



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2011/0275(COD)

25.6.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Regional Development

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
on specific provisions concerning the European Regional Development Fund
and the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No
1080/2006
(COM(2011)0614 – C7-0328/2011 – 2011/0275(COD))

Rapporteur: Mario Pirillo

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SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Cohesion policy is the main investment instrument for supporting the key priorities of the Union as enshrined in the Europe 2020 strategy. Since environmental protection and sustainable development are central to those priorities, the EU's cohesion policy is also the most suitable way to support the shift towards a competitive and low-carbon economy and the investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, as well as environmental and biodiversity protection and sustainable urban development.

The Commission has presented a number of legislative proposals for the new cohesion policy framework. The current proposal is an integral part of that framework, and introduces changes aimed at improving the policy's impact in terms of achieving the EU priorities. The legislative package sets out a list of thematic objectives in line with the Europe 2020 strategy and lays down a series of provisions common to all the Structural Funds and intended to simplify management procedures and enhance efficiency.

The proposal sets out specific provisions for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), whose purpose is to correct imbalances between EU regions. For each thematic objective, the proposal sets out a list of investment priorities to which the ERDF may contribute, and in particular, establishes the following *thematic concentration*:

- in more developed regions and regions in transition, where GDP is equal to or higher than 75% of the European average, at least 80% of resources are allocated to energy efficiency and renewables, research and innovation and SME support, (with at least 20% being allocated to energy efficiency and renewables);
- in less developed regions, where GDP is less than 75% of the European average, in order to take the greatest variety of development needs into account, those percentages have been reduced to 50% and 6% respectively.

Furthermore, 5% of ERDF resources are allocated to sustainable urban development.

The proposal for a regulation also seeks to place greater emphasis on results by defining common indicators relating to physical outputs and progress towards the objectives to be achieved.

The rapporteur agrees with and supports the Commission proposal, while at the same time tabling a number of amendments seeking to make ERDF investments more effective in achieving EU environmental priorities.

First of all, while the Commission's decision to establish a system of thematic concentration for the ERDF is to be fully supported, allocating 6% of the resources for less developed regions to funding the shift to a low-carbon economy in all sectors is insufficient, given that it is precisely these regions that require a substantial investment in order to reduce emissions. An increase to 15% is therefore being proposed.

At the same time, environmental protection and support for resource efficiency should not be excluded from the thematic concentration system. In particular, protecting and restoring biodiversity and promoting ecosystem services are key challenges that must be addressed in order to safeguard the future of the environment, and, together with measures to tackle

climate change, should be the underlying focus of all sustainable development policies. It should be pointed out that, although biodiversity is of fundamental importance to the quality of human life, as well as the survival of species, the 2010 biodiversity protection targets have not been met. For these reasons, a number of amendments have been tabled in order to include the thematic objective of protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency among the ERDF priorities, in accordance with the thematic concentration system (80% of resources for more developed regions and regions in transition and 50% for less developed regions).

Finally, particular attention is paid to common indicators for the ERDF, which need to be clearly defined to enable the results achieved in respect of the environmental priorities to be accurately measured. Firstly, in connection with the prevention and management of climate change-related risks the indicators should not focus solely on civil protection measures; greater attention should be paid to increasing the prevention and resistance capacity of ecosystems. Specific nature and biodiversity indicators should also be introduced, to cover, for example, the conservation of marine and coastal habitats, the development of green infrastructure and the creation of new green urban spaces.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Regional Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) Within the framework of sustainable urban development, it is considered necessary to support integrated actions to tackle the economic, environmental, climate and social challenges affecting urban areas and to define a procedure to establish the list of cities covered by such actions and the financial allocation set aside for such actions.

Amendment

(7) Within the framework of ***integral*** sustainable urban development, it is considered necessary to support integrated actions to tackle the economic, environmental, climate and social challenges affecting urban areas, ***to adapt cities to the challenges of climate change,*** and to define a procedure to establish the list of cities covered by such actions and the financial allocation set aside for such actions.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) In order to identify or test new solutions to issues relating to sustainable urban development which are of relevance at Union level, the ERDF should support innovative actions in the field of sustainable urban development.

Amendment

(9) In order to identify or test new solutions to issues relating to sustainable urban development which are of relevance at Union level, the ERDF should support innovative actions in the field of ***integral*** sustainable urban development.

Amendment 3

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

The ERDF shall contribute to the financing of support which aims to reinforce economic, social and territorial cohesion by redressing the main regional imbalances through support for the development and structural adjustment of regional economies, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and regions lagging behind.

Amendment

The ERDF shall contribute to the financing of support which aims to reinforce economic, social and territorial cohesion by redressing the main regional imbalances through support for the ***sustainable*** development and structural adjustment of regional economies, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and regions lagging behind.

Amendment 4

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point b**

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) investments in infrastructure providing basic services to citizens in the areas of energy, environment, transport, and information and communication technologies (ICT);

Amendment

(b) investments in infrastructure providing basic services to citizens in the areas of energy, environment, ***sustainable tourism*** ***and*** transport, and information and communication technologies (ICT);

Amendment 5

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point c**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(c) investments in social, health and educational infrastructure;

(c) investments in social, **sports**, health and educational infrastructure;

Justification

Sport is a useful means of improving public health in Europe and, with entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, has come under the EU's powers. The scope of ERDF support should thus be extended to encompass this key area.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point d – point iii

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iii) support to public research and innovation bodies and investment in technology and applied research in enterprises;

(iii) support to public **or private organisations that perform** research and innovation bodies and investment in technology and applied research in enterprises;

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point d – point iv a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iva) investments to promote sustainable tourism and protect cultural heritage;

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

In more developed regions, the ERDF shall not support investments in infrastructure providing basic services to

deleted

***citizens in the areas of environment,
transport, and ICT.***

Justification

Regardless of the nature of the region, it is for the national and/or regional authorities – not the European authorities – to decide whether basic services for citizens in the areas of environment, transport, and ICT may be subsidised from the ERDF. Certain regions, including some of the most developed regions, have significant needs for investment in water infrastructure.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point a – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

(i) at least 80% of the total ERDF resources at national level shall be allocated to the thematic objectives set out in points 1, 3 **and** 4 of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No [...] /2012 [CPR] ;

Amendment

(i) at least 80% of the total ERDF resources at national level shall be allocated to the thematic objectives set out in points 1, 3, 4 **and 6** of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No [...] /2012 [CPR] ;

Justification

Environmental protection and energy resource should be included in the thematic objectives on which ERDF funding is focused, both in more developed and transition regions and in less developed regions.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point a – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

ii) at least **20%** of the total ERDF resources at national level shall be allocated to the thematic objective set out in point 4 of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No [...] /2012 [CPR].

Amendment

ii) at least **25%** of the total ERDF resources at national level shall be allocated to the thematic objective set out in point 4 of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No [...] /2012 [CPR].

Justification

Europe is not on track to meet its energy saving target by 2020 and both Parliament and

Council have stated that it must be achieved – thus requiring an additional financial effort. It is a massive win win-win for creating green jobs, maximizing economic opportunities in every single region, reducing consumer bills and improving energy security.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

(i) at least 50% of the total ERDF resources at national level shall be allocated to the thematic objectives set out in points 1, 3 **and** 4 of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No [...] /2012 [CPR] .

Amendment

(i) at least 50% of the total ERDF resources at national level shall be allocated to the thematic objectives set out in points 1, 3, 4 **and 6** of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No [...] /2012 [CPR] .

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

ii) at least **6%** of the total ERDF resources at national level shall be allocated to the thematic objective set out in point 4 of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No [...] /2012 [CPR].

Amendment

ii) at least **15%** of the total ERDF resources at national level shall be allocated to the thematic objective set out in point 4 of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No [...] /2012 [CPR].

Justification

Europe is not on track to meet its energy saving target by 2020 and both Parliament and Council have stated that it must be achieved – thus requiring an additional financial effort. It is a massive win win-win for creating green jobs, maximizing economic opportunities in every single region, reducing consumer bills and improving energy security.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – point 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) promoting business R&I investment, product and service development,

Amendment

(b) promoting business R&I investment, product and service development,

technology transfer, social innovation and public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation;

including in the tourism sector,
technology transfer, social innovation and public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation;

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – point 4 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) promoting the production and distribution of renewable energy sources;

(a) promoting the ***sustainable and cost-efficient*** production and distribution of renewable energy sources;

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – point 4 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) promoting the production and distribution of renewable energy sources;

(a) promoting the production and distribution of renewable ***and low-carbon*** energy sources;

Justification

To address the challenge of climate change and environmental protection, the national and regional authorities must be allowed to support the development of supply networks for both renewable and low-carbon energy sources, by, for example, increasing the number of recharging points for electric vehicles, thereby fostering electro-mobility, which has hitherto been held back by the lack of charging options.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – point 4 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(e) promoting low-carbon strategies for urban areas;

(e) promoting low-carbon strategies – ***including sustainable mobility and clean***

public transport – for ***all types of region, particularly*** urban areas;

Justification

To address the challenge of climate change and environmental protection, electro-mobility and clean public transport need to be encouraged.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – point 4 – point e a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ea) promoting sustainable tourism;

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – point 5 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems;

(b) promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems, ***including the restoration of river, coastal and mountain ecosystems;***

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – point 6 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6) protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency:

(6) protecting the environment, ***biodiversity and ecosystems, and*** promoting resource efficiency:

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – point 6 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

a) addressing the significant needs for investment in the waste sector to ***meet the requirements of the environmental acquis***;

Amendment

a) addressing the significant needs for investment in the waste sector ***with a view to reducing the disposal of waste.***

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – point 6 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

b) addressing the significant needs for investment in the water sector to ***meet the requirements of the environmental acquis***;

Amendment

b) addressing the significant needs for investment in the water sector to ***reduce leakage and improve the supply and quality of water and to ensure that it is used more efficiently***;

Justification

As water supply infrastructure is very often outdated, an average of one out of every four litres of water is lost in piping it to its destination. The wastage rate is even as high as 40% in some regions. Regardless of questions of water quality, it must be ensured that water is used in a sustainable and responsible manner by reducing leakage.

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – point 6 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) protecting, promoting and developing cultural heritage;

Amendment

(c) protecting, promoting and developing ***tangible and intangible natural and*** cultural heritage;

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – point 6 – point (d)

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) protecting biodiversity, soil and promoting ecosystem services including NATURA 2000 and green infrastructures;

Amendment

(d) protecting biodiversity, **restoring ecosystems and** soil and promoting ecosystem services including NATURA 2000 and green infrastructures;

Justification

Environmental investment priorities should not be limited to the protection of biodiversity but should also actively seek to restore the ecosystems on which it relies.

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – point 6 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) promoting sustainable tourism;

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – point 7 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) developing environment-friendly and low-carbon transport systems and promoting sustainable urban mobility;

Amendment

(c) developing **integrated and intermodal** environment-friendly and low-carbon **local public** transport systems and promoting sustainable **non-motorised** urban mobility;

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – point 9 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, and transition from institutional to community-based services;

(a) investing in health, **sports** and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, and transition from institutional to community-based services;

Justification

Sport is a useful means of improving public health in Europe and, with entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, has come under the EU's powers. Sport should therefore be added to the list of ERDF investment priorities.

Amendment 27

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – point 11 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(11a) maintaining the economic activity in urban centres.

Amendment 28

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 3 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

A specific indicator shall be introduced in the education and training field.

Amendment 29

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 8 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2 – introductory part**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The list shall contain a maximum number of 300 cities, with a maximum number of

The list shall contain a maximum number of 300 cities, with a maximum number of

20 per Member State. Cities shall be selected based on the following criteria:

20 per Member State. ***This number of cities shall also include medium and smaller sized cities.*** Cities shall be selected based on the following criteria:

Amendment 30

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

For the selection, Member States shall demand cities to include an integral strategy in the concrete projects which will take into account the added value of natural and historical resources and its impact on production and on employment.

The rehabilitation of historic cities ensembles for the adaptation to the flagships of Europe 2020, accessibility, ICT, energy and the needs of disabled people shall be taken into account in the selection of the cities.

The recovery of cities and houses after catastrophes shall be also taken into account as selection criteria.

Amendment 31

Proposal for a regulation

Annex 1 – table title 1 – row 21 – 'Urban transport'

Text proposed by the Commission

<i>Urban</i> transport	passenger trips	Increase of passenger trips using supported <i>urban</i> transport service
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Amendment

<i>Local public</i> transport	passenger trips	Increase of passenger trips using supported <i>public</i> transport service
	<i>percentage</i>	<i>change in modal share of urban mobility</i>

Justification

As regards transport, the common indicators should take into account all of the improvements made to public transport thanks to the Fund.

Amendment 32

Proposal for a regulation

Annex - table - row 24 - 'Solid waste' - column 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Additional waste recycling capacity	Additional waste recycling <i>and reuse</i> capacity
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Justification

Directive 2008/98 on waste establishes a five-level waste hierarchy in which reuse takes priority over recycling. The indicator should therefore take account of both waste management options.

Amendment 33

Proposal for a regulation

Annex – table – row 24 a (new) – 'Solid waste'

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

	<i>kilograms / capita</i>	<i>Household waste per person</i>
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Amendment 34

Proposal for a regulation

Annex - table - row 28 - 'Risk prevention and management'

Text proposed by the Commission

Risk prevention and management	Persons	Population benefiting from flood protection measures
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Amendment

Risk prevention and management	Persons	Population benefiting from flood protection measures
	Hectares	Size of the area with increased flood prevention and mitigation capacity

Justification

The indicators regarding risk prevention and management should not take into account only the population benefiting from flood protection measures, but also include the size of the area in which risk prevention capacity has been increased. This should be achieved using an ecosystemic approach.

Amendment 35

Proposal for a regulation

Annex - table - row 29 - 'Risk prevention and management'

Text proposed by the Commission

	Persons	Population benefiting from forest fire protection and other protection measures
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Amendment

	Persons	Population benefiting from forest fire protection and other protection measures
	Hectares	Size of the area with increased forest fire resistance and prevention capacity

Justification

As is the case with flooding, the risk prevention and management indicators should take into account not only the population benefiting from forest fire protection measures, but also the size of the area in which risk prevention capacity has been increased.

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation

Annex – table – row 29 a (new) – 'Risk prevention and management'

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

	Persons	Population benefiting from water shortage or drought mitigation measures
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Amendment 37

Proposal for a regulation

Annex - table - row 32 - 'Nature and biodiversity'

Text proposed by the Commission

Nature and biodiversity	Hectares	Surface area of habitats in better conservation status
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Amendment

Nature and biodiversity	Hectares	Surface area of marine and land habitats in better conservation status
	km	Total length of coastline covered by coastal erosion prevention and reduction measures carried out using an ecosystemic approach
	Hectares	New green infrastructure

Justification

The common indicators on nature and biodiversity should take into account both marine and land habitats, as well as coastal erosion prevention. Green infrastructure can play an important role in nature and biodiversity protection.

Amendment 38

Proposal for a regulation

Annex – table – row 44 a (new) – 'Energy efficiency'

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

	kWh/GDP	Energy intensity
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Amendment 39

Proposal for a regulation

Annex - table - line 52 a (new) - 'Urban Development'

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

	<i>m²</i>	<i>New green spaces in urban areas</i>
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Justification

Sustainable urban development necessarily involves increasing the number and size of green spaces in urban areas, which should therefore be explicitly covered by an indicator.

PROCEDURE

Title	Specific provisions concerning the European Regional Development Fund and the 'Investment for growth and jobs' goal and repeal of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006						
References	COM(2011)0614 – C7-0328/2011 – 2011/0275(COD)						
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	REGI 25.10.2011						
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	ENVI 25.10.2011						
Rapporteur Date appointed	Mario Pirillo 8.11.2011						
Discussed in committee	8.5.2012						
Date adopted	20.6.2012						
Result of final vote	<table> <tr> <td>+: </td><td>50</td></tr> <tr> <td>–: </td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>0: </td><td>0</td></tr> </table>	+:	50	–:	2	0:	0
+:	50						
–:	2						
0:	0						
Members present for the final vote	Elena Oana Antonescu, Sophie Auconie, Pilar Ayuso, Paolo Bartolozzi, Lajos Bokros, Martin Callanan, Nessa Childers, Yves Cochet, Chris Davies, Edite Estrela, Jill Evans, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Elisabetta Gardini, Matthias Groote, Françoise Grossetête, Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Satu Hassi, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Dan Jørgensen, Christa Kläß, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Peter Liese, Kartika Tamara Liotard, Zofija Mazej Kukovič, Linda McAvan, Miroslav Ouzký, Andres Perello Rodriguez, Mario Pirillo, Pavel Poc, Anna Rosbach, Oreste Rossi, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, Carl Schlyter, Richard Seeber, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Anja Weisgerber, Åsa Westlund, Glenis Willmott, Sabine Wils, Marina Yannakoudakis						
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Margrete Auken, Erik Bánki, Nikos Chrysogelos, Minodora Cliveti, Vittorio Prodi, Birgit Schnieper-Jastram, Rebecca Taylor, Eleni Theocharous, Marita Ulvskog, Anna Záborská, Andrea Zannoni						
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Véronique Mathieu						