** on the impact of **Brexit on the UK's future regional economic development**.

Each speaker will be invited to give a short speech or presentation (PowerPoint is available if required), lasting no more than ten minutes on their view of Brexit and its potential impact upon the EU's regional policy. These opening remarks and presentations will be followed by a panel debate, including questions from the audience.

The panel debates will be moderated by Councillor Kevin Bentley, Chair of the East of England Europe and International Panel, and each panel will be composed of a range of speakers including Members of the European Parliament from across the EU and political parties, practitioners, experts and academics.

A full agenda with all the confirmed speakers will be provided to you as soon as it is completed.

If you can **please let us know your willingness or not to participate before Friday 16 December**, by contacting Panita Ball at panita.ball@east-of-england.eu. Panita will also be happy to support you in any practical arrangements that you may need support with.

If you would like more information about the policy aspects or content of the conference, please contact Jonathan Millins at jonathan.millins@east-of-england.eu.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to welcome you to the conference on the 28 February 2017.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Kevin Bentley
Chairman
East of England Europe & International Panel



Jonathan Vorss-Millins
Head of Brussels Office
East of England European Partnership