

# 1.5 Structural Support Action for Coal and Carbon Intensive Regions

The Paris Agreement recognises that countries around the world are in different states of preparedness for the energy transition. At European level, the European Commission pays particular attention to the impact of climate change and climate action in different regions of our continent. **The EU's fight against climate change must be done in a way that makes all regions of Europe winners.** Some regions are more dependent than others on carbon-intensive industries or on coal mining. Others are currently better connected to energy infrastructure or transport networks. The European Commission's goal is to ensure that **no regions are left behind** in the shift to a sustainable future for Europe's industries and infrastructure.

In the context of the EU's Cohesion Policy, EU Member States and regions have developed over 120 smart specialisation strategies for the 2014-2020 period, with more than €40 billion allocated to regions through the European Regional Development Fund (more than €65 billion including national co-financing). Five interregional smart specialisation partnerships on bioenergy, marine renewable energy, sustainable construction, smart grids and solar energy have been launched since 2015 with the support of the European Commission. About 60 regions from 20 Member States and EU neighbouring countries are participating in these partnerships

## What is the European Commission doing next?

The European Commission is launching two new dedicated initiatives to address the climate and industrial challenges faced by these regions:

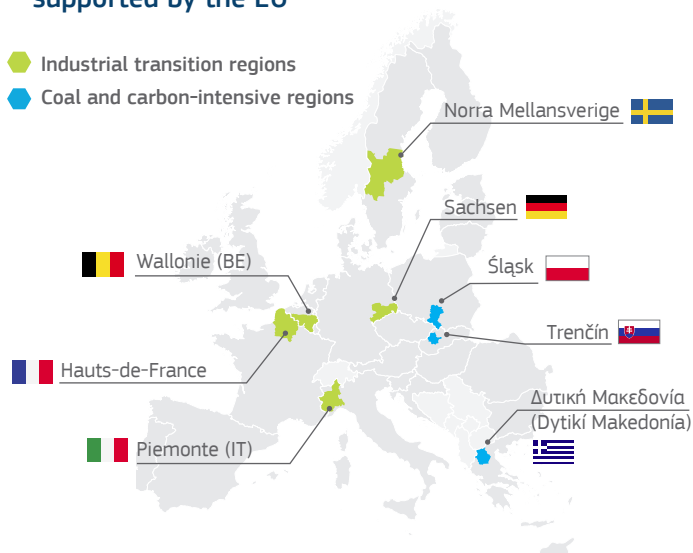
### 1 Coal and carbon-intensive regions:

Three coal regions are working with the European Commission on a pilot basis to identify short- and medium-term solutions to help them transition to a more future-proof business model. The day before the One Planet Summit, the European Commission launched a **permanent platform** to bring together regions, national authorities, societal and business stakeholders and innovation and financing experts and identify the best ways to seize the opportunities of the transition.

### 2 Industrial transition regions:

To support EU regions in managing the transition to a more sustainable low carbon economy, the European Commission offers **region-specific support** for boosting innovation. Five regions will start to work in partnership with teams of European Commission experts to boost their innovation capacity, **remove investment barriers, equip workers with the right skills** and prepare for industrial and societal change, on the basis of their smart specialisation strategies. Five regions will be selected to participate in these pilot projects. The pilot seeks to find new ways to help these regions **harness globalisation by decarbonisation, innovation, digitisation, and developing people's skills**, in particular those regions which have experienced significant employment loss in coal, steel or other energy intensive industries

## Pilot regions for industrial transition supported by the EU



Staudinger black coal power plant, worker, in Grosskrotzenburg, near Frankfurt, Germany

