



21.11.2018

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Regional Development

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments

(COM(2018)0374 – C8-0229/2018 – 2018/0199(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion (\*): Fabio Massimo Castaldo

(\*) Associated committee – Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure

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## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Commission proposal for the Regulation on specific provisions for the European Territorial Cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments (EFI), issued on 29 May 2018, contains substantial changes regarding the overall structure of territorial cooperation as well as future Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) programmes.

The first significant change is the Commission's proposal to reshape the cooperation strands by, inter alia, concentrating cross-border cooperation on land borders and integrate cross-border cooperation on maritime borders into an enlarged 'transnational cooperation and maritime cooperation' component. The rapporteur believes this would put into danger present and future maritime cross-border programmes, especially those in the Mediterranean. The objective of Interreg should be to create strong connections and reinforce partnerships between neighbouring countries which share either land or sea border. This is of particular importance for the programmes around the Mediterranean Sea where investing in partner countries and in their stability means also investing in the security and stability of the European Union. The rapporteur, therefore, suggests amendments to reintroduce cross-border maritime cooperation programmes, even if there is no fixed link over the sea and consequently reshapes the allocations in favour of component 1.

A second relevant change put forward by the draft Interreg Regulation is the proposal to apply a common set of rules for both the internal cooperation between Member States and the cooperation between EU Member States and non-EU countries. Therefore, the rules established by the Interreg Regulation will also affect CBC programmes co-financed by EU's external financing instruments, such as the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III).

This is a significant change compared to the current 2014-2020 period where external cross-border cooperation programmes are governed by specific implementing regulations. The rapporteur proposes that whenever the external financing instruments are used to co-finance Interreg programmes, their objectives and priorities, as stated in the respective regulations, are fully taken into account and explicitly mentioned in the Interreg Regulation.

The draft Interreg Regulation specifies already the shares of IPA III and NDICI financial envelopes to be provided for Interreg programmes. In order to allow for more flexibility, the rapporteur suggests removing the figures and adding references to the IPA III and NDICI Regulations instead, expecting that the margins would be set in those respective regulations.

While the efforts to simplify and maximise synergies between the various funds are welcome, the rapporteur thinks that the main purposes of EFI should not be disregarded. He therefore, proposes amendments in this regard, stating that the external cross-border cooperation under Interreg Regulation should complement cross-border cooperation programmes covered by the pre-accession and neighbourhood instruments. IPA assistance should continue to support the efforts of its beneficiaries to advance regional, macro-regional and cross-border cooperation as well as territorial development, including through the implementation of Union macro-regional strategies. With regard to NDICI assistance, the EU should continue to develop a special relationship with neighbouring countries, aiming to establish an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness, founded on the objectives and principles of the Union's external action.

The rapporteur maintains also that more flexibility in submission of programme documents should be allowed for when partner countries are involved, as experience shows they need more time as their procedures are not equivalent to those of EU Member States.

## AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Regional Development, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

### Amendment 1

#### Proposal for a regulation

##### Recital 1

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(1) Article 176 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ('TFEU') provides that the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF') is intended to help to redress the main regional imbalances in the Union. Under that Article and the second and third paragraphs of Article 174 *of the* TFEU, the ERDF is to contribute to reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and to reducing the backwardness of the least favoured regions, among which particular attention is to be paid to certain categories of regions, among which cross-border regions are explicitly listed.

###### *Amendment*

(1) Article 176 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ('TFEU') provides that the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF') is intended to help to redress the main regional imbalances in the Union. Under that Article and the second and third paragraphs of Article 174 TFEU, the ERDF is to contribute to reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and to reducing the backwardness of the least favoured regions, among which particular attention is to be paid to certain categories of regions, among which ***rural areas, areas affected by industrial transition, and regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps such as the northernmost regions with very low population density and islands, cross-border and mountain*** regions are explicitly listed.

### Amendment 2

#### Proposal for a regulation

##### Recital 2

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(2) Regulation (EU) [new CPR] of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>21</sup>

###### *Amendment*

(2) Regulation (EU) [new CPR] of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>21</sup>

sets out provisions common to the ERDF and certain other funds and Regulation (EU) [new ERDF] of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>22</sup> sets out provisions concerning the specific objectives and the scope of the ERDF support. It is now necessary to adopt specific provisions in relation to the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) where one or more Member States cooperate across borders with regard to effective programming including provisions on technical assistance, monitoring, evaluation, communication, eligibility, management and control, as well as financial management.

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<sup>21</sup> [Reference]

<sup>22</sup> [Reference]

sets out provisions common to the ERDF and certain other funds and Regulation (EU) [new ERDF] of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>22</sup> sets out provisions concerning the specific objectives and the scope of the ERDF support. It is now necessary to adopt specific provisions in relation to the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) where one or more Member States ***and one or more countries or other territories outside the Union*** cooperate across borders with regard to effective programming including provisions on technical assistance, monitoring, evaluation, communication, eligibility, management and control, as well as financial management.

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<sup>21</sup> [Reference]

<sup>22</sup> [Reference]

### **Amendment 3**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Recital 3**

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(3) In order to support the harmonious development of the Union's territory at different levels, the ERDF should support cross-border cooperation, transnational cooperation, ***maritime cooperation***, outermost regions' cooperation and interregional cooperation under the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg).

###### *Amendment*

(3) In order to ***foster prosperity and*** support the harmonious development of the Union's territory at different levels, the ERDF should support cross-border cooperation, transnational cooperation, outermost regions' cooperation and interregional cooperation under the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg).

### **Amendment 4**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Recital 4**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(4) The cross-border cooperation component should aim to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions, and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas *as evidenced in the Communication of the Commission 'Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions'*<sup>23</sup> ('*Border Regions Communication*'). Consequently, the cross-border component should *be limited to* cooperation on land borders and cross-border cooperation *on maritime* borders *should be integrated into the transnational component*.

## **Amendment 5**

### **Proposal for a regulation Recital 5**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(5) The cross-border cooperation component should also involve cooperation between one or more Member States and one or more countries *or other territories outside the Union*. Covering internal and external cross-border cooperation under this Regulation should result in a major simplification and streamlining of applicable provisions for the programme authorities in the Member States and for the partner authorities and beneficiaries outside the Union compared to the programming period 2014-2020.

## **Amendment 6**

### **Proposal for a regulation Recital 5 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(4) The cross-border cooperation component should aim to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the *land or maritime* border regions, and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas. Consequently, the cross-border component should *include* cooperation on land *or maritime* borders and cross-border cooperation *should support regions located along land or maritime* borders.

*Amendment*

(5) The cross-border cooperation component should also involve cooperation between one or more Member States and one or more *third* countries. Covering internal and external cross-border cooperation under this Regulation should result in a major simplification and streamlining of applicable provisions for the programme authorities in the Member States and for the partner authorities and beneficiaries outside the Union compared to the programming period 2014-2020.

*Amendment*

**(5a) *The external cross-border***

*cooperation under this Regulation should in no way substitute, but rather complement cross-border cooperation programmes covered by Regulation (EU) .../... [IPA III Regulation] and Regulation (EU) .../... [NDICI Regulation], in particular the efforts of their beneficiaries to advance regional, macro-regional and cross-border cooperation.*

## Amendment 7

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 9

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(9) Objective criteria for designating eligible regions and areas should be established. To that end, the identification of eligible regions and areas at Union level should be based on the common system of classification of the regions established by Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>26</sup>.

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<sup>26</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) (OJ L 154, 21.6.2003, p. 1).

*Amendment*

(9) Objective criteria for designating eligible regions and areas should be established. To that end, the identification of eligible regions and areas at Union level should be based on the common system of classification of the regions established by Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>26</sup>. ***For Interreg programmes with the participation of third countries, in the absence of NUTS classification, equivalent areas eligible under Regulation (EU) .../... [IPA III Regulation] and Regulation (EU) .../... [NDICI Regulation] should apply.***

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<sup>26</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) (OJ L 154, 21.6.2003, p. 1).

## Amendment 8

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 10

(10) It is necessary to continue supporting or, as appropriate, to establish cooperation in all its dimensions with the Union's neighbouring third countries, as such cooperation is an important regional development policy tool and should benefit the regions of the Member States which border third countries. To that effect, the ERDF and the external financing instruments of the Union, IPA<sup>27</sup>, NDICI<sup>28</sup> and OCTP<sup>29</sup>, should support programmes under cross-border cooperation, transnational cooperation **and maritime cooperation**, outermost regions' cooperation and interregional cooperation. The support from the ERDF and from the external financing instruments of the Union should be based on reciprocity and proportionality. However, for IPA III CBC and NDICI CBC, the ERDF support should be complemented by at least equivalent amounts under IPA III CBC and NDICI CBC, subject to **a maximum amount** set out in the respective legal act, that is to say, **up to 3 % of the financial envelope under IPA III and up to 4 % of the financial envelope of the Neighbourhood geographic programme under Article 4(2)(a) of the NDICI.**

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<sup>27</sup> Regulation (EU) XXX establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (OJ L xx, p. y).

<sup>28</sup> Regulation (EU) XXX establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (OJ L xx, p. y).

<sup>29</sup> Council Decision (EU) XXX on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Union including relations between the European

(10) It is necessary to continue supporting or, as appropriate, to establish cooperation in all its dimensions with the Union's neighbouring third countries, as such cooperation is an important regional development policy tool and should benefit the regions of the Member States which border third countries. To that effect, the ERDF and the external financing instruments of the Union, IPA<sup>27</sup>, NDICI<sup>28</sup> and OCTP<sup>29</sup>, should support programmes under cross-border cooperation, transnational cooperation, outermost regions' cooperation and interregional cooperation. The support from the ERDF and from the external financing instruments of the Union should be based on reciprocity and proportionality. However, for IPA III CBC and NDICI CBC, the ERDF support should be complemented by at least equivalent amounts under IPA III CBC and NDICI CBC, subject to **provisions** set out in the respective legal act, that is to say, **in Article [9] of Regulation (EU) .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council [IPA III Regulation] and Article [18] of Regulation (EU) .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council [NDICI Regulation].**

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<sup>27</sup> Regulation (EU).../... of the European Parliament and of the Council of...establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (OJ L xx, p. y).

<sup>28</sup> Regulation (EU) .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council of...establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (OJ L xx, p. y).

<sup>29</sup> Council Decision (EU) XXX on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Union including relations between the European



Union on the one hand and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other (OJ L xx, p. y).

Union on the one hand and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other (OJ L xx, p. y).

## Amendment 9

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 11

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(11) ***IPA III assistance should mainly focus on assisting the IPA beneficiaries to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law, reform the judiciary and public administration, respect fundamental rights and promote gender equality, tolerance, social inclusion and non-discrimination.*** IPA assistance should continue to support the efforts of the IPA beneficiaries to advance regional, macro-regional and cross-border cooperation as well as territorial development, including through the implementation of Union macro-regional strategies. ***In addition, IPA assistance should address security, migration and border management, ensuring access to international protection, sharing relevant information, enhancing border control and pursuing common efforts in the fight against irregular migration and migrant smuggling.***

*Amendment*

(11) IPA assistance should continue to support the efforts of the IPA beneficiaries to advance regional, macro-regional and cross-border cooperation as well as territorial development, including through the implementation of Union macro-regional strategies ***and address objectives and priorities as defined in Article [3] and Annexes II and III of IPA Regulation [IPA III].***

## Amendment 10

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 12

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(12) With regard to NDICI assistance, the Union should develop a special relationship with neighbouring countries, aiming to establish an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness, founded on the ***values*** of the ***Union and characterised by***

*Amendment*

(12) With regard to NDICI assistance, the Union should develop a special relationship with neighbouring countries, aiming to establish an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness, founded on the ***objectives and principles*** of the ***Union's***

*close and peaceful relations based on cooperation.* This Regulation and the NDICI should therefore support the internal and external aspects of relevant macro-regional strategies. Those initiatives are strategically important and offer meaningful political frameworks for deepening relations with and among partner countries, based on the principles of mutual accountability, shared ownership and responsibility.

*external action, as laid down in Article 3(5), Article 8, Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union and Article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, in particular the principles of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms on which it is founded, through dialogue and cooperation with partner countries and regions.* This Regulation and the NDICI should therefore support the internal and external aspects of relevant macro-regional strategies *and address objectives and priorities as defined in Article [3] and Annexes II and III of NDICI Regulation..* Those initiatives are strategically important and offer meaningful political frameworks for deepening relations with and among partner countries, based on the principles of mutual accountability, shared ownership and responsibility.

## Amendment 11

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 15

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(15) It is necessary to set out the resources allocated to each of the different components of Interreg, including each Member State's share of the global amounts for the cross-border cooperation, the transnational cooperation and maritime cooperation, the outermost regions' cooperation and the interregional cooperation, the potential available to Member States concerning flexibility between those components. ***Compared to the programming period 2014-2020, the share for cross-border cooperation should be reduced, while the share for transnational cooperation and maritime cooperation should be increased because of the integration of maritime cooperation, and a new outermost***

#### *Amendment*

(15) It is necessary to set out the resources allocated to each of the different components of Interreg, including each Member State's share of the global amounts for the cross-border cooperation, the transnational cooperation and maritime cooperation, the outermost regions' cooperation and the interregional cooperation, the potential available to Member States concerning flexibility between those components.

*regions' cooperation component should be created.*

## Amendment 12

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 24

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(24) Due to the involvement of more than one Member State, and the resulting higher administrative costs, in particular in respect of controls and translation, the ceiling for technical assistance expenditure should be higher than that under the Investment for jobs and growth goal. In order to offset the higher administrative costs, Member States should be encouraged to reduce the administrative burden with regard to the implementation of joint projects wherever possible. In addition, Interreg programmes with limited Union support or external cross-border cooperation programmes should receive a certain minimum amount for technical assistance to ensure sufficient funding for effective technical assistance activities.

*Amendment*

(24) Due to the involvement of more than one Member State **and one or more third countries**, and the resulting higher administrative costs, in particular in respect of controls and translation, the ceiling for technical assistance expenditure should be higher than that under the Investment for jobs and growth goal. In order to offset the higher administrative costs, Member States should be encouraged to reduce the administrative burden with regard to the implementation of joint projects wherever possible. In addition, Interreg programmes with limited Union support or external cross-border cooperation programmes should receive a certain minimum amount for technical assistance to ensure sufficient funding for effective technical assistance activities.

## Amendment 13

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 35

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(35) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the adoption or amendment of Interreg programmes, **implementing powers should be conferred on** the Commission. However, external cross-border cooperation programmes should respect, where applicable, Committee procedures established under Regulations (EU) [IPA III] and [NDICI] with regard to the first approval decision of those

*Amendment*

(35) The power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission for the adoption or amendment of Interreg programmes **by means of a multiannual strategy document**. However, external cross-border cooperation programmes should respect, where applicable, procedures established under Regulations

programmes.

(EU) [IPA III] and [NDICI] with regard to the first approval decision of those programmes.

#### **Amendment 14**

##### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point a**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(a) internal cross-border cooperation between adjacent land border regions of two or more Member States or between adjacent land border regions of at least one Member State and one or more third countries listed in Article 4(3); or

*Amendment*

(a) internal cross-border cooperation between adjacent land *or maritime* border regions of two or more Member States or between adjacent land *or maritime* border regions of at least one Member State and one or more third countries listed in Article 4(3);or

#### **Amendment 15**

##### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point b – introductory part**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(b) external cross-border cooperation, between adjacent land border regions of at least one Member State and of one or more of the following:

*Amendment*

(b) external cross-border cooperation, between adjacent land *or maritime* border regions of at least one Member State and of one or more of the following:

#### **Amendment 16**

##### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(2) transnational *cooperation and maritime* cooperation over larger transnational territories or around sea-basins, involving national, regional and local programme partners in Member

*Amendment*

(2) transnational cooperation over larger transnational territories or around sea-basins, involving national, regional and local programme partners in Member States, third countries and partner countries

States, third countries and partner countries and in Greenland, with a view to achieving a higher degree of territorial integration (*'component 2'*; where referring only to *transnational cooperation: 'component 2A'*; where referring only to *maritime cooperation: 'component 2B'*);

and in Greenland, with a view to achieving a higher degree of territorial integration;

## Amendment 17

### Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. For cross-border cooperation, the regions to be supported by the ERDF shall be the NUTS level 3 regions of the Union along all internal and external land borders with third countries or partner countries.

*Amendment*

1. For cross-border cooperation, the regions to be supported by the ERDF shall be the NUTS level 3 regions of the Union along all internal and external land *or maritime* borders with third countries or partner countries.

## Amendment 18

### Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. Regions on maritime borders which are connected over the sea by *a* fixed *link* shall also be supported under cross-border cooperation.

*Amendment*

2. Regions on maritime borders which are connected over the sea by fixed *links or other enduring cultural, historical and transportation links* shall also be supported under cross-border cooperation.

## Amendment 19

### Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

3. Internal cross-border cooperation Interreg programmes may cover regions in

*Amendment*

3. Internal cross-border cooperation Interreg programmes may cover regions in

Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom which are equivalent to NUTS level 3 regions as well as Liechtenstein, Andorra *and* Monaco.

Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom which are equivalent to NUTS level 3 regions as well as Liechtenstein, Andorra, Monaco *and San Marino*.

## Amendment 20

### Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 4

*Text proposed by the Commission*

4. For external cross-border cooperation, the regions to be supported by IPA III or NDICI shall be NUTS level 3 regions of the respective partner country or, in the absence of NUTS classification, equivalent areas along all land borders between Member States and partner countries eligible under IPA III or NDICI.

*Amendment*

4. For external cross-border cooperation, the regions to be supported by IPA III or NDICI shall be NUTS level 3 regions of the respective partner country or, in the absence of NUTS classification, equivalent areas along all land *or maritime* borders between Member States and partner countries eligible under IPA III or NDICI.

## Amendment 21

### Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. For transnational cooperation *and maritime cooperation*, the regions to be supported by the ERDF shall be the NUTS level 2 regions of the Union covering *contiguous* functional areas, taking into account, where applicable, macro-regional strategies or sea basin strategies.

*Amendment*

1. For transnational cooperation, the regions to be supported by the ERDF shall be the NUTS level 2 regions of the Union covering functional areas, taking into account, where applicable, macro-regional strategies or sea basin strategies.

## Amendment 22

### Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – introductory part

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Transnational *cooperation and maritime* cooperation Interreg programmes may

*Amendment*

Transnational cooperation Interreg

cover:

programmes may cover:

## Amendment 23

### Proposal for a regulation Article 9 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. The ERDF resources for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) shall amount to EUR **8 430 000 000** of the global resources available for budgetary commitment from the ERDF, ESF+ and the Cohesion Fund for the 2021-2027 programming period and set out in Article [102(1)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR].

*Amendment*

1. The ERDF resources for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) shall amount to EUR **xx xxx xxx xxx** of the global resources available for budgetary commitment from the ERDF, ESF+ and the Cohesion Fund for the 2021-2027 programming period and set out in Article [102(1)] of Regulation (EU)[new CPR].

## Amendment 24

### Proposal for a regulation Article 9 – paragraph 4

*Text proposed by the Commission*

4. Each Member State may transfer up to **15%** of its financial allocation for each of components 1, 2 and 3 from one of those components to one or more of the others.

*Amendment*

4. Each Member State may transfer up to **20%** of its financial allocation for each of components 1, 2 and 3 from one of those components to one or more of the others.

## Amendment 25

### Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The Commission shall adopt ***an implementing*** act setting out the multi-annual strategy document with regard to external cross-border Interreg programmes supported by the ERDF and the NDICI or IPA III. ***That implementing act shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 63(2).***

*Amendment*

The Commission shall adopt ***a delegated*** act setting out the multi-annual strategy document with regard to external cross-border Interreg programmes supported by the ERDF and the NDICI or IPA III.

## Amendment 26

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 10 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

With regard to Interreg programmes supported by the ERDF and the NDICI, that **implementing** act shall set out the elements referred to in Article 12(2) of Regulation (EU) [NDICI].

*Amendment*

With regard to Interreg programmes supported by the ERDF and the NDICI, that **delegated** act shall set out the elements referred to in Article 12(2) of Regulation (EU) [NDICI].

## Amendment 27

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 10 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Support from the ERDF shall be granted to individual external cross-border Interreg programmes provided that equivalent amounts are provided by IPA III CBC and NDICI CBC under the relevant strategic programming document. That **equivalence** shall be subject to a maximum amount set out in the IPA III or NDICI legislative act.

*Amendment*

Support from the ERDF shall be granted to individual external cross-border Interreg programmes provided that **at least** equivalent amounts are provided by IPA III CBC and NDICI CBC under the relevant strategic programming document. That **contribution** shall be subject to a maximum amount set out in the IPA III or NDICI legislative act.

## Amendment 28

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 12 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. In 2022 and 2023, the annual contribution from the ERDF to external cross-border Interreg programmes, for which no programme has been submitted to the Commission by **31 March** of the respective years, and which has not been re-allocated to another programme submitted under the same category of

*Amendment*

1. In 2022 and 2023, the annual contribution from the ERDF to external cross-border Interreg programmes, for which no programme has been submitted to the Commission by **30 April** of the respective years, and which has not been re-allocated to another programme submitted under the same category of



external cross-border Interreg programmes, shall be allocated to the internal cross-border Interreg programmes in which the Member State or Member States concerned participates or participate.

external cross-border Interreg programmes, shall be allocated to the internal cross-border Interreg programmes in which the Member State or Member States concerned participates or participate.

## Amendment 29

### Proposal for a regulation Article 12 – paragraph 2

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

2. If by **31 March** 2024, there are still external cross-border Interreg programmes which have not been submitted to the Commission, the entire contribution from the ERDF referred to in Article 9(5) to those programmes for the remaining years up to 2027, which has not been re-allocated to another external cross-border Interreg programme also supported by IPA III CBC or NDICI CBC respectively, shall be allocated to the internal cross-border Interreg programmes in which the Member State or Member States concerned participates or participate.

#### *Amendment*

2. If by **30 April** 2024, there are still external cross-border Interreg programmes which have not been submitted to the Commission, the entire contribution from the ERDF referred to in Article 9(5) to those programmes for the remaining years up to 2027, which has not been re-allocated to another external cross-border Interreg programme also supported by IPA III CBC or NDICI CBC respectively, shall be allocated to the internal cross-border Interreg programmes in which the Member State or Member States concerned participates or participate.

## Amendment 30

### Proposal for a regulation Article 12 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 2

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

In such cases, the contribution from the ERDF referred to in paragraph 1 corresponding to annual instalments not yet committed, or annual instalments committed and de-committed totally or partially during the same budgetary year, which have not been re-allocated to another external cross-border Interreg programme also supported by IPA III CBC or NDICI CBC respectively, shall be allocated to the internal cross-border Interreg programmes in which the Member

#### *Amendment*

In such cases, the contribution from the ERDF referred to in paragraph 1 corresponding to annual instalments not yet committed, or annual instalments committed and de-committed totally or partially during the same budgetary year, which have not been re-allocated to another external cross-border Interreg programme also supported by IPA III CBC or NDICI CBC respectively, shall be allocated to the internal cross-border Interreg programmes **or transnational**

State or Member States concerned participates or participate.

*cooperation programmes* in which the Member State or Member States concerned participates or participate.

### **Amendment 31**

#### **Proposal for a regulation Article 13 – paragraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. The co-financing rate at the level of each Interreg programme shall be not higher than **70** %, unless, with regard to external cross-border or component 3 Interreg programmes, a higher percentage is fixed in Regulations (EU) [IPA III], [NDICI] or Council Decision (EU) [OCTP] respectively or in any act adopted thereunder.

*Amendment*

1. The co-financing rate at the level of each Interreg programme shall be not higher than **75** %, unless, with regard to external cross-border or component 3 Interreg programmes, a higher percentage is fixed in Regulations (EU) [IPA III], [NDICI] or Council Decision (EU) [OCTP] respectively or in any act adopted thereunder.

### **Amendment 32**

#### **Proposal for a regulation Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point e a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(e a) promoting inter-cultural cross border dialogue through cultural and educational cooperation projects, co-creation, people to people exchanges and social debate as well as supporting the preservation and management of common cultural and linguistic heritage;*

### **Amendment 33**

#### **Proposal for a regulation Article 14 – paragraph 4 – point a – introductory part**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(a) under component 1 and **2B** Interreg programmes:

(a) under component 1 and **2** Interreg programmes:

#### **Amendment 34**

##### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Article 14 – paragraph 4 – point a – point ii**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(ii) enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions;

(ii) enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, ***civil society actors*** and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions;

#### **Amendment 35**

##### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Article 14 – paragraph 4 – point a – point ii a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(iia) enhance the security of the Union, including military mobility;***

#### **Amendment 36**

##### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Article 14 – paragraph 4 – point c**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(c) under external cross-border and component 2 and 3 Interreg programmes supported by the Interreg funds, in addition to points (a) and (b): building up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions, by enhancing sustainable democracy and by supporting civil society

(c) under external cross-border and component 2 and 3 Interreg programmes supported by the Interreg funds, in addition to points (a) and (b): building up mutual trust ***and fostering reconciliation***, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions, by enhancing sustainable

actors and their role in reforming processes and democratic transitions;

democracy and by supporting *independent media and* civil society actors and their role in reforming processes and democratic transitions;

### Amendment 37

#### Proposal for a regulation Article 14 – paragraph 5

*Text proposed by the Commission*

5. Under external cross-border and component 2 and 3 Interreg programmes the ERDF and, where applicable, the external financing instruments of the Union shall also contribute to the external Interreg-specific objective 'a safer and more secure Europe', in particular by actions in the fields of border crossing management and mobility and migration management, including the protection of migrants.

*Amendment*

5. Under external cross-border and component 2 and 3 Interreg programmes the ERDF and, where applicable, the external financing instruments of the Union shall also contribute to the external Interreg-specific objective 'a safer and more secure Europe', in particular by actions in the fields of border crossing management and mobility and migration management, including the protection of migrants. *Whenever funds from the external financing instruments are used to support Interreg programs, the objectives applicable to the relevant instruments, as specified in the respective [IPA], [NDICI] and [OCTP] Regulations shall also apply.*

### Amendment 38

#### Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. The European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) shall be implemented through Interreg programmes under shared management with the exception of component 3, which may be implemented as a whole or partially under indirect management, *and of component 5 which shall be implemented under direct or indirect management.*

*Amendment*

1. The European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) shall be implemented through Interreg programmes under shared management with the exception of component 3, which may be implemented as a whole or partially under indirect management.

## Amendment 39

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 16 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 2

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

However, an Interreg programme covering support from an external financing instrument of the Union shall be submitted by the Member State hosting the prospective managing authority no later than ~~six~~ months after the adoption by the Commission of the relevant strategic programming document under Article 10(1) or where required under the respective basic act of one or more of an external financing instrument of the Union.

##### *Amendment*

However, an Interreg programme covering support from an external financing instrument of the Union shall be submitted by the Member State hosting the prospective managing authority no later than **nine** months after the adoption by the Commission of the relevant strategic programming document under Article 10(1) or where required under the respective basic act of one or more of an external financing instrument of the Union.

## Amendment 40

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 17 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

Each priority shall correspond to a single policy objective or, where applicable, to one or both Interreg-specific objectives respectively or to technical assistance. A priority corresponding to a policy objective or, where applicable, to one or both Interreg-specific objectives respectively shall consist of one or more specific objectives. More than one priority may correspond to the same policy or Interreg-specific objective.

##### *Amendment*

Each priority shall correspond to a single policy objective or, where applicable, to one or both Interreg-specific objectives respectively or to technical assistance. A priority corresponding to a policy objective or, where applicable, to one or both Interreg-specific objectives respectively shall consist of one or more specific objectives. More than one priority may correspond to the same policy or Interreg-specific objective. ***Whenever funds from the external financing instruments are used to support Interreg programs, the priorities set for the relevant instruments, as specified in the respective [IPA], [NDICI] and [OCTP] Regulations shall also apply.***

## Amendment 41

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 17 – paragraph 7 – point b

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(b) lay down the procedure for setting up the joint secretariat;

*Amendment*

(b) lay down the procedure for setting up the joint secretariat ***and, where applicable, supporting management structures in the Member States or third countries;***

## Amendment 42

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 22 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

For the selection of operations, the monitoring committee or, where applicable, the steering committee shall establish and apply criteria and procedures which are non-discriminatory and transparent, ensure gender equality and take account of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the principle of sustainable development and of the Union policy on the environment in accordance with Article 11 and Article 191(1) ***of the*** TFEU.

*Amendment*

For the selection of operations, the monitoring committee or, where applicable, the steering committee shall establish and apply criteria and procedures which are non-discriminatory and transparent, ensure gender equality and take account of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, ***the European Convention of Human Rights*** and the principle of sustainable development and of the Union policy on the environment in accordance with Article 11 and Article 191(1) TFEU.

## Amendment 43

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 22 – paragraph 4 – point j a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(j a) Ensure that selected operations apply criteria and procedures which are non-discriminatory, ensure gender equality and take account of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the European Convention of***

*Human Rights and the principle of sustainable development and of the Union policy on the environment in accordance with Article 11 and Article 191(1) TFEU.*

#### **Amendment 44**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Article 23 – paragraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. An Interreg operation may be implemented in a single country, provided that *the impact on and the* benefits for the programme *area* are identified in the operation application.

*Amendment*

2. An Interreg operation may be implemented in a single country, provided that *cross border or transnational impacts and* benefits for the programme are identified in the operation application.

#### **Amendment 45**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Article 23 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

For Interreg operations under component 3 Interreg programmes, the partners from outermost regions and third countries, partner countries or OCTs shall be required to cooperate only in three of the four dimensions listed in the first subparagraph.

*Amendment*

For Interreg operations under component 3 Interreg *programmes and external cross-border* programmes, the partners from outermost regions and third countries, partner countries or OCTs shall be required to cooperate only in three of the four dimensions listed in the first subparagraph.

#### **Amendment 46**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Article 24 – paragraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The beneficiary of a small project fund shall be a cross-border legal body *or* an EGTC.

*Amendment*

2. The beneficiary of a small project fund shall be a cross-border legal body, *a Euroregion*, an EGTC *or managing authority or existing institution in one country in accordance with agreement between countries or regions participating*

*in the programme.*

#### **Amendment 47**

##### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Article 29 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***Project application and implementation rules of the programme;***

#### **Amendment 48**

##### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Article 36 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

Without prejudice to the eligibility rules laid down in Articles [57 to 62] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR], Articles [4 and 6] of Regulation (EU) [new ERDF] or in this Chapter, including in acts adopted thereunder, the participating Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries and OCTs shall, by a joint decision in the monitoring committee, only establish additional rules on eligibility of expenditure for the Interreg programme on categories of expenditure not covered by those provisions. Those additional rules shall cover the programme area as a whole.

Without prejudice to the eligibility rules laid down in Articles [57 to 62] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR], Articles [4 and 6] of Regulation (EU) [new ERDF], ***Article [10] of Regulation (EU) [IPA], Article [27] of Regulation (EU) [NDICI]*** or in this Chapter, including in acts adopted thereunder, the participating Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries and OCTs shall, by a joint decision in the monitoring committee, only establish additional rules on eligibility of expenditure for the Interreg programme on categories of expenditure not covered by those provisions. Those additional rules shall cover the programme area as a whole.

#### **Amendment 49**

##### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Article 36 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

However, where an Interreg programme selects operations based on calls for

However, where an Interreg programme selects operations based on calls for



proposals, those additional rules shall be adopted before *the first* call for proposals is published. In all other cases, those additional rules shall be adopted before the first operations are selected.

proposals, those additional rules shall be adopted before *each* call for proposals is published. In all other cases, those additional rules shall be adopted before the first operations are selected.

## Amendment 50

### Proposal for a regulation Article 44 – paragraph 5

*Text proposed by the Commission*

5. With regard to an Interreg programme under component **2B or under component 1** where *the latter* covers **long** borders with heterogenous development challenges and needs, Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries and OCTs participating in an Interreg programme may define sub-programme areas.

*Amendment*

5. With regard to an Interreg programme under component 1 where *it* covers borders with heterogenous development challenges and needs, Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries and OCTs participating in an Interreg programme may define sub-programme areas.

## Amendment 51

### Proposal for a regulation Article 45 – paragraph 1 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***1a. Where the managing authority does not carry out verification under point (a) of Article 68 (1) of Regulation (EU) (new CPR) throughout the whole programme area, each Member State shall designate the body or person responsible for carrying out such verification in relation to beneficiaries on its territory.***

## PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Title</b>	Specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments
<b>References</b>	COM(2018)0374 – C8-0229/2018 – 2018/0199(COD)
<b>Committee responsible</b> Date announced in plenary	REGI 11.6.2018
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	AFET 11.6.2018
<b>Associated committees - date announced in plenary</b>	5.7.2018
<b>Rapporteur</b> Date appointed	Fabio Massimo Castaldo 10.7.2018
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	8.10.2018
<b>Date adopted</b>	21.11.2018
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 47 –: 4 0: 5
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Michèle Alliot-Marie, Nikos Androulakis, Petras Auštrevičius, Bas Belder, Victor Boştinaru, Elmar Brok, Klaus Buchner, James Carver, Lorenzo Cesa, Georgios Eptideios, Eugen Freund, Michael Gahler, Iveta Grigule-Pēterse, Sandra Kalniete, Tunne Kelam, Wajid Khan, Andrey Kovatchev, Eduard Kukan, Arne Lietz, Sabine Lösing, Andrejs Mamikins, David McAllister, Francisco José Millán Mon, Javier Nart, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Demetris Papadakis, Ioan Mircea Paşcu, Alojz Peterle, Tonino Picula, Kati Piri, Julia Pitera, Cristian Dan Preda, Michel Reimon, Sofia Sakorafa, Jean-Luc Schaffhauser, Anders Sellström, Alyn Smith, Jordi Solé, Dobromir Sośnierz, Jaromír Štětina, Dubravka Šuica, Charles Tannock, László Tőkés, Miguel Urbán Crespo
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță, Takis Hadjigeorgiou, Marek Jurek, Antonio López-Istúriz White, David Martin, Gilles Pargneaux, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Marietje Schaake, Helmut Scholz, Eleni Theocharous, Mirja Vehkaperä, Željana Zovko

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

47	+
ALDE	Petras Auštrevičius, Iveta Grigule-Pēterse, Javier Nart, Marietje Schaake, Mirja Vehkaperä
ECR	Bas Belder, Marek Jurek, Charles Tannock, Eleni Theoharous
PPE	Michèle Alliot-Marie, Elmar Brok, Lorenzo Cesa, Michael Gahler, Sandra Kalniete, Tunne Kelam, Andrey Kovatchev, Eduard Kukan, Antonio López-Istúriz White, David McAllister, Francisco José Millán Mon, Alojz Peterle, Julia Pitera, Cristian Dan Preda, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Anders Sellström, Jaromír Štětina, Dubravka Šuica, László Tőkés, Željana Zovko
S&D	Nikos Androulakis, Victor Boştinaru, Eugen Freund, Doru-Claudian Frunzulică, Wajid Khan, Arne Lietz, Andrejs Mamikins, David Martin, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Demetris Papadakis, Gilles Pargneaux, Ioan Mircea Paşcu, Tonino Picula, Kati Piri
VERTS/ALE	Klaus Buchner, Michel Reimon, Alyn Smith, Jordi Solé

4	-
ENF	Jean-Luc Schaffhauser
NI	James Carver, Georgios Epitideios, Dobromir Sośnierz

5	0
GUE/NGL	Takis Hadjigeorgiou, Sabine Lösing, Sofia Sakorafa, Helmut Scholz, Miguel Urbán Crespo

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention