

Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition Annual Political Dialogue 2025 | Konin, Poland



Join the Just Transition Culture event [here](#)

21-25 June

TUESDAY 24 June 2025 Venue: OSKARD Cultural Center, Aleje 1 Maja, 62-500 Konin, Poland

08:30 - 9:00

REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE

9:00 - 10:45

WELCOME AND OPENING SESSION: PATHWAYS TO A NEW FUTURE - COMPETITIVENESS AND A JUST TRANSITION IN COAL+ REGIONS

Welcome remarks by:

- **Teresa Ribera**, Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition, European Commission (video intervention)
- **Marek Woźniak**, Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region and Member of CoR, Poland
- **Piotr Korytkowski**, Mayor of Konin, Poland

With "a competitive Europe" emerging as a priority for the European Union, this session will focus on coal+ regions' pathways to competitiveness. In light of the Clean Industrial Deal, high-level representatives from coal+ regions will share insights into policies and projects that promote industrial decarbonisation and strategies for rebranding coal+ regions' identities from fossil fuel-reliant to net-zero industry hubs.

- Moderator: **Matthew Baldwin**, Deputy Director-General, DG ENER, European Commission
- Panellists

- **Aleksander Jevšek** Minister for Cohesion and Regional Development, Slovenia
- **Barbara Meyer**, State Secretary of Regional Development of Saxony, Germany

- **Petr Kulhánek**, Minister of Regional Development, Czech Republic
- **Leszek Pietraszek**, Deputy Marshal, Silesia, Poland

10:45 - 11:15

COFFEE BREAK

10:45 - 15:45

TARGET BILATERAL INFO SESSIONS

During these bilateral info sessions, project promoters from coal, peat and oil shale regions will be able to discuss their project idea/ need for support in the areas of clean energy and/or energy efficiency and clarify the possibility of receiving TARGET support for project development/preparation. During 30-minute time slots, the promoters will be asked to briefly present their specific situation, followed by a focused discussion on if and/or how TARGET can support them.

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11:15 - 12:30**PLENARY 1: EMPOWERING PEOPLE THROUGH ENERGY POLICY IN COAL+ REGIONS**

With communities at the heart of a just energy transition, this session addresses citizen empowerment to take an active part in the energy market from a broad perspective, encompassing critical issues such as prosumerism, energy communities, energy poverty alleviation, inclusive policymaking as well as protection of citizen rights in the energy market. The session will highlight relevant aspects of the Citizens Energy Package under the Affordable Energy Action Plan as well as its contribution to coal+ regions in transition and provide actionable insights and replicable strategies that reinforce the role of people as central actors in the energy transition.

- Moderator: **Gabriele Galassi**, Expert on citizen energy, Ecorys
- Keynote speech: **Matthew Baldwin**, Deputy Director-General, DG ENER, European Commission
- Panellists
 - **Petra Čakovská**, Vice-President and Energy Expert, SOS Slovakia
 - **Stavros Spyridakos**, Energy Efficiency and Stakeholder Engagement Expert, IEECP
 - **Maciej Sytek**, President, ARR Konin
 - **Etienne Viénot**, Head of European and International Affairs, Regional Sustainability Agency, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region
 - **Bartosz Kwiatkowski**, Director of the Polish Office, Frank Bold

12:30 - 14:15**NETWORKING LUNCH****14:15 - 15:15****ASK AN EXPERT 1: INVESTING AFTER COAL – HOW TO ATTRACT PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN COAL+ REGIONS?**

With private investments in coal+ regions being an essential element for a competitive transition, this session will invite experts to discuss the main factors influencing investment decisions, the role of public authorities in leveraging public and private finance, and the available tools and support programs to assist and bring in such investments. It will also showcase successful practices and examples from coal+ regions that have successfully unlocked private investments during their transition.

- Moderator: **Annya Schneider**, Europe Lead Environment Programme, Bloomberg Philanthropies
- Keynote speech: **Grzegorz Rabsztyń**, Head of Warsaw Office, European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Panellists
 - **Eric Weber**, CEO & Founder, SpinLab, and Representative of the European Digital Innovation Hub of Saxony
 - **Petr Votoupal**, Programme Manager, Czech Republic and Slovakia, DG REGIO, European Commission
 - **Matilda Lindblad**, Adviser for Industrial Affairs, BusinessEurope
 - **Tom Vanham**, CEO of LRM (Limburg Reconversion Company)

15:15 - 15:45**COFFEE BREAK**

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15:45 – 19:30**SITE VISITS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR NETWORKING. OPTIONS:****Geothermal Heating Plant Konin:**

Explore the brand-new plant that supplies heat to 80% of Konin's population through geothermal energy. The company Miejskie Przedsiębiorstwo Energetyki Ciepłej (MPEC) invites you to visit the heat plant building, the process reservoir as well as the exploitation and injection boreholes.

Academy of Applied Sciences:

Discover how the Academy of Applied Sciences in Konin is responding to the challenges of the energy transition through innovative approaches to education and see how new competencies are developed to strengthen the region's human resources and support its competitiveness.

ZE PAK Power plant:

Find out how ZE PAK is transitioning from a traditional brown coal power plant to modern clean energy production. See how the use of renewable energy sources, such as biomass and hydrogen, is changing the face of the power industry, showcasing an efficient, safe and environmentally friendly approach to electricity and heat production.

(from 15:15 – 19:30)**Tomisławice open pit mine and Dolores excavator:**

This study visit will take participants to the famous Dolores excavator in Kleczew, one of the most known relics of the coal industry of Wielkopolska region, and the last operating open pit mine in Tomisławice region.

From 19:30**DINNER**

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WEDNESDAY 25th June 2025 Venue: OSKARD Cultural Center, Aleje 1 Maja, 62-500 Konin, Poland

9:00 – 9:30

WELCOME COFFEE

9:30 – 10:45

PLENARY 2: ENSURING INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH CLEAN ENERGY DEPLOYMENT

This session aims to explore the barriers and drivers of the renewable and clean energy phase-in that are needed to support the industrial competitiveness of coal+ regions. It will discuss strategies to accelerate this transition, the role of grid connections, storage systems and hydrogen for industry, and address technological, social, and legal barriers. By highlighting successful cases of clean energy phase-in and industry decarbonisation efforts, the session seeks to inspire similar solutions in other regions.

- Moderator: **Timon Wehnert**, Senior Researcher, Co-Head of Research Unit International Energy Transitions, Wuppertal Institute
- Keynote speech: **Małgorzata Staś**, Director for Regional Transformation, Silesia Marshal Office
- Panellists
 - **Prof. Michał Wieczorowski**, President of the Polish Hydrogen Chamber, Member of the Wielkopolska Hydrogen Platform
 - **Błażej Mielczarek**, President of the Management Board, Bełchatów-Kleszczów Industrial and Technological Park

9:00 – 13:30

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- **Arthur Daemers**, Senior Policy Advisor, SolarPower Europe
- **Ignacio Asenjo**, Policy Officer, DG ENER, European Commission
- **Rumyana Grozeva**, Executive Director, Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency

10:45 – 11:15

COFFEE BREAK

11:15 – 12:15

ASK AN EXPERT 2: SKILLS FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION – SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS TO EQUIP WORKERS FOR A COMPETITIVE LOW-CARBON ECONOMY

With the green transition potentially creating up to 1 million additional jobs in the EU by 2030, this session will invite experts to share experiences on specific up- and reskilling programmes that have proven successful in enabling coal+ communities to prepare for the transition to a competitive low-carbon economy. The session will also look at the broader opportunities stemming from such skills programmes and at ways to address job loss linked to robotisation and the introduction of AI.

- Moderator: **Robert Pollock**, Senior Advisor, Secretariat of the Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition
- Keynote speech: **Andrea Broughton**, Skills Expert, Ecorys
- Panellists
 - **Ryszard Zaczyński**, Deputy Director, Regional Labor Office in Poznań
 - **Selda Stanciu**, Project Manager, RenewAcad
 - **Fruzsina Csonka**, Public Affairs and Strategy, InnoEnergy Skills Institute, EIT InnoEnergy
 - **Michael Paulo**, Director of the Multi Donor Initiative Skills4Recovery, GIZ

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12:15 - 12:30**Closing session**

Closing speeches by:

- **Veronique Marx**, Team Leader, Just transition and Energy Poverty, DG ENER, European Commission
- **Jacek Bogusławski**, Member of the Board of Wielkopolska Region

12:30 - 13:30**NETWORKING LUNCH****14:30-17:00**

Join the **International
Dialogue on Just
Transition - Bridging
Regions, Powering
Change** event [here](#)

[Restauracja Nowa Era](#)