



SACHSEN-ANHALT

Vertretung des Landes
beim Bund

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Mr Kristian Vigenin

Chairman

Committee on European Affairs and oversight of the European Funds

National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

Der Staatssekretär

Berlin, 05 April 2018

Dear Mr Vigenin,

let me thank you for your kind letter inviting me as keynote speaker in the session dedicated to cohesion policy after 2020 during the LIX Plenary of COSAC taking place on 19 June 2018 in Sofia.

As the Committee of the regions' rapporteur on the future of cohesion policy beyond 2020 I am convinced that the future of cohesion policy is inextricably linked to the future of the EU as a whole: a strong and effective European cohesion policy and effective communication of its results to EU citizens are vital for a strong and effective European Union.

At the same time I remain concerned that cohesion policy is jeopardising the achievement of its own objectives in that the increased complexity may not be proportionate to its added value. As a result, there is a danger that cohesion policy will no longer be perceived as being a key to success but rather as yet another symbol of the EU's alleged remoteness from ordinary people. It is thus in everyone's interest to contribute to simplifying cohesion policy and to apply the principle of subsidiarity more consistently. As you know, this is also one of the central themes of the work of the European Commission's Taskforce on subsidiarity, of which we are both active members.

I am therefore delighted to be able to accept your kind invitation and I am looking forward to discussing this further with you in Sofia.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Schneider

Member of the European Committee of the Regions

Member of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing Less More Efficiently"

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