



2017/2052(INI)

22.6.2017

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the next MFF: preparing Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020
(2017/2052(INI))

Rapporteur: Derek Vaughan

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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 into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the multiannual financial framework (MFF) needs to be agreed quickly so that decisions can be taken on the future of cohesion policy;
 - B. whereas regional cohesion policy is one of the EU's core policies, bringing Europe together and strengthening its economy, and it is therefore key that sufficient funding for cohesion policy is provided for in the MFF;
 - C. whereas measures should be taken to ensure that the budgetary challenge deriving from the United Kingdom's departure from the EU does not disrupt regional policy, including by shifting to new own resources for funding;
 - D. whereas cohesion policy has contributed significantly to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy and to achieving its goals for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth; whereas the strategy should be reviewed for the post-2020 period, giving a major role to cohesion policy;
1. States that cohesion policy should remain the EU's main investment policy, but that more needs to be done to highlight the major role of cohesion policy in achieving the EU's political objectives;
 2. Calls, therefore, for the MFF to provide for sufficient funds for cohesion policy post-2020, striking a good balance between investments in citizens and investments for citizens and ensuring that the EU's political goals can be reached;
 3. Considers that regional funding should be protected and should continue to predominantly take the form of grants rather than financial instruments, which do, however, have an important role to play in certain cases; stresses that in the event of a reduction in the EU's budgets, greater focus on the EU's core goals is required;
 4. Considers that a 5+5 year MFF period might be preferable;
 5. Calls for the priorities of regional development programmes to be updated in order to take changing conditions into account and to benefit from new technology; also considers that more flexibility is required in the MFF to meet unforeseen challenges;
 6. Stresses the importance of regional cross-border initiatives in promoting economic growth;
 7. Calls for the Commission to look into the possibilities for greater synergies between the different EU funds, including cohesion policy, Horizon 2020 and EFSI;
 8. Considers that it is essential, in the context of the new MFF, to ensure that budgetary rules, and rules on cohesion policy spending, are at last simplified.