



Newsletter

A word from the Chair



Dear Colleagues,
Dear Friends,

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The year 2019 will be an important one for many reasons. The European Parliament elections will take place in May, and the term of the current Parliament will come to an end. Our REGI committee has been working hard for the past four and a half years to guarantee a strong and modern cohesion policy for the new funding period that starts in 2021.

We have still many important votes and discussions in the coming months. Good progress was made in the autumn with the ongoing legislative procedures, and our reports on the mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context and on INTERREG were both voted in committee before the end of the year. We will adopt our reports on the Common Provisions Regulation and the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund proposals in January and February.

In our Brussels meeting, on 22 January, we will welcome the Romanian presidency of the EU Council and hear about their priorities for the first six months of 2019. Commissioner Crețu will hold an exchange of views with Members about the current key topics in regional policy.

You can find more information on all these matters in this Newsletter.

I wish you and your families all the best for the New Year, and invite you to follow our next Committee meetings online.

Yours,

Iskra Mihaylova

*“Cohesion, a common
European value”*

*«Coeziunea, o valoare
comună europeană»*

[Motto for the Romanian
Presidency of the Council of the
European Union](#)



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Last time

REGI meetings

21-22 November 2018

Mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context - next steps



Matthijs van Miltenburg

The report was adopted in the committee on 22 November with 14 votes in favour, 1 against and 15 abstentions. The committee also backed starting the trilogues based on the committee report, and the negotiation mandate was later confirmed by the December plenary. The file will now be put on plenary agenda for first reading.

During the committee process, the rapporteur, Mr van Miltenburg, highlighted the voluntary nature of the mechanism and the possibility to choose whether to use the mechanism in a joint project on a case-by-case basis. He also pointed out that removing cross-border obstacles could have significant economic benefits, including notable GDP increase. You can read more of his thoughts in the ["explanatory statement"](#).

The European Commission published the proposal in the end of May 2018, and presented it in the REGI committee meeting in June. The exchange of views on the file took place in September, and the draft report was presented in October. After the committee vote and plenary confirmation of the mandate, the Parliament will now complete the first reading and wait for the Council to prepare its position for the negotiations.

3 December 2018

Interreg report adopted unanimously



Pascal Arimont

The vote on the new INTERREG regulation took place on December 3. The key changes to the EC proposal are: Reintroduction of the maritime dimension into cross-border cooperation to preserve cross-border maritime cooperation programmes, which are deemed essential for the regions with maritime borders; Increased resources for INTERREG: € 11.2 billion over the next MFF, +32.5% in comparison with the Commission's proposal, with some shifts in the allocation to put the accent on cross-border cooperation; an increase in the co-financing rate (80% instead of the 70% proposed by the Commission – still a decrease from the current 85%); transformation of component 5 into a new initiative on interregional innovation investments, based on smart specialisation, and used to support thematic smart specialisation platforms, with an allocation of € 970 million.

The final report was adopted (unanimously) in the December REGI meeting. On 16 January, the plenary confers on REGI a mandate to negotiate with the Council.

17 January 2019

Votes in the meeting

During the REGI meeting of 17 January, the committee members voted on four legislative opinions.

First, the committee members voted on the opinion regarding the proposal on establishing the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy (CAP). The rapporteur for this opinion is Mr Bogovič, and 123 amendments were tabled. The committee responsible for this proposal is Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI).

The second vote was on the legislative opinion on different agricultural products proposal (CAP 2021-2027). Mr Omarjee, rapporteur for the proposal, together with the rest of the committee members tabled a total of 32 amendments. The lead committee is Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI).

The third opinion put to vote was that relating to the proposal establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme. Following the draft report by the rapporteur Ms Maletić, in total 140 amendments were tabled to the opinion whose lead committee is Culture and Education (CULT).

Finally, this meeting also held the vote on the opinion on the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) proposal. Mr Zeller is rapporteur for this opinion, and 85 amendments were tabled to the proposal. The Foreign Affairs committee (AFET) is in charge of this legislative proposal.

*** VOTED IN THE LAST MEETINGS ***

During the Committee meetings on 21-22 November, 3 December, 13 December and 17 January the following texts were adopted (for more information please follow the hyperlink):

TITLE	RAPPORTEUR
Draft report on Mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context 2018/0198(COD)	Matthijs van Miltenburg (ALDE)
Draft opinion on Establishing the InvestEU Programme 2018/0229(COD)	Kerstin Westphal (S&D)
Draft opinion on Protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States 2018/0136(COD)	Iskra Mihaylova (Chair)
Draft opinion on Establishment of the Reform Support Programme 2018/0213(COD)	Iskra Mihaylova (ALDE)
Draft report on Specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments 2018/0199(COD)	Pascal Arimont (PPE)
Draft opinion on European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2018/0210(COD)	Iskra Mihaylova (Chair)

Draft opinion on Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 with regard to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union

[2018/0299\(COD\)](#)

John Howarth (S&D)

Draft opinion on Financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy

[2018/0217\(COD\)](#)

Franc Bogovič (PPE)

Draft opinion on Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, (EU) No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs, (EU) No 251/2014 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatised wine products, (EU) No 228/2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union and (EU) No 229/2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in favour of the smaller Aegean islands

[2018/0218\(COD\)](#)

**Younous Omarjee
(GUE/NGL)**

Draft opinion on Establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme

[2018/0230\(COD\)](#)

Ivana Maletić (PPE)

Draft opinion on Establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III)

[2018/0247\(COD\)](#)

Joachim Zeller (PPE)

Ahead of us

REGI meetings

(*) agenda of the forthcoming meetings might be changed after publication of the Newsletter

22 January 2019

Vote on CPR



Andrey Novakov



Constanze Krehl

At this meeting, the committee will vote on the proposal for the new Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) for the 2021-2027 period. In total, 2181 amendments have been tabled to the proposal in the REGI committee. There are also opinions by the AGRI, BUDG, CONT, ECON, EMPL, ENVI, FEMM, LIBE and TRAN committees.

The committee has held an extensive debate on the proposal and on the amendments tabled thereto. The co-rapporteurs, Andrey Novakov and Constanze Krehl, and the shadow rapporteurs have also held consultations on compromise text, leading to cross-party agreement on large parts of the proposal, including most of the major provisions.

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Presentation of priorities of the Romanian Presidency of the Council

During the meeting of Tuesday 22 January, Ms Rovana Plumb, Minister of European Funds, will present to the committee the priorities of the forthcoming Romanian Presidency of the Council.

This presentation will be of great importance to the REGI committee, not only because it is the first time that Romania will hold the rotating Council Presidency, but also because the priorities of the Romanian Presidency are driven by the motto: *'Cohesion, a common European value'*.

In line with this motto, the main priorities set by this country are: Europe of convergence, a safer Europe, Europe as a strong global actor and Europe of common values.

[Here](#) you can find more information about the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Exchange of views with Commissioner Corina Crețu

An exchange of views with Commissioner Corina Crețu will also take place during this meeting of 22 January. It will be an opportunity for Members to delve deeper into all aspects of the European Structural and Investment Funds.

Commissioner Crețu will address key issues raised by Committee Members. The meeting is a part of REGI committee's regular dialogue with the Commission.

Update on the REGI work on legislative MFF opinions

The European Commission launched its legislative proposals under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MF) at the end of May and the beginning of June last year. The Committee on Regional Development is the lead committee in three legislative reports - the Common Provisions regulation, European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund, and Interreg. In addition, the committee is giving opinions on several legislative files linked to cohesion policy.

Most of the opinions have already been adopted: Horizon Europe, ESF+, LIFE, EGF, Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), TEN-T, Maritime and Fisheries Fund, InvestEU, rule of law and Reform Support Programme were all voted in committee before the end of the year 2018.

Four opinions were put to vote on 17 January - two opinions that REGI is preparing for the AGRI committee, the European Solidarity Corps and IPA III. One CAP related opinion will still be voted in February. The lead committees will vote their reports on these topics in the early months of this year.

You can find more information on the draft opinions and opinions on the [REGI committee website under Documents tab](#).

Upcoming events in Brussels or near to your home

Date	Event	Place	Additional info
22 January	REGI Committee meeting	EP, Brussels	
7 February	REGI Committee meeting	EP, Brussels	
14 February	Extraordinary REGI Committee meeting	EP, Brussels	
20-21 February	REGI Committee meeting	EP, Brussels	
27 February	ARLEM Award - Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean	Seville, Spain	
7 March	REGI committee meeting	EP, Brussels	
14-15 March	8th European Summit of Regions and Cities	Bucharest, Romania	

Useful internet links

[REGI Website](#)

[EP studies Website](#)

[EP Library - Info on items related to regional development](#)

[OEIL - The Legislative Observatory](#)

[EUR-Lex](#)

[EC Regional Policy - InfoRegio](#)

[Committee of the Regions](#)