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*Committee on Regional Development*

**2007/2187(INI)**

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## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on The European Research Area: New Perspectives  
(2007/2187(INI))

Draftsman: Miroslav Mikolášik

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Regional Development calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses the key role of the regions in developing and structuring the ERA and helping to overcome fragmentation in European public research;
2. Urges the Member States and regions to devise strategies for the development of physical and human resources in research and innovation covering, for example, the upgrade and supply of research infrastructures, increased mobility for researchers, local initiatives to attract researchers, the removal of legal, administrative and language barriers, staff exchanges and ensuring access for all, especially female researchers and the young; also urges the Member States to develop better working conditions for researchers, introducing the necessary measures to reconcile professional and family life;
3. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to foster the development of regional academic and scientific research centres and regional research-driven clusters and centres of excellence, while encouraging closer pan-European cooperation among such centres; calls on the Member States and the regions to improve knowledge sharing among such centres, particularly by means of researcher mobility, and to develop virtual networks and research communities;
4. Urges the Member States to ensure optimal funding of national and regional research activities defined in the Operational Programmes and to ensure the efficient exchange of good practices and cooperation between regions; furthermore stresses the need to coordinate at national and regional levels the funding provided under the Research Framework Programmes and from the Structural Funds, whilst bearing in mind the specific priorities of the regional networks within which those funds are deployed;
5. Emphasises that targeted R&D cooperation could foster world-wide opportunities for European-led R&D; therefore urges that national and regional research systems be connected with networks in Europe and beyond, albeit in line with the objective of ERA to ensure the coherence of national and regional research programmes and priorities of European interest; believes that cross-border cooperation should be developed as a means to obtain critical mass and prepare for internationalisation.