

5th Cohesion Report and 5th Cohesion Forum

**Brussels 31st January to 1st February
Gordon Benson**



5th Cohesion Report Conclusions

Enhancing the European added value of Cohesion Policy

- Reinforcing strategic programming
- Increasing thematic concentration
- Strengthening performance through conditionality and incentives
- Improving evaluation, performance and results



5th Cohesion Report Conclusions

Strengthening Governance

- Introducing a third dimension: territorial cohesion
- Reinforcing partnership



5th Cohesion Report Conclusions

A streamlined and simpler delivery system

- Financial Management
- Reducing the administrative burden
- Financial discipline
- Financial control



5th Cohesion Forum

The Debate

- Cohesion policy to cover all members states
- Solidarity key principle to the EU
- Cohesion policy is not charity but to improve competition
- Conditionality link cohesion policy to economic and structural reform



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The Debate 2

Focus of Cohesion policy

- EU cohesion policy must support EU2020
- Employment rate
- Inclusion



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The Debate 3

- Cohesion Funds eligibility and Stability pact should be linked
- Current Architecture should be left
- The various funds, ESF, ERDF and CAP should compliment each other



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The Debate 4

- Urban most people live in cities
- Rural changing under economic pressure
- City regions the dynamic hub
- Peripheral areas require support to stop depopulation



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The Debate 5

- Territorial cohesion, cross border working must be made to work
- Can the World Bank help with co-financing
- Current architecture should be left alone



THE END

Thank you for listening!

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