



Newsletter

A word from the Chair



Dear Colleagues,
Dear Friends,

Inside this Issue

p. 2 [Last time on the agenda](#)

p. 3 [Ahead of us](#)

p. 4 [Upcoming regional policy related events](#)

The summer break is over, and the REGI Committee has a busy autumn ahead of it. The new Parliament is constituted and ready to work, the President of the European Commission is appointed, the Council will relaunch the negotiations around the MFF. We will have to start the trilogues on the CPR, ERDF/Cohesion Fund and Interreg dossiers as soon as possible, as the start of the next EU funding period 2021-2027 is quickly approaching. In the meantime, we will also have to audition the new Commissioners.

The remaining months in 2019 and 2020 will be crucial for the future of the cohesion policy which we are committed to strongly defend.

In the first REGI meeting of the autumn, we will talk about the EU Budget 2020 and have an exchange of views with DG REGIO's Director-General on ongoing legislative files and the implementation of current cohesion policy. We will also have an interesting study on the agenda entitled "The agenda for cohesion policy in 2019-2024: Key issues for the REGI Committee": one of the authors of the study will attend the meeting to present the main outcomes.

You can watch our meetings online, and keep up to date on main developments by following us on Twitter @EP_Regional.

I wish everyone a productive return to work after the summer recess.

Yours,

Younous Omarjee

"There is a need to give a higher priority to Cohesion Policy communication."

Study:

[The Agenda for Cohesion Policy in 2019-2024: Key issues for the REGI Committee](#)

Legal disclaimer

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Last time

REGI meeting

23 July 2019

Exchange of views on the priorities of the Finnish Presidency of the Council

Ms Katri Kulmuni, Minister of Economic Affairs, attended the REGI Committee meeting on 23 July 2019 to present the Cohesion Policy-related priorities of the 6-month Finnish Presidency.

She first talked about a joint vision on a new growth agenda for the European Union that the Finnish Presidency hopes to achieve by the end of the year. This would include transition towards a climate neutral economy, effective EU single market, modern innovation-led industrial policy including digital economy, active trade policy as external dimension of the EU competitiveness, and new skills and continuous learning.



She then moved on to discuss cohesion specific topics and stated that “cohesion policy significantly contributes to sustainable and inclusive growth in all EU regions and helps us tackle the challenges the EU is facing”.

Smart specialisation was mentioned as a good strategic framework for economic transformation. Minister Kulmuni also stressed the need to strengthen cross-border cooperation on EU’s internal and external borders, and to tap into the potential and economic opportunities offered by the Arctic region.

Talking about the future, Ms Kulmuni mentioned that “cohesion policy needs to be more result-oriented, efficient and thematically focused” and that “strengthening common values and the rule of law” are key items for the Presidency. According to the minister, the Finnish Presidency aims to finalize the next Multiannual Financial Framework in the autumn and to make as much progress with the sectoral MFF proposals as possible.

You can read the minister’s speech [here](#) and listen to the whole discussion [here](#).

Draft general budget of the EU for the financial year 2020

The REGI Committee has appointed Younous OMARJEE, REGI Chair, as rapporteur for the REGI opinion on the draft budget 2020. There was an initial exchange of views on the draft budget as members considered how to respond to the Council's position.

The decision was made to give the Chair the mandate to submit, on behalf of the REGI Committee, eleven known proposals for Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions (PPAs) and an additional five amendments restoring the budget lines devoted to Cohesion Policy to sums initially submitted by the Commission.

Election of the remaining vice-chairs and completion of the bureau

The Committee elected by acclamation Cristian GHINEA (Renew Europe, RO; second Vice-Chair) and Adrian-Dragoş BENEĂ (S&D, RO; third Vice-Chair). Isabel BENJUMEA BENJUMEA (EPP, ES) was elected fourth Vice-Chair with 26 votes in favour, against second candidate Francesca DONATO (ID, IT), who received 8 votes (7 members abstained).

The new Vice-Chairs join REGI Chair Younous OMARJEE (GUE/NGL, FR) and first Vice-Chair Krzysztof HETMAN (EPP, PL), who were elected by acclamation during the constituent meeting of the Committee on 10 July, to complete the Committee bureau which will serve for two and a half years.

Ahead of us

REGI meeting

(*) agenda of the forthcoming meetings might be changed after publication of the Newsletter

3 September 2019

Draft general budget of the EU for the financial year 2020



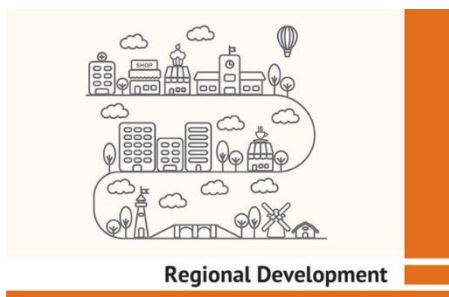
Younous Omarjee

In our September meeting, Mr Younous OMARJEE (GUE/NGL), REGI rapporteur for the general budget of the EU for the financial year 2020, will present **his draft opinion**, outlining his ideas on the next year's draft EU budget as regards regional development and cohesion policy.

Mr OMARJEE's draft opinion recalls that Cohesion Policy is one of the most important EU policies and also its main public investment policy of the Union, with EUR 351.8 billion budget for 2014-2020: almost a third of the MFF. It underlines that it is based on a policy of solidarity, pursuing its Treaty-posed objective of promoting and supporting the overall harmonious development of Member States and regions while insuring that no region is left behind.

The vote on the budgetary opinion will take place in REGI's October meeting.

Presentation of a study "The agenda for cohesion policy in 2019-2024: Key issues for the REGI Committee"



Upon request of the REGI Committee, Policy Department B commissioned a study on "[The agenda for Cohesion Policy in 2019-2024: Key issues for the REGI Committee](#)".

This study reviews current and emerging issues for Cohesion Policy to support REGI's work agenda during the European Parliament's new mandate for 2019-2024. The analysis focuses on issues relating to the Committee's competences and concludes by highlighting key policy themes and political questions for the debate on Cohesion Policy in 2021-27.

The study was completed and circulated to REGI Members in July 2019. It will be presented on 3 September, by the lead researcher, Dr Carlos Mendez, EPRC Delft.

Exchange of views with Marc Lemaître, DG REGIO Director-General

The Director-General of Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, Mr Marc Lemaître, will take the floor in the September REGI meeting to discuss the ongoing files and implementation of the current Cohesion Policy with REGI Committee members.

He has had exchanges with the REGI Committee three times before - in January and September 2017, and in March 2019.

Mr Lemaître has been the Director-General of DG REGIO since September 2016.

Upcoming events

in Brussels or near to your home

Date	Event	Place	Additional info
2-3 October	REGI Committee meeting	EP, Brussels	
3-4 October	EU Arctic Forum	Umeå, Sweden	
7-10 October	European Week of Regions and Cities	Brussels	

Useful links

[REGI Website](#)

[EP studies Website](#)

[EP Library - Info on items related to regional development](#)

[OEIL - The Legislative Observatory](#)

[EUR-Lex](#)

[EC Regional Policy - InfoRegio](#)

[European Committee of the Regions](#)