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Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

2012/2099(INI)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Regional Development

on the role of EU cohesion policy and their actors in implementing the new European energy policy
(2012/2099(INI))

Rapporteur: Ioan Enciu

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Welcomes the general approach of linking cohesion policy to the Europe 2020 objectives and its flagship initiatives in order to move towards smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to support the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors; recalls, however, the importance of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for achieving the social dimension of the energy policy, in accordance with the spirit of solidarity between Member States as enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty, and for combating energy poverty in the most vulnerable households;

2. Stresses the importance of cohesion policy, and of the financial resources allocated to it, for the full development of energy transmission infrastructure and networks between the Member States and all regions of the EU, including the outermost regions, for the completion and functioning of the internal energy market, for security of supply and for achieving the goal of convergence among EU regions; stresses that no region of the Member States should remain isolated from European gas and electricity networks after 2015 or suffer from inadequate connection to energy networks;

3. Considers it to be of paramount importance to be able to use the Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund and other financial instruments to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy use in the housing sector; calls on the Commission and the Member States, therefore, to disseminate clear, easily accessible information on the financial instruments, incentives, grants and loans available to support energy efficiency service projects.