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Committee on Regional Development

2008/2183(INI)

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AMENDMENTS

1 - 34

Draft report
Miroslav Mikolášik
(PE414.264v01/00)

on the implementation of the Structural Funds Regulation 2007-2013: the results of the negotiations on the national cohesion strategies and the operational programmes
(2008/2183(INI))

AM_Com_NonLegReport

Amendment 1

Jean Marie Beaupuy

Motion for a resolution

Citation 9 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

- having regard to the European Parliament's resolution of 21 October 2008 on governance and partnership at national and regional levels and a basis for projects in the sphere of regional policy (2008/2064(INI))

Or. fr

Amendment 2

Rumiana Jeleva

Motion for a resolution

Recital B

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

B. whereas, according to Article 158 of the Treaty, in order to strengthen its economic and social cohesion, the Community aims at reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions or islands,

B. whereas, according to Article 158 of the Treaty, in order to strengthen its economic and social cohesion **and to improve the quality of life for all EU citizens**, the Community aims at reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions or islands,

Or. en

Amendment 3

Iratxe García Pérez

Motion for a resolution

Recital B

Motion for a resolution

B. whereas, according to Article 158 of the Treaty, in order to strengthen its economic **and** social cohesion, the Community aims at reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions or islands,

Amendment

B. whereas, according to Article 158 of the Treaty, in order to strengthen its economic, social **and territorial** cohesion, the Community aims at reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions or islands,

Or. es

Amendment 4

Elisabeth Schroedter, Gisela Kallenbach

Motion for a resolution

Recital B

Motion for a resolution

B. whereas, according to Article 158 of the Treaty, in order to strengthen its economic and social cohesion, the Community aims at reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions or islands,

Amendment

B. whereas, according to Article 158 of the Treaty, in order to strengthen its economic and social cohesion, the Community aims at reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions or islands, **including rural areas**,

Or. en

Amendment 5

Iratxe García Pérez

Motion for a resolution

Recital Ca (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ca. whereas the recent reports on cohesion highlight a trend towards a worsening of territorial disparities between European regions and at sub-regional level, disparities characterised by

phenomena such as spatial segregation, which have encouraged certain forms of ghettoisation to emerge, and the continued decline of some remote and predominantly agricultural areas,

Or. es

Amendment 6

Elisabeth Schroedter, Gisela Kallenbach

Motion for a resolution

Recital F

Motion for a resolution

F. whereas translating these priorities into operational programmes should enable regions to face the challenges of globalisation, *sustainable development*, structural, demographic and climate change,

Amendment

F. whereas translating these priorities into operational programmes should enable regions to face the challenges of globalisation, structural, demographic and climate change *and to strengthen sustainable development*,

Or. en

Amendment 7

Domenico Antonio Basile

Motion for a resolution

Recital F

Motion for a resolution

F. whereas translating these priorities into operational programmes should enable regions to face the challenges of globalisation, sustainable development, structural, demographic *and climate* change,

Amendment

F. whereas translating these priorities into operational programmes should enable regions to face the challenges of globalisation, sustainable development, structural *and* demographic change,

Or. it

Amendment 8
Jan Olbrycht

Motion for a resolution
Recital H

Motion for a resolution

H. whereas Member States were required by the General Regulation on the ERDF, the ESF and the Cohesion Fund to earmark 60% of the total expenditure for the **cohesion** objective and 75% for the regional competitiveness and employment objective to priorities related to the Lisbon Strategy,

Amendment

H. whereas Member States ***which joined the European Union before 1 May 2004*** were required by the General Regulation on the ERDF, the ESF and the Cohesion Fund to earmark 60% of the total expenditure for the ***'convergence'*** objective and 75% for the regional competitiveness and employment objective to priorities related to the Lisbon Strategy, ***and whereas Member States which joined the European Union on or after 1 May 2004 were recommended to adopt the same approach,***

Or. pl

Amendment 9
Elisabeth Schroedter, Gisela Kallenbach

Motion for a resolution
Recital I

Motion for a resolution

I. whereas good governance and application of the partnership principle, together with a strong institutional and administrative capacity, are essential to the successful implementation of cohesion policy,

Amendment

I. whereas ***sustainability, equality between men and women and the prevention of discrimination on the basis of gender, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation,*** good governance and application of the partnership principle, together with a strong institutional and administrative capacity, are essential to the successful implementation of cohesion policy,

Or. en

Amendment 10
Samuli Pohjamo

Motion for a resolution
Recital I a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ia. Notes with concern the slow start made to the new programming period in many Member States, which jeopardises the effective use of the funding;

Or. fi

Amendment 11
Elisabeth Schroedter, Gisela Kallenbach

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ia. Regrets that the principles of sustainability, equality of opportunity and non-discrimination, as well as partnership, have been insufficiently applied and documented in many National Strategic Reference Frameworks and Operational Programmes; is critical of the fact that the Commission has nonetheless approved Operational Programmes with such deficits and has not insisted on improvements by Member States or regions;

Or. de

Amendment 12
Rumiana Jeleva

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 2

Motion for a resolution

2. Takes note of the determination of Member States to address the specific territorial needs arising from their geographical location and economical and institutional development, by drawing-up strategies to diminish intra-regional and inter-regional imbalances; reiterates in this context that **reducing** regional disparities **remains** the principal goal of EU regional policy;

Amendment

2. Takes note of the determination of Member States to address the specific territorial needs arising from their geographical location and economical and institutional development, by drawing-up strategies to diminish intra-regional and inter-regional imbalances; reiterates in this context that ***the economic and environmentally sound development, as well as the reduction of*** regional disparities **remain** the principal goal of EU regional policy;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Iratxe García Pérez

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 2a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

2a. Stresses that convergence between countries may mask a widening gap between and within regions; notes furthermore that these regional and local disparities can be observed in a number of areas, such as employment, productivity, income, education levels and innovation capacity; stresses the importance of the territorial dimension of cohesion in overcoming these problems;

Or. es

Amendment 14
Iratxe García Pérez

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 2b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

2b. Stresses the particular developmental challenges facing regions with specific geographical features, such as mountain regions, islands, the outermost regions, remote border towns, regions suffering from depopulation and border regions;

Or. es

Amendment 15

Elisabeth Schroedter, Gisela Kallenbach

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

3. ***Appreciates*** the efforts made by the national authorities to ensure that the average allocation of expenditure for the achievement of the Lisbon agenda constitutes 65% of the available funds in the convergence regions and 82% in the regional competitiveness and employment regions, which is in fact more than was initially requested;

Amendment

3. ***Takes note of*** the efforts made by the national authorities to ensure that the average allocation of expenditure for the achievement of the Lisbon agenda constitutes 65% of the available funds in the convergence regions and 82% in the regional competitiveness and employment regions, which is in fact more than was initially requested; ***challenges however, whether the Lisbon earmarking contributes to reducing regional disparities;***

Or. en

Amendment 16

Iratxe García Pérez

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 4a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

4a. Points to the important role played by

small firms and microenterprises, particularly craft enterprises, in economic, social and territorial cohesion, through their important contribution they make to growth and employment; calls therefore for an active policy to support all forms of innovation in these enterprises and urges the Commission to create opportunities for mutual cooperation between businesses, the public sector, schools and universities, in order to create regional innovation clusters in the spirit of the Lisbon Strategy;

Or. es

Amendment 17
Elisabeth Schroedter, Gisela Kallenbach

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5a. Regrets that, of all the Structural Fund resources earmarked for transport (approx. € 82 bn), only about 31% (approx. € 24 bn) is allocated to rail transport; regards this share as too small to meet the challenges of environmental protection and combating climate change; recalls that, in its resolution on the First Railway Package, the European Parliament called for a share of at least 40% for rail transport;

Or. de

Amendment 18
Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Congratulates Member States on their efforts to prioritise investments aimed at increasing labour participation and improving skills, as well as fighting against poverty and social exclusion, in their programmes financed by the European Social Fund;

Amendment

6. Congratulates Member States on their efforts to prioritise investments aimed at increasing labour participation and improving skills, as well as fighting against poverty and social exclusion, in their programmes financed by the European Social Fund; ***stresses that it is important and necessary to continue efforts to support employment in the face of the growing economic crisis in Europe;***

Or. pl

Amendment 19

Iratxe García Pérez

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Congratulates Member States on their efforts to prioritise investments aimed at increasing labour participation and improving skills, as well as fighting against poverty and social exclusion, in their programmes financed by the European Social Fund;

Amendment

6. Congratulates Member States on their efforts to prioritise investments aimed at increasing labour participation, ***ensuring equal opportunities*** and improving skills, as well as fighting against poverty and social exclusion, in their programmes financed by the European Social Fund;

Or. es

Amendment 20

Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6a. Endorses the measures supported by the European Social Fund and the

***PROGRESS programme (2007-2013),
which are designed to help eliminate
discrimination and improve the situation
of women in the labour market;***

Or. pl

**Amendment 21
Iratxe García Pérez**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6 a (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

***6a. Stresses the importance of
mainstreaming the gender perspective,
equal opportunities and the special needs
of people with disabilities and senior
citizens at every stage in the
implementation and assessment of
cohesion policy;***

Or. es

**Amendment 22
Iratxe García Pérez**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6 b (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

***6b. Stresses the seriousness of the
problem of depopulation in many parts of
the European Union, which brings with it
the ageing of the population, the loss of
human capital, capital flight, more
expensive services, and so on;***

Or. es

Amendment 23
Domenico Antonio Basile

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Considers that measures aimed at protecting the environment, ***combating climate change*** and promoting energy efficiency should be incorporated into all operational programmes and appreciates the commitments made by Member States in order address these issues, by allocating approximately one third of the total cohesion policy budget to them; considers however that the specific allocations for ***combating climate change and*** promoting energy efficiency are insufficient to meet real needs;

Amendment

7. Considers that measures aimed at protecting the environment and promoting energy efficiency should be incorporated into all operational programmes and appreciates the commitments made by Member States in order address these issues, by allocating approximately one third of the total cohesion policy budget to them; considers however that the specific allocations for promoting energy efficiency are insufficient to meet real needs;

Or. it

Amendment 24
Elisabeth Schroedter, Gisela Kallenbach

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Considers that measures aimed at protecting the environment, combating climate change and promoting energy efficiency should be ***incorporated*** into all operational programmes and ***appreciates the commitments made by*** Member States in order address these issues, ***by allocating approximately one third of the total cohesion policy budget to them***; considers however that the specific allocations for combating climate change and promoting energy efficiency are insufficient to meet real needs;

Amendment

7. Considers that measures aimed at protecting the environment, combating climate change and promoting energy efficiency should be ***better integrated*** into all operational programmes and ***urges*** Member States in order address these issues, ***to ensure that these are fully integrated in project development, appraisal, implementation and monitoring***; considers however that the specific allocations for combating climate change and promoting energy efficiency ***and renewable energies*** are insufficient to meet real needs; ***therefore urges Member***

*States and regions to revise their
Operational Programmes accordingly;*

Or. en

Amendment 25

Elisabeth Schroedter, Gisela Kallenbach

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 8

Motion for a resolution

8. Notes that there is a substantial difference between the way EU-15 and EU-12 Member States allocated resources for this field and recognises the need of the new Member States to devote *significant* resources to achieving the EU's *average environmental protection level, which is the minimum required to ensure sustainable development*;

Amendment

8. Notes that there is a substantial difference between the way EU-15 and EU-12 Member States allocated resources for this field and recognises the need of the new Member States to devote *significantly more* resources to achieving the EU's *environmental, climate and biodiversity objectives as laid down in the Community acquis*;

Or. en

Amendment 26

Iratxe García Pérez

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 8 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

8a. Points out that climate change will have significant repercussions for cohesion, although its impact will vary by region; natural disasters, such as forest fires, droughts and flooding, will be more frequent and severe and will require different responses depending on the European region involved; considers that European Union cohesion policy should be 'climate-friendly', but points out that the scope available to cohesion policy in

Amendment

this area is limited; believes that the fight against climate change should also be addressed under other Community policies;

Or. es

Amendment 27
Elisabeth Schroedter, Gisela Kallenbach

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

8a. Considers that in time of economic crisis Member States should capitalize on the notion of achieving synergies between environmental protection and job creation stipulated in the Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion and allocate more resources into projects that promote green economy, green jobs and green innovation;

Or. en

Amendment 28
Elisabeth Schroedter, Gisela Kallenbach

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9. Considers that multi-level governance and the partnership principle are key elements of the legitimacy of operational programmes, their transparency, and their effectiveness during the programming phase and especially during the implementing process; welcomes, therefore, the efforts made by all Member States, in accordance with their specific

9. Considers that multi-level governance and the partnership principle are key elements of the legitimacy of operational programmes, their transparency, and their effectiveness during the programming phase and especially during the implementing process; welcomes, therefore, the efforts made by all Member States, in accordance with their specific

institutional frameworks and traditions, to strengthen the partnership principle in their programmes for the current period, in accordance with Article 11 of the General Regulation on the ERDF, the ESF and the Cohesion Fund; recommends especially to the new Members States which have little experience in building up effective partnerships to consistently reinforce the partnership principle while implementing the operational programmes;

institutional frameworks and traditions, to strengthen the partnership principle in their programmes for the current period, in accordance with Article 11 of the General Regulation on the ERDF, the ESF and the Cohesion Fund; recommends especially to the new Members States which have little experience in building up effective partnerships to consistently reinforce the partnership **and transparency** principle while implementing the operational programmes;

Or. en

Amendment 29
Iratxe García Pérez

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9a. Points out that the delays in implementing structural policy are due in part to the excessive rigidity of procedures and that these procedures should therefore be streamlined, introducing a clear division of responsibilities and competences between the European Union, the Member States and regional and local authorities;

Or. es

Amendment 30
Rumiana Jeleva

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9a. Calls on the Member States to closely

cooperate with the regional and local authorities already during the planning phase of the National Strategic Reference Frameworks in order to guarantee an optimal implementation of the national strategies and to fully live up to the ideals behind multi-level government;

Or. en

Amendment 31

Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 9 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9a. Stresses the need to promote cooperation between the private and public sectors in the form of public-private partnerships to make it possible to carry out many key projects to boost the effects of investment;

Or. pl

Amendment 32

Elisabeth Schroedter, Gisela Kallenbach

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 9 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9a. Regrets the inadequate assessment of the application of the partnership principle and the lack of attention devoted by the Commission to assessing whether Member States and regions have complied with their obligations in this respect; considers that the submission of guidelines on the application of the partnership principle would provide a

necessary frame of reference both for the administrative authorities and for the Commission; calls on the Commission once again, therefore, in view of the urgency of the matter due to the ongoing monitoring and the adjustment phases of Operational Programmes, to submit these guidelines immediately and provide the Member States and regions with the necessary support in implementing them;

Or. de

Amendment 33
Elisabeth Schroedter, Gisela Kallenbach

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9b. Misses an assessment of the coordination and complementarity of Structural Fund programmes with rural development programmes; notes that experience on the ground indicates that synergies between the two programmes are not being exploited sufficiently;

Or. de

Amendment 34
Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11. Particularly appreciates the integration by the new Member States of the URBAN and EQUAL Community Initiatives' results into the operational programmes for the 2007 - 2013 period; approves the efforts

11. Particularly appreciates the integration by the new Member States of the URBAN and EQUAL Community Initiatives' results into the operational programmes for the 2007 - 2013 period; approves the efforts

made by Member States to put in place integrated plans for sustainable urban development, as towns and cities are the seats of industries, responsible for economic growth and job creation; furthermore, considers that the full potential of the European Territorial Cooperation programmes should be exploited in order to speed-up development and achieve higher growth rates;

made by Member States to put in place integrated plans for sustainable urban development, as towns and cities are the seats of industries, responsible for economic growth and job creation; furthermore, considers that the full potential of the European Territorial Cooperation programmes, *as well as the Jessica, Jaspers, Jeremie and Jasmine instruments*, should be exploited in order to speed-up development and achieve higher growth rates;

Or. pl