

VANGUARD INITIATIVE

REGIONS INNOVATING for a JUST TRANSITION to HYDROGEN ECONOMY

Scotland House Brussels, Rdpt Robert Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels
Wednesday, 9 October 2024, 14:00 - 15:30

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The panel discussion will be preceded by a *networking coffee from 13:30 to 14:00*.

Background information

Over the past 10 years, Vanguard Initiative members have actively engaged in **promoting a just transition to a hydrogen economy**. They have supported local stakeholders (SMEs, clusters, research organisations) to facilitate interregional projects aimed at developing hydrogen technologies and to promote the integration of hydrogen solutions in various industries.

In this session, Vanguard regions will highlight the importance of **international collaboration** and of **bridging the skills gap** in the hydrogen industry. This is crucial for achieving Europe's hydrogen ambitions while fostering social cohesion. Regional authorities will showcase their **local efforts** to build healthy environments for their communities and future generations, and will hold a discussion on the positive impact that the development of the hydrogen industry could have on the future.

Speakers

Introduction and welcome by Scottish Government

The session will be moderated by **Valentine Willmann**, representative of Scotland Europa

Boštjan Krajnc, Slovenia, the director of The Energy Agency of Savinjska, Šaleška and Koroška region, Municipality of Velenje

António M. Cunha, Portugal, President, Norte Portugal Regional Coordination and Development Commission

Katarzyna Stec, Poland, Head of unit, Lukaszewicz Research Network of the Institute of Ceramics and Building Materials, Malopolska Region

Kelly Warburton, Wales, Chief Commercial Officer at GCRE Ltd., Global Centre for Rail Excellence

Closing of the session by M. Erwann Rio, Pays de la Loire Regional Council

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