
Weekly Policy News Summary

Year 2018 – week 2

UN SDG: first meeting of the Commission's high level multi-stakeholder platform

The Commission's high level multi-stakeholder platform on the follow up to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the EU met for the first time on 10 January. The launch of this platform reflects a new approach which brings together stakeholders to support the Commission's work. Representatives from academia, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), businesses, civil society, the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Committee of the Regions came together to support and advise the Commission in delivering the SDGs at EU level. International organisations such as the World Bank, the United Nations and the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) participated as observers.

The platform members agreed at their first meeting to work on a joint contribution to the Commission's Reflection Paper "Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030", which was announced in the Commission's 2018 Work Programme and will be adopted later this year. This Reflection Paper is part of the [Future of Europe debate](#) launched by the Commission in 2017. Overall, members agreed that the platform should assist the Commission in applying the SDGs in the European context.

Regulation on establishing the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking

The Commission unveiled its plans to invest jointly with the MS in building a world-class European supercomputers infrastructure. Supercomputers are needed to process ever larger amounts of data and bring benefits to the society in many areas from health care and renewable energy to car safety and cybersecurity. A new legal and funding structure – the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking – shall acquire, build and deploy across Europe a world-class High-Performance Computing (HPC) infrastructure. It will also support a research and innovation programme to develop the technologies and machines (hardware) as well as the applications (software) that would run on these supercomputers. For more details please see [Impact Assessment - Executive Summary](#)

Public consultation on EU funds in the area of cohesion

This consultation is open to all citizens and stakeholders interested in Cohesion policy, including beneficiaries of EU programmes and funds such as national, regional and local authorities, inter-governmental and non-governmental bodies, academic institutions, civil society and enterprises.

In 2018, the Commission will make comprehensive proposals for the next generation of financial programmes for the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework, which is the EU's long-term budget. This requires a careful assessment both of what has worked well in the past and what could be improved in the future. The views expressed by stakeholders in these consultations will be taken into account in the current process for the future Multiannual Financial Framework.

Consultation period: 10 January 2018 - 8 March 2018. [Public Consultation on EU funds in the area of Cohesion](#)
