

ITALY'S CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES – 16TH PARLIAMENT

*Report of Joint Meeting of the Budget, Treasury and Planning Committee and  
the EU Affairs Committee*

*Wednesday, 28 March 2012*

**Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – A Budget for Europe 2020 (COM(2011)500 final), parts I and II.**

**Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020, (COM(2011)398 final).**

**Draft Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, (COM(2011)403 final).**

**Proposal for a Council Decision on the system of own resources of the European Union, (COM(2011)510 final).**

**Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down implementing measures for the system of own resources of the European Union, (COM(2011)511 final).**

**Proposal for a Council Regulation on the methods and procedure for making available the traditional and GNI-based own resources and on the measures to meet cash requirements, (COM(2011)512 final).**

**FINAL DOCUMENT APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEES**

The Budget, Treasury and Planning Committee and the EU Affairs Committee,

(...)

b) with regard to cohesion policy:

1. in contrast to the Commission's proposal, it is necessary to present the case for the maintenance of the current rules governing the eligibility of territories and the appropriation of resources, which ensure that resources are allocated to the most disadvantaged regions. The introduction of the category of "transition regions" needs to be opposed in order to avoid weakening the impact of the policy

for the enhancement of economic, social and territorial cohesion and the reduction of development delays;

2. the upper limit for the absorption of funds by individual Member States, which the Commission is proposing to set at 2.5% of GDP should be reduced or, at least, confirmed. An evaluation should be made of the possibility of introducing different flexible thresholds for different cohesion policy funds;

3. the procedures for the planning and management of cohesion policy funds, referred to in the aforementioned Proposal for a Regulation laying down common provisions on European structural funds (COM(2011)615 final), need to be improved so that the programmes may be converted into fully operative instruments primed for swift implementation. This will entail a clear identification of results and the definition of actions and appropriate means to achieve these results. In particular, provisions should be made to allow cities to enter into agreements for shared programmes;

4. the “*ex ante* conditionalities”, as listed in the aforementioned Proposal for a Regulation laying down common provisions on European structural funds, should be linked to a verification of the presence of all the necessary pre-conditions (including institutional requirements) for the implementation of the programmes. As for the performance reserve, its implementation should be based on positive incentives, and efforts must be made to avoid adding complicating and redundant regulatory elements that would have a paralysing effect on procedures that, on the contrary, need to be accelerated and simplified;

5. it would be opportune to suppress the conditionalities as listed of article 21 of the aforementioned proposal for a regulation – mentioned in point 3 - relating to common measures for structural funds on the grounds that they do not serve the very objectives that cohesion policies are meant to achieve;

(...)