European Regions and Cities: Engines for Growth and Social Development?

09:30 - 10:30 Coffee and Registration

10:30 - 10:45 Welcome
Eric Lombard, Director General, Groupe Caisse des Dépôts
Rolf Wenzel, Governor, CEB

10:45 - 11:15 Opening Address

11:15 - 12:30 Panel 1 – The Path to 2030: Regions and cities at the frontline of social development
The ability of European regions and cities to adapt to the global realities of the 21st century will largely determine the well-being of our continent. Achieving sustainable growth in Europe while maintaining and enhancing social inclusion will require integrated strategies and partnerships at all levels of government, as well as a transformative agenda. This panel will discuss the nature and scope of the growing challenges facing cities and regions and how they could partner more effectively with a wide range of stakeholders to cope with them.

12:30 - 13:45 Networking Lunch

13:45 - 14:00 Fireside Chat

14:00 - 15:15 Panel 2 – Financing inclusive and sustainable growth at the local level
The scale of social investment needs on the local level is particularly large in the light of demographic pressures and climate change adaptation. However, securing long-term financing and building capacity is often difficult for both regions and cities. This panel will discuss innovative financial solutions to equip local authorities in Europe with resources needed for improving social cohesion and sustainable development.

15:15 - 15:45 Coffee Break

15:45 - 17:00 Panel 3 – Harnessing the potential of Regions and Cities to drive inclusive growth
Given their proximity to citizens, regions and cities have an important role to play in areas that matter for inclusive growth – such as job creation, housing, education, health and social care services. They also play a central role in innovation. At the same time they increasingly face issues of environmental degradation, widening economic inequality and social exclusion. This panel will discuss hands-on initiatives, new instruments and policy tools that could ensure sustainable and inclusive growth for all local communities across Europe.

17:00 - 17:30 Concluding Remarks

17:30 - 19:00 Networking cocktail