

REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019

*Pushing Regions beyond their Borders*

University of Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

5th – 7th June 2019

## Policy Plenary Panel — POLICY THURSDAY, 6th June 2019

Organised in partnership with the Directorate-General for Regional Policy of the European Commission, Belgium

This panel will discuss how to promote growth of jobs in cross border regions and aims to go beyond the EU cooperation programmes. Despite the single market, obstacles are still present in border regions and strong cooperation requires multilevel engagement. In particular, legal and administrative obstacles often require national governments to engage with regional and local stakeholders to find solutions. The EU is promoting new tools such as the European Cross Border Mechanism and new approaches to support cooperation through both dedicated cooperation programmes and the mainstream programmes.

### Panellists:

#### **Ignacio Sanchez Amor, Secretary of State for Territorial Cooperation, Spain**



Ignacio Sanchez Amor has been the Secretary of State for Territorial Policy since June 2018. PSOE Former MP between 2011 and 2018. During his Parliamentary mandate, he has been PSOE spokesperson in the Foreign Affairs Committee and in EU Committee and member of Constitutional, Defense, Public Administration and Public Broadcasting Committees. Besides, he has been Chair of the Spanish Delegation in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (2016-2018). Special Representative on OSCE Border Issues (2012-2018). Chair of the General Commission of Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions of the OSCE PA (2016-2018). Member of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Commission for Migrations and Refugees. Ignacio Sanchez Amor, 58 y.o., graduated from Complutense University of Madrid with a degree in Law, later specialising in Constitutional Law at the Spanish Government's Political and Constitutional Studies Centre. He is fluent in English, French and Portuguese.

**Nathalie Vershelde, Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy, Unit D2 – Interreg, Cross-Border Cooperation, Internal Borders, Brussels, Belgium**



Belgian nationality. Born on the Belgian-French border, 350 meters from the border post. At school in a border village, in daily interaction with the "other side of the border", including two cross-border commuting grand-fathers. Master in philology (English and Dutch literature). Passionate about the European integration project and process.

Served for 6 years in the Belgian and then Scottish public administrations. Then 8 years in the private sector, running my own business and developing expertise on the integration and accession process in the EU. Worked on a large number of cooperation projects, cross-border and transnational, including in the then accession countries.

Served 3 years at the European Commission Delegation in Lithuania, in the run-up to accession. Coordinator for pre-accession projects, including those preparing the Lithuanian administration and partners for the management of structural funds. Already involved then in Phare CBC for cross-border cooperation.

Joined the Commission as a civil servant in 2004, starting work in the external affairs department working in the USA/Canada unit. Joined DG REGIO in January 2006 to work on territorial cooperation, both cross-border and transnational. Still doing that today, with an exclusive focus on internal borders and after a two years' break as speechwriter for Commissioner Hahn. Since 2015, Deputy Head of Unit for the Cross-Border Cooperation Unit. Coordinator for the Cross-Border Review and one of the pens of the Commission Communication "Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions".

**Jesús Gamallo, General Director for External Relations and EU, Regional Government of Galicia, Spain**



Jesús Gamallo holds a degree in Law from the University of Santiago de Compostela. In 1990, he spent several months in Florence (Italy) as a researcher at European University Institute. He was an Associate Professor at the National Institute of Public Administration (INAP). Since 1993, he is an official of Xunta de Galicia (Galicia's Autonomous Government). Since 2009 he is the director general of EU and Foreign Affairs of Xunta de Galicia, he is also the director of Fundación Galicia Europa, Coordinator of the Working Community Galicia-North Portugal,

a member of the Committee of the Regions as alternate for the President of Xunta de Galicia, a member of the Executive Committee of the AEER and the Coordinator of the European People Party (EPP) Group in the CIVEX Commission of the CoR. He speaks Spanish, Galician, English, French, Italian and Portuguese.

**Dr Franziska Sielker, Senior Research Associate, Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge, UK and Interim Professor, International Planning Studies, Technical University of Dortmund, Germany**



Franziska Sielker is a Senior Research Associate at the University of Cambridge in the Department of Land Economy and an Interim Professor at Technical University of Dortmund for “International Planning Studies”. She holds a PhD in Human Geography from the Friedrich-Alexander-University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, where she was a Research Assistant before joining Cambridge University and a Diploma in Spatial Planning from the Technical University of Dortmund. She came to Cambridge with a British Academy Newton International Fellowship. Currently, Franziska Sielker is Lead Investigator on the project “Future cities in the making– overcoming barriers to information modelling in socially responsible cities” funded by the Centre for Digital Built Britain.

Her research focusses on processes of transition, territorialisation and rescaling with a particular focus on European spatial governance, sector policies and cross-border governance. She received the Danubius Young Scientist report for her research on the thesis “Macro- regional integration – new scales, spaces and governance for Europe?” Her recent paper “The European Commission’s proposal for a cross-border mechanism (ECBM): Potential implications and perspectives”, is the first research article on the ECBM proposal (2018, Vol 10(3) pp. 219-239, Journal of Property, Planning and Environmental Law).

**Laurent Frideres, Head of Unit for Evidence and Outreach, ESPON EGTC, Luxembourg**



Laurent Frideres is Head of Unit for Evidence and Outreach at ESPON EGTC. He co-ordinates applied research projects, targeted analyses and evidence support, territorial monitoring and tools, and outreach activities to inspire policy makers. The ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme promotes and fosters a European territorial dimension in development and cooperation by providing evidence, knowledge transfer and policy learning to public authorities and other policy actors at all levels. Recently concluded and ongoing ESPON research includes an analysis of cross-border public services in Europe and their added value, territorial impact assessment for cross-border cooperation, housing market

dynamics in cross-border areas, and new forms of cooperation and governance models in areas of territorial cooperation.

Before joining ESPON, Laurent was a senior manager at PwC and he worked as a consultant for DG Growth on digital entrepreneurship, business innovation, clusters and SME performance. Previously, Laurent was a lecturer in economic geography at the University of Cambridge. His research interests focused on regional economic development, industrial clusters and transnational knowledge networks.

Laurent holds a PhD in Economic Geography and an MPhil in Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing from the University of Cambridge and an MA in Pacific Asian Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies.