



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Regional Development

2012/2290(INI)

24.4.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on forward policy planning and long-term trends: budgetary implications for
capacity-building
(2012/2290(INI))

Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Points out that, in line with the principle of subsidiarity, the development of long-term socio-economic strategies and the implementation of policies in the EU is the responsibility of a variety of public organisations, such as the European institutions, government ministries, regional or local authority departments and specific agencies; highlights the fact that the economic and social partners, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders also play a part in the development of long-term strategies alongside public bodies in the Member States and the European institutions; therefore, underlines that a multi-level governance approach should be applied;
2. Emphasises that, if the harmonious development of the Union and the smooth functioning of Union programmes is to be ensured, these structures need modern administrative and management capacities in order to formulate informed and interlinked forward-looking strategies, which should also include issues specific to the regions, and thereby contribute to the quality and effectiveness of different policies in various fields; stresses that the existing decision-making mechanisms and administrative processes should be assessed with a view to establishing whether the administration needs to be modernised; points out, however, that any increase in capacity should not involve the creation of new mechanisms or institutions but that existing administrative processes should be used more effectively as part of forward-looking strategies; takes the view that, if the harmonious development of the Union and the smooth functioning of Union programmes is to be ensured, the Member States require modern administrative and management capacities; takes the view that particular attention should be paid to Member States which record delays and low absorption rates over the programming period 2007-2013;
3. Highlights the fact that funding is available under the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund (CF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for strengthening institutional and administrative capacities at national, regional or local level, for example by modernising human resource management, reorganising the roles and competences of public administration, fighting corruption, reducing the administrative burden on businesses, strengthening regional and local administration, providing support to social partners and NGOs, modernising policy development processes and investing in public capital projects in various e-government fields; considers that preparing future beneficiaries of cohesion policy funding should be a priority for the current programming period;
4. Takes the view that e-governance can play a key part in capacity-strengthening, administrative modernisation and better horizontal and vertical coordination between the various bodies at national and European level; points out, further, that the implementation of e-governance must build on the wealth of experience gained in the Member States, European institutions and non-governmental organisations;
5. Stresses that, despite the progress achieved in reducing inequalities in development between regions, there remain major differences in terms of their level of economic and social development, and these differences can also be found in the quality of public

services offered to citizens;

6. Considers that the multiannual financial framework constitutes a very important instrument for the long-term planning of the European project, taking into account the European perspective and the added value of the Union; calls, however, for better coordination between the EU budget and the Member States' national budgets, and for the spending of public funds from planning to implementation to be done in such a way as to ensure greater complementarity, coordination and synergies without duplication of resources, and an effective contribution to achieving the objectives set; highlights the importance of linking the EU 2020 targets with national development strategies to ensure that investments are made in as effective and responsible a way as possible;
7. Stresses that, on account of its multiannual, long-term and horizontal character, cohesion policy is necessarily a policy with a strong forward-planning component and that, given its significant share of the EU budget, it needs to have a prominent place in any forward-looking budgetary planning;
8. Believes that policy formulation in respect of cohesion policy and other fields depends increasingly on the timely identification of long-term global trends; notes, in this connection, various forward-looking reports such as Project Europe 2030 (the report to the European Council by the Reflection Group on the Future of the EU 2030) and 'Global Trends 2030 – Citizens in an Interconnected and Polycentric World', prepared by the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) as part of the European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS) project;
9. Recommends closer coordination of such reporting initiatives and the establishment of an interinstitutional system to identify long-term trends in respect of major policy issues facing the Union, and considers that such a system should involve staff from all the relevant EU institutions and bodies, including the Committee of the Regions; believes that the reporting mechanism needs to be the subject of a discussion involving all relevant interest groups, business and non-governmental organisations.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	23.4.2013
Result of final vote	+: 42 -: 0 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Luís Paulo Alves, Catherine Bearder, Jean-Jacob Bicep, Victor Boştinaru, John Bufton, Nikos Chrysogelos, Ryszard Czarnecki, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Danuta Maria Hübner, Vincenzo Iovine, María Irigoyen Pérez, Seán Kelly, Constanze Angela Krehl, Petru Constantin Luhan, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, Riikka Manner, Iosif Matula, Miroslav Mikolášik, Jens Nilsson, Jan Olbrycht, Wojciech Michał Olejniczak, Younous Omarjee, Markus Pieper, Georgios Stavrakakis, Csanád Szegedi, Nuno Teixeira, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Justina Vitkauskaite, Oldřich Vlasák, Kerstin Westphal, Joachim Zeller, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Joseph Cuschieri, Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă, Karima Delli, James Nicholson, Ivari Padar, Herbert Reul, Elisabeth Schroedter, Richard Seeber, Czesław Adam Siekierski, Patrice Tirolien, Giommara Uggias, Manfred Weber