



14.11.2018

OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on Regional Development

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund
(COM(2018)0372 – C8-0227/2018 – 2018/0197(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion: James Nicholson

PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The rapporteur broadly welcomes the aims and objectives of both the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund. It is right the EU has a coherent approach to reducing the economic and social disparities that exist between the regions and member states, and that aims to promote sustainable development. While the rapporteur understands that urban areas play a key role in reducing unemployment and promoting social inclusion and combating poverty, he feels a better balance between the needs of rural and urban areas is required. The rapporteur has therefore made some additions to the text that focus on rural areas and their communities. When we discuss education, skills training and employment creation we can sometimes concentrate solely on the EU's towns and cities, the rapporteur proposes that specific attention is given to rural areas (amendment 6). The rapporteur has introduced a couple of new aspects to the text, farmers who are marginalised because they can work remotely and in isolation and seasonal workers who can often face difficulties integrating into rural communities. The rapporteur is keen to promote innovation and digitalisation and therefore recommends increasing allocation to PO 1 from 60% to 65% (amendment 10). Knowing how crucial access to the internet for farmers is, the rapporteur was not happy that the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund would not be able to support investment in broadband infrastructure in areas where there are at least two broadband networks. The rapporteur does not agree with this; it should be the member states and the regions who decide where the funds are most needed. Broadband networks may exist however if they are not adequate and do not allow proper access to the internet for the farmers in the most remote parts of the EU, the member states should be permitted to invest more in improvements (amendment 12).

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on Regional Development, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) Article 176 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ('TFEU') provides that the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF') is intended to help to redress the main regional imbalances in the Union. Under that Article and the second and third paragraphs of Article 174 of the TFEU, the ERDF is to contribute to reducing disparities between the levels of

Amendment

(1) Article 176 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ('TFEU') provides that the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF') is intended to help to redress the main regional imbalances in the Union. Under that Article and the second and third paragraphs of Article 174 of the TFEU, the ERDF is to contribute to reducing disparities between the levels of

development of the various regions and to reducing the backwardness of the least favoured regions, ***among which particular attention is to be paid to*** regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps such as the northernmost regions with very low population density and island, cross-border and mountain regions.

development of the various regions and to reducing the backwardness of the least favoured regions, ***paying particular attention to rural areas, areas affected by an industrial transition and*** regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps such as the northernmost regions with very low population density and island, cross-border and mountain regions.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation Recital 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2a) Moreover, Cohesion Fund investment is focused on a number of key priority areas in which the economic and social gap continues to widen, and targets in particular the differences between rural and urban areas, thereby neglecting rural areas stricken with poverty and stagnation;

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3) Regulation (EU) 2018/XXX of the European Parliament and of the Council [new CPR]¹⁶ sets out common rules applicable to various funds including the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF'), the European Social Fund Plus ('ESF+'), the Cohesion Fund, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund ('EMFF'), the Asylum and Migration Fund ('AMIF'), the Internal Security Fund ('ISF') and the Border Management and Visa Instrument ('BMVI') which operate under a common framework ('the Funds').

(3) Regulation (EU) 2018/XXX of the European Parliament and of the Council [new CPR]¹⁶ sets out common rules applicable to various funds including the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF'), the European Social Fund Plus ('ESF+'), ***the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development***, the Cohesion Fund, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund ('EMFF'), the Asylum and Migration Fund ('AMIF'), the Internal Security Fund ('ISF') and the Border Management and Visa Instrument ('BMVI') which operate

under a common framework ('the Funds').

¹⁶ [Full reference - new CPR].

¹⁶ [Full reference - new CPR].

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) Horizontal principles as set out in Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union ("TEU") and in Article 10 of the TFEU, including principles of subsidiarity and proportionality as set out in Article 5 of the TEU, should be respected in the implementation of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, taking into account the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Member States should also respect the obligations of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure accessibility in line with its article 9 and in accordance with the Union law harmonising accessibility requirements for products and services. Member States and the Commission should aim at eliminating inequalities and at promoting equality between men and women and integrating the gender perspective, as well as at combating discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The Funds should not support actions that contribute to any form of segregation. The objectives of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund should be pursued in the framework of sustainable development and the Union's promotion of the aim of preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment as set out in Articles 11 and 191(1) of the TFEU, taking into account the polluter pays principle. In order to protect the integrity of the internal market, operations benefitting undertakings shall

Amendment

(5) Horizontal principles as set out in Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union ("TEU") and in Article 10 of the TFEU, including principles of subsidiarity and proportionality as set out in Article 5 of the TEU, should be respected in the implementation of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, taking into account the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Member States should also respect the obligations of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure accessibility in line with its article 9 and in accordance with the Union law harmonising accessibility requirements for products and services. Member States and the Commission should aim at eliminating inequalities and at promoting equality between men and women and integrating the gender perspective, as well as at combating discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The Funds should not support actions that contribute to any form of segregation **or exclusion**. The objectives of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund should be pursued in the framework of sustainable development and the Union's promotion of the aim of preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment **and combating climate change** as set out in Articles 11 and 191(1) of the TFEU, taking into account the polluter pays principle. In order to protect the integrity of the internal

comply with State aid rules as set out in Articles 107 and 108 of the TFEU.

market, operations benefitting undertakings shall comply with State aid rules as set out in Articles 107 and 108 of the TFEU.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) In order to identify the type of activities which can be supported by the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, specific policy objectives for providing support from those funds should be laid down to ensure that they contribute to ***one or more of common policy objectives set out in Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/xxx [new CPR]*** .

Amendment

(7) In order to identify the type of activities which can be supported by the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, ***harmonised*** specific policy objectives ***adapted to different situations*** for providing support from those funds should be laid down to ensure that they contribute to ***increasing added value in each region and to creating jobs. These objectives should in no way detract from the crucial overall objective of reducing disparities between levels of development in the EU's various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions.***

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation Recital 9 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9a) Universal, high-quality public services are vital to address regional and social disparities, promote social cohesion and regional development and encourage people and businesses to stay in their local area, especially the least developed regions.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation Recital 9 b (new)

(9b) ERDF and Cohesion Fund investments should be channelled into sustainable and accessible national, regional and local mobility, especially in regions lacking the resources for economic regeneration and growth and regions with low population density where serious lack of mobility constitutes a structural barrier to growth.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(10) In addition, investments under the ERDF should contribute to the development of a comprehensive high-speed digital infrastructure network, and to promoting clean and sustainable multimodal urban mobility.

(10) In addition, investments under the ERDF should contribute to the development of a comprehensive high-speed digital infrastructure network **that also covers rural areas**, and to promoting clean and sustainable multimodal urban **and rural** mobility, **thereby fostering greater economic, social and territorial cohesion which can effectively combat climate change.**

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation Recital 10 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(10a) Investment in digital networks in rural areas of the EU is a source of untapped potential and is key to harnessing new economic opportunities such as precision agriculture and the development of a bio-based economy, and can help to achieve the EU's objectives of developing a digital infrastructure network and promoting green and

sustainable multimodal mobility.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation Recital 14 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(14a) Operations under the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund should deliver on objectives laid down in the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans to be developed under the [Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union] taking also into account the recommendations from the Commission regarding these plans, both in terms of content and financial allocation.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(17) The ERDF should help to redress the main regional imbalances in the Union and to reduce disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions including those facing challenges due to the decarbonisation commitments. ERDF support under the Investment for jobs and growth goal should ***therefore be concentrated on key Union priorities*** in line with policy objectives laid down in Regulation (EU) 2018/xxx [new CPR]. Therefore support from the ERDF should ***be concentrated on*** the policy objectives of 'a ***smarter*** Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation' and 'a greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and

(17) The ERDF should help to ***promote true convergence***, to redress the main regional imbalances in the Union and to reduce disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions including those facing challenges due to the decarbonisation commitments, taking ***into account the legitimate choices, priorities and needs of each Member State, depending on their particular situation***. ERDF support under the Investment for jobs and growth goal should ***also take into account collectively defined priorities***, in line with policy objectives laid down in Regulation (EU) 2018/xxx [new CPR]. Therefore, support from the ERDF should ***take particular account of*** the policy objectives of 'a ***more cohesive and solidarity-based*** Europe ***helping***

management'. That thematic concentration should be attained at national level while allowing for flexibility at the level of individual programmes and between the three groups of Member States formed according to respective gross national income. In addition, the methodology to classify Member States should be set out in detail taking into account the specific situation of the outermost regions.

reduce economic, social and territorial asymmetries and achieve a smart and innovative economic transformation' and 'a greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, *the reduction of the impact of industry on the environment*, green and blue investment, the circular economy, *combating and* adapting to climate change and risk prevention and management'. That thematic concentration should be attained at national level while allowing for flexibility at the level of individual programmes and between the three groups of Member States formed according to respective gross national income. In addition, the methodology to classify Member States should be set out in detail taking into account the specific situation of the outermost regions.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation Recital 19

Text proposed by the Commission

(19) This Regulation should set out the different types of activities the costs of which may be supported by means of investments from the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, under their respective objectives as set out in the TFEU. The Cohesion Fund should be able to support investments in the environment and in TEN-T. With regard to the ERDF, the list of activities should be simplified and it should be able to support investments in infrastructure, investments in relation to access to services, productive investments in SME's, equipment, software and intangible assets, as well as measures with regard to information, communication, studies, networking, cooperation, exchange of experiences and activities involving clusters. In order to support the programme implementation, both funds should also be

Amendment

(19) This Regulation should set out the different types of activities the costs of which may be supported by means of investments from the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, under their respective objectives as set out in the TFEU. The Cohesion Fund should be able to support investments in the environment and in TEN-T. With regard to the ERDF, the list of activities should be simplified and it should be able to support investments in infrastructure, investments in relation to access to services, *with a particular focus on disadvantaged, marginalised and segregated communities*, productive investments in SME's, equipment, software and intangible assets, as well as measures with regard to information, communication, studies, networking, cooperation, exchange of experiences and

able to support technical assistance activities. Finally, in order to support provide for a broader range of interventions for Interreg programmes, the scope should be enlarged to also include the sharing a broad range of facilities and human resources and costs linked to measures within the scope of the ESF+.

activities involving clusters. In order to support the programme implementation, both funds should also be able to support technical assistance activities. Finally, in order to support provide for a broader range of interventions for Interreg programmes, the scope should be enlarged to also include the sharing a broad range of facilities and human resources and costs linked to measures within the scope of the ESF+.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation Recital 25

Text proposed by the Commission

(25) Within the framework of sustainable urban development, it is considered necessary to support integrated territorial development in order to more effectively tackle the economic, environmental, climate, demographic and social challenges affecting urban areas, including functional urban areas, while taking into account the need to promote urban-rural linkages. The principles for selecting the urban areas where integrated actions for sustainable urban development are to be implemented, and the indicative amounts for those actions, should be set out in the programmes under the Investment for jobs and growth goal with a minimum target of 6% of the ERDF resources allocated at national level for that purpose. It should also be established that this percentage should be respected throughout the programming period in the case of transfer between priorities within a programme or between programmes, including at the mid-term review.

Amendment

(25) Within the framework of sustainable urban development, it is considered necessary to support integrated territorial development in order to more effectively tackle the economic, environmental, climate, demographic and social challenges affecting urban **and rural** areas, while taking into account the need to promote urban-rural linkages **and heightened cooperation**. The principles for selecting the urban areas where integrated actions for sustainable urban development are to be implemented, and the indicative amounts for those actions, should be set out in the programmes under the Investment for jobs and growth goal with a minimum target of 6% of the ERDF resources allocated at national level for that purpose. It should also be established that this percentage should be respected throughout the programming period in the case of transfer between priorities within a programme or between programmes, including at the mid-term review.

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation
Article 1 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. This Regulation also sets out the specific objectives and the scope support from the Cohesion Fund with regard to the Investment for jobs and growth goal ('the Investment for jobs and growth goal') referred to in [point (a) of Article 4(2)] of Regulation (EU) 2018/xxxx [new CPR].

Amendment

2. This Regulation also sets out the specific objectives and the scope support from the Cohesion Fund with regard to the Investment for jobs and growth goal ('the Investment for jobs and growth goal') referred to in [point (a) of Article 4(2)] of Regulation (EU) 2018/xxxx [new CPR]. ***It also supplements rural development policy insofar as support for balanced territorial development is concerned.***

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) 'a **smarter** Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation' ('PO 1') by:

Amendment

(a) 'a **more cohesive and solidarity-based** Europe by **helping reduce economic, social and territorial asymmetries and** promoting innovative and smart economic transformation' ('PO 1') by:

Justification

The ERDF and the Cohesion Fund are crucial cohesion policy instruments and their objectives should therefore include seeking to achieve cohesion and prevent asymmetries.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

(i) enhancing research and innovation capacities **and** the uptake of advanced technologies;

Amendment

(i) enhancing research and innovation capacities, the uptake of advanced technologies **and improving access to and the use and quality of technologies;**

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

(ii) reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments;

Amendment

(ii) reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, **public services** and governments;

Justification

Public services are vital for cohesion and regional development, business activity and sustained population levels, especially in the less developed regions.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a – point ii a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(**ii**a) **encouraging high-quality, modernised and universal public services**

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a – point iii

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iii) enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs;

(iii) enhancing **and advancing the** growth and competitiveness of SMEs **in rural areas**;

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a – point iv

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iv) developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship;

(iv) developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition, ***rural development and infrastructures*** for smart specialisation, ***the re-establishment of industries in regions affected by waning industrial capacity*** and entrepreneurship;

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a – point iv a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iva) promoting the revitalisation and economic regeneration of regions suffering from depopulation and areas with natural handicaps;

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a – point iv b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ivb) nurturing start-up ecosystems

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point b – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) a greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management ('PO 2') by:

(b) a greener, ***low***-carbon Europe by promoting ***and supporting*** clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment ***as well as a reduction in consumption***, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management ('PO 2') by:

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point b – point iii

Text proposed by the Commission

(iii) developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at local level;

Amendment

(iii) developing smart energy systems, **smart** grids, storage at local level **and establishing energy cooperatives**

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point b – point iii a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iiia) promoting a reduction in consumption;

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point b – point iv

Text proposed by the Commission

(iv) promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience;

Amendment

(iv) promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention **and management** and **natural** disaster resilience, **in particular eco-system based approaches;**

Amendement 27

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point b – point vii

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(vii) enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution;

(vii) enhancing biodiversity **and** green infrastructure in the urban **and rural** environment and reducing **air, water, soil, noise and light** pollution **as well as waste**;

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point c – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(i) enhancing digital connectivity;

(i) enhancing digital connectivity **and access to high-speed internet particularly in rural areas with lower populations that are not as attractive to commercial operators**;

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point c – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ii) developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal TEN-T;

(ii) developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal TEN-T, **with a particular emphasis on creating an EU transport network that creates links between rural hubs rather than merely routes to capitals or large urban centres**;

Amendement 30

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point c – point iv

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iv) promoting sustainable multimodal

(iv) promoting sustainable multimodal

urban mobility;

mobility *in both urban and rural areas*;

Amendment 31

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point c – point iv a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iva) using digital technologies to meet the challenges faced by Europe's rural areas;

Amendment 32

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point c – point iv ba (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ivb) promoting rural mobility;

Amendment 33

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point d – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(i) enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social innovation and infrastructure;

(i) enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment *and support for worker mobility* through developing social innovation and infrastructure *that encourages balanced territorial development across the whole EU, in particular for women in rural areas, paying specific attention to education, skills training and jobs in rural areas;*

Amendment 34

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point d – point i a (new)

(ia) achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities including the creation and maintenance of employment;

Amendment 35

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point d – point i b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ib) helping the rural population gain access to valuable employment options;

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point d – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ii) improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and life long learning through developing infrastructure;

(ii) improving access to inclusive and quality services in education , **preschool – in particular by strengthening the links between education and the economy and business** – training and life long learning through developing infrastructure;

Amendement 37

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point d – point iii

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iii) increasing the socioeconomic integration of marginalised communities, migrants and disadvantaged groups, through integrated measures including housing and social services;

(iii) increasing the socioeconomic integration of marginalised communities and disadvantaged groups, **including those who work in isolated rural areas such as farmers and fishermen**, through integrated measures including housing, education and social services;

Amendment 38

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point d – point iii a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iiia) improving access to the system of care for the elderly, with emphasis on home care and the provision of such services outside institutional care frameworks;

Amendment 39

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point d – point iii b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iiib) supporting migrants in rural areas, particularly seasonal workers who may struggle to integrate into rural communities;

Amendement 40

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point d – point iv

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iv) ***ensuring*** equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care;

(iv) ***promoting*** equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care ***and maternity care, particularly in peripheral rural areas;***

Amendment 41

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point e – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) 'a Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives' ('PO 5') by:

Amendment

(e) 'a Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural, **island** and coastal areas, **urban-rural partnerships** and local initiatives' ('PO 5') by:

Amendement 42

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point e – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

(ii) fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, cultural heritage and security, including for rural and coastal areas also through community-led local development;

Amendment

(ii) fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, cultural heritage and security, **especially** for rural, **island** and coastal areas also through community-led local development **through the intermediary of local action groups**;

Amendment 43

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point e – point ii a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iia) addressing urban-rural linkages in response to challenges of functional areas in terms of employment and labour markets, interdependencies between different sectors, commuting patterns, demographic trends, cultural and natural heritage, climate change vulnerability, land use and resource management, institutional and governance arrangements, connectivity and accessibility.

Amendment 44

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point e – point ii b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iib) promoting the concept of ‘smart villages’ to reduce the development gap between urban and rural areas;

Amendment 45

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 4 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) Member States of group 1 shall allocate at least 85 % of their total ERDF resources under priorities other than for technical assistance to PO 1 and PO 2, and at least **60** % to PO 1;

(a) Member States of group 1 shall allocate at least 85 % of their total ERDF resources under priorities other than for technical assistance to PO 1 and PO 2, and at least **65** % to PO 1;

Amendment 46

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 4 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) Member States of group 2 shall allocate at least 45 % of their total ERDF resources under priorities other than for technical assistance to PO 1, and at least **30** % to PO 2;

(b) Member States of group 2 shall allocate at least 45 % of their total ERDF resources under priorities other than for technical assistance to PO 1, and at least **35%** to PO 2;

Amendment 47

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) investments in infrastructure;

(a) investments in infrastructure, ***with a focus on ICT infrastructure in rural areas;***

Amendment 48

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) investments in access to services;

(b) investments in access to services
***and skills with a particular focus on
disadvantaged, marginalised and
segregated communities;***

Amendment 49

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) Innovation and research

Amendment 50

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(e) information, communication,
studies, networking, cooperation, exchange
of experience and activities involving
clusters;

(Does not affect the English version)

Amendment 51

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point e a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

***(ea) investments in innovation,
including social innovation, and
technology to promote rural development
and ensure a promising future for EU
rural areas;***

Amendment 52

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point f a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(fa) Low carbon economy.

Amendment 53

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) investments in the environment, including investments related to sustainable development and energy presenting environmental benefits;

(a) investments in the environment, including investments related to sustainable development and energy, **with a focus on strengthening energy cooperatives and decentralising electricity markets**, presenting environmental benefits;

Amendment 54

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) reduction of economic and social disparities;

Amendment 55

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) promoting sustainable development.

Amendment 56

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Member States shall ensure ***an appropriate*** balance between investments under points (a) and (b).

Amendment

Member States shall ensure ***a*** balance between investments under points (a) and (b) ***that is fair in national terms, proportionate and appropriate.***

Amendment 57

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

(i) investment in broadband infrastructure in areas in which there are at least two broadband networks of equivalent category;

Amendment

deleted

Amendment 58

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

Sustainable urban development

Amendment

Sustainable urban ***and rural*** development

Amendment 59

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The ERDF shall support integrated territorial development based on territorial strategies in accordance with Article [23] of Regulation (EU) 2018/xxxx [new CPR]

Amendment

1. The ERDF shall support integrated territorial development based on territorial strategies in accordance with Article [23] of Regulation (EU) 2018/xxxx [new CPR]

focused on urban areas ('sustainable urban development') within programmes under both goals referred to in Article 4(2) of that Regulation.

focused on urban **and rural** areas ('sustainable urban **and rural** development') within programmes under both goals referred to in Article 4(2) of that Regulation.

Amendment 60

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

At least 6% of the ERDF resources at national level under the Investment for jobs and growth goal, other than for technical assistance, shall be allocated to sustainable urban development in the form of community-led local development, integrated territorial investments or another territorial tool under PO5.

Amendment

At least 6% of the ERDF resources at national level under the Investment for jobs and growth goal, other than for technical assistance, shall be allocated to sustainable urban **and rural** development in the form of community-led local development, integrated territorial investments or another territorial tool under PO5.

Amendment 61

Proposal for a regulation

Annex I – Table 1 – Policy objective 2 – Outputs – RCO 22 and RCO 97

Text proposed by the Commission

RCO 22 - Additional production capacity for renewable energy (of which: electricity, thermal)

RCO 97 – Number of energy communities and renewable energy communities supported*

Amendment

RCO 22 - Additional production capacity for **sustainable** renewable energy (of which: electricity, thermal)

RCO 97 – Number of energy communities and renewable **sustainable** energy communities supported*

Amendment 62

Proposal for a regulation

Annex I – Table 1 – Policy objective 2 – Results – RCR 31 and RCR 32

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

RCR 31 - Total renewable energy produced (of which: electricity, thermal)

RCR 31 - Total **sustainable** renewable energy produced (of which: electricity, thermal)

RCR 32 – Renewable energy: Capacity connected to the grid (operational)*

RCR 32 – **Sustainable** renewable energy: Capacity connected to the grid (operational)*

Amendment 63

Proposal for a regulation

Annex I – Table 1 – Policy objective 2 – Results – RCR 51

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

RCR 51 - Population benefiting from measures for noise reduction

RCR 51 - Population benefiting from measures for **air, water, soil, noise and light** reduction

Amendment 64

Proposal for a regulation

Annex I – Table 1 – Policy objective 2 – Outputs – RCO 39

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

RCO 39 - Systems for monitoring air pollution installed

RCO 39 - Systems for monitoring air, **water, soil, noise and light** pollution installed

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund						
References	COM(2018)0372 – C8-0227/2018 – 2018/0197(COD)						
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	REGI 11.6.2018						
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	AGRI 11.6.2018						
Rapporteur Date appointed	James Nicholson 10.7.2018						
Date adopted	12.11.2018						
Result of final vote	<table> <tr> <td>+</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr> <td>–</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>0</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	+	30	–	4	0	3
+	30						
–	4						
0	3						
Members present for the final vote	John Stuart Agnew, Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Eric Andrieu, José Bové, Daniel Buda, Matt Carthy, Jacques Colombier, Michel Dantin, Paolo De Castro, Albert Deß, Diane Dodds, Herbert Dorfmann, Norbert Erdős, Luke Ming Flanagan, Karine Gloanec Maurin, Martin Häusling, Jan Huitema, Peter Jahr, Jarosław Kalinowski, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Norbert Lins, Philippe Loiseau, Giulia Moi, Ulrike Müller, Maria Noichl, Marijana Petir, Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez, Czesław Adam Siekierski, Tibor Szanyi, Maria Gabriela Zoană, Marco Zullo						
Substitutes present for the final vote	Franc Bogovič, Maria Heubuch, Anthea McIntyre, Momchil Nekov, Hilde Vautmans, Miguel Viegas, Thomas Waitz						

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

30	+
ALDE	Jan Huitema, Ulrike Müller, Hilde Vautmans
ECR	Zbigniew Kuzmiuk, Anthea McIntyre
EFDD	Giulia Moi, Marco Zullo
ENF	Jacques Colombier, Philippe Loiseau
GUE/NGL	Matt Carthy, Luke Ming Flanagan
NI	Diane Dodds
PPE	Franc Bogovič, Daniel Buda, Michel Dantin, Herbert Dorfmann, Norbert Erdős, Peter Jahr, Jarosław Kalinowski, Norbert Lins, Marijana Petir, Czesław Adam Siekierski
S&D	Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Eric Andrieu, Paolo De Castro, Karine Gloanec Maurin, Momchil Nekov, Maria Noichl, Tibor Szanyi, Maria Gabriela Zoană

4	-
EFDD	John Stuart Agnew
GUE/NGL	Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez, Miguel Viegas
PPE	Albert Deß

3	0
VERTS/ALE	José Bové, Martin Häusling, Thomas Waitz

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention