

reginews

newsletter of the committee on regional development



Next Committee meeting

Wednesday 19 March 2014

9.00 - 12.30
15.00 - 18.30

Room PHS 3 C 050

in focus

- ***Presentation of the external study on "Impact of the Economic Crisis on the Economic, social and territorial Cohesion of the European Union"***
- ***Exchange of views on "Microfinance and Cohesion Policy"***
- ***Exchange of views with Romanian Minister Eugen Teodorovici***
- ***Hearing on "Partnership Agreements"***
- ***Vote on the European Union Solidarity Fund***

comments and subscriptions at regi-secretariat@europa.eu

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Next Publication
Committee Meeting on
31 March 2014
15.00 - 18.30
And
1st April 2014
9.00 - 12.30

Useful Internet links
EP Library - Info on items related to regional development
OEIL - The Legislative Observatory
Regional Policy InfoREGIO
EUR-Lex
Committee of the Regions
EP studies Website
REGI Website



part 1 meeting of 19 March 2014

Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI committee meeting on 19 March 2014. The following items will be discussed as foreseen in [the draft agenda](#). Please note that most committee documents (working documents, draft reports, etc.) are available at our website [REGI](#).

1. Presentation of the External Study on the "Impact of the Economic Crisis on the Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion of the European Union" (Point 3 of the draft agenda)

The economic and financial crisis started in 2008 as an acute crisis of the banking system, but then quickly affected the real economy, causing a deep slump in business investment, household demand and output.

In November 2008 the European Commission launched a European Economic Recovery Plan with a view to coordinate Member States' action in response to the crisis. The Structural Funds proved to be a remarkably flexible instrument, and the speed with which its procedures allowed for a re-direction of the funds has been praised. Its ability to adjust to widely diverse national and local contexts that have been hit differently by the effects of the crisis, and to support the different patterns of economic growth that will result from it, is yet to be seen.

In this context the Study uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods in order to provide an overview of the impact of the crisis across Member States and regions, in terms economic, social and territorial cohesion and to assess the responses of cohesion policy to counteract the crisis.

The crisis has led to two main consequences that mainly affected the management of EU cohesion policy which changed in order to favour spending and absorption of funds. In this respect, the Structural Funds, in the slowdown period, turned out to be effective as they helped maintain the level of investments in the private and public sectors and implement some non-investment projects.

The results of the research will be presented by Dr Simona Milio, London School of Economics and Political Science.

2. Exchange of views on "Microfinance and Cohesion Policy" with guest speakers (Point 4 of the draft agenda)

In its 2006 Communication, entitled "Implementing the Community Lisbon Programme: Financing SME Growth – Adding European Value (COM (2006)0349), acknowledging that 14% of the then 23 million SMEs in the EU needed improved access to debt finance, or had difficulties in seeking loans or microcredit for their projects, the Commission had called on Member States to adopt national legislation facilitating the provision of microfinance (loans less than EUR 25 000), as these constitute an important means to encourage entrepreneurship through self-employment and micro-enterprises, in particular among women, and minorities, favouring not only competitiveness and entrepreneurship, but also social inclusion.

Following this Communication, the Commission has further adopted in 2007 a Communication on a European initiative for the development of micro-credit in support of growth and employment (COM(2007)0708), proposing ways in which obstacles to the development of an active microcredit sector could be eliminated, or their significance reduced. In this context, the Commission has proposed the establishment of a new facility to provide technical assistance and general support for the consolidation and development of nonbank micro-finance institutions (MFIs) in the Member States and regions, with financial support coming from the existing technical assistance budget of the Structural Funds (ERDF) managed by the European Commission. The Commission has further proposed that, in view of the interest expressed by the European Investment Fund (EIF) in this field, the facility could be managed by the EIF, which is also responsible for the Joint European Resources to Micro to medium-sized Enterprises (JEREMIE) supporting access to finance to SMEs.

The EU does not directly provide microloans to individuals or businesses, but provides guarantees, loans and equity to intermediaries who can then lend to small businesses or make available equity finance, but runs microfinance programmes (loans under EUR 25 000) for self-employed people and businesses with fewer than 10 employees, through the following:

The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, which supports micro-entrepreneurs to start up or expand their business;

- The European Progress Microfinance Facility, which provides microloans to people who lost their jobs and want to start up their own business or to people who want to develop their existing business, but do not have access to traditional banking services;
- The JEREMIE, which allows EU countries to use EU structural funds to support small and very small businesses.

Following the above-mentioned Communication of 2007 on a European initiative for the development of micro-credit in support of growth and employment, the JASMINE initiative was launched in 2008, with a budget of around EUR 6 million for 2008-2103, funded by the Commission, and co-financed and managed by the European Investment Fund (EIF), on behalf of the Commission.

This is an initiative in the field of microcredit, and is being developed in the framework of JEREMIE. JASMINE is a Technical Assistance Facility, which provides technical assistance to selected microcredit providers (among non-bank financial institutions and licensed banks never rated by specialised microfinance rating agencies), providing microcredit products and business development tools and services for the microcredit sector, with the following goals:

- Disseminate good practice in the EU as regards microcredit lending;
- Support the development of microcredit providers active in the EU in various fields such as institutional governance, information systems, risk management and strategic planning (capacity building);
- Help these intermediaries become sustainable and viable operators on commercial terms.

Initially, JASMINE provided various financial and non-financial services to MFIs, but it currently concentrates on delivering TA to microcredit providers, while financing is made available to microcredit-providers through the above-mentioned Progress Facility, managed by the EIF.

In the context of JASMINE overall goal of disseminating good practice and establish standards in the EU microcredit sector, which is characterised by great institutional diversity and by a lack of an homogenous regulatory and legislative framework, a European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision, to be accepted on a voluntary basis, has been designed and adopted¹.

The JASMINE TA initiative has been subject to an external evaluation launched by DG REGIO in 2013, which resulted in the Final Report on the Evaluation of the JASMINE Technical Assistance Pilot Phase, of 14 November 2013.

¹ The English version of the Code can be found in the following address:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/doc/code_bonne_conduite_en.pdf

The Committee will host a debate on the role and added-value of EU initiatives around microcredit and microfinance in the creation of small businesses, in the reduction of unemployment and in addressing economic and social inclusion in the EU, as well as on the challenges ahead, with the participation of the following experts:

- Per-Erik Eriksson, Head of Microfinance Investments, European Investment Fund, EIF;
- Maria Nowak, Présidente de l'Adie International;
- Isabelle De Schryver, EC-DG REGIO policy officer, Unit B.3, Financial Instruments and International Financial Institutions Relations.

3. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (Point 5 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteurs: Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE) and Constanze Angela Krehl (S&D)
Responsible administrators: Monika Makay/Gabriel Alvarez/Stefan Doena
Procedure: 2014/2619(DEA)
Main committee: REGI

The Common Provisions Regulation for the European Structural and Investment Funds (Regulation 1303/2013), empowers the Commission to adopt diverse delegated acts in order to complete and develop the basic regulation.

The 3rd of March the second Delegated Act was transmitted to the European Parliament. It covers 15 different delegations of power related to the following topics:

1. CPR Art 22 (7) - Financial corrections linked to performance reserve
2. CPR Art 37 (13) – Financial Instruments (FI): rules on purchase of land and on combination of TA
3. CPR Art 38 (4) - FI: Role, liabilities and responsibility of bodies implementing FIs; Selection criteria of bodies implementing FI; Guarantees delivered through FIs
4. CPR Art 40 (4) - FI, Management and Control of FI
5. CPR Art 41 (3) - FI, Rules for withdrawal of payments
6. CPR Art 42 (1) - FI, Capitalisation of annual instalments for interest rate subsidies and guarantee fee subsidies
7. CPR Art 42 (6) - FI: Criteria for determining Management costs and fees and applicable thresholds; reimbursement of capitalised management costs and fees
8. CPR Art 61 (3) - Revenue-generating operations, method for calculating discounted net revenue
9. CPR Art 68(1)- Flat rate financing for indirect costs, other Union policies
10. CPR Art 101 subpara. 4 - Major projects, quality review
11. CPR Art 125 (8) - Functions of the Managing Authority: system to record and store data on each operation

12. CPR Art 125 (9) - Functions of the Managing Authority: rules concerning arrangements for the audit trail
13. CPR Art 127 (7) - Functions of the Audit Authority, scope and content of audits, methodology for selection of samples
14. CPR Art 127 (8) – Functions of the Audit Authority, use of data collected during audits carried out by Commission
15. CPR Art 144 (6) – Criteria for financial corrections (serious deficiencies, level of correction, flat rates)

The deadline of two months for Parliament or Council to object the act runs from 3rd March and ends 3rd May, if the two months extension allowed is not requested. In order to object to a delegated act, Parliament must adopt a Resolution which needs to be properly adopted by the committee responsible in accordance with Rule 87 a) of the Rules of Procedure.

Upon receipt the delegated regulation was distributed to all Members of REGI and a written consultation of the coordinators and Negotiating Team Members was started with a view to assess the delegated act and monitor as whether any request to postpone the 2 month period for objection or to object the act is presented. Furthermore, EMPL, PECH and AGRI Committees were duly informed given that EMPL Committee enjoyed Rule 50 for part of the CPR, so this rule is also applicable to the Delegation Act related to the areas in which article 50 was applicable and considering that both AGRI and PECH were in *saisine*.

The Delegated Act is scheduled for debate in REGI the 19 March 2014 with the participation of Mr Nicholas Martyn (EC). After the meeting REGI Members will have the possibility to table a motion for resolution to object the delegated act. If any motion received, a vote will take place in the last REGI meeting, on 1 April 2014.

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 19/31/2014

Deadline for amendments: tbc

Adoption REGI: tbc

Plenary: tbc

4. Commission Delegated Regulation supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to specific rules on eligibility of expenditure for cooperation programmes (Point 6 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteurs: Riikka Pakarinen (ALDE)

Responsible administrator: Susanne Pillath

Procedure: 2014/2623(DEA)

Main committee: REGI

The Regulation on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal (Regulation 1299/2013) in Article 18 (1) empowers the Commission to adopt delegated acts to set up specific rules on eligibility of expenditure for cooperation programmes with regard to staff costs, office and administrative expenditure, travel and accommodation costs, external expertise and services costs and equipment expenditure.

The deadline of two months for Parliament or Council to object the act runs from 4th March and ends 4th May, if the two months extension allowed is not requested. In order to object to a delegated act, Parliament must adopt a

Resolution which needs to be properly adopted by the committee responsible in accordance with Rule 87 a) of the Rules of Procedure.

Upon receipt the delegated regulation was distributed to all Members of REGI and a written consultation of the coordinators and Negotiating Team Members was started with a view to assess the delegated act and monitor as whether any request to postpone the 2 month period for objection or to object the act as presented.

The Delegated Act is scheduled for debate in REGI the 19 March 2014 with the participation of Mr Nicholas Martyn (EC, DG Regio). After the meeting REGI Members will have the possibility to table a motion for resolution to object the delegated act. If any motion is received, a vote will take place in the last REGI meeting, on 1 April 2014.

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 19/03/2014

Deadline for amendments: tbc

Adoption REGI: tbc

Plenary: tbc

5. Commission Delegated Regulation supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the detailed rules concerning the principles for the selection and management of innovative actions in the area of sustainable urban development to be supported by the European Regional Development Fund (Point 7 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteurs: Jan Olbrycht (PPE)

Responsible administrator: Stefan Donea

Procedure: 2014/2647 (DEA)

Main committee: REGI

According to article 8 of the Regulation 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal, the Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts with regard to the detailed rules concerning the principles for the selection and management of innovative actions in the area of sustainable urban development to be supported by the European Regional Development Fund.

The deadline of two months for Parliament or Council to object the act runs from 11th March and ends 11th May, if the two months extension allowed is not requested. In order to object to a delegated act, Parliament must adopt a Resolution which needs to be properly adopted by the committee responsible in accordance with Rule 87 a) of the Rules of Procedure.

Upon receipt the delegated regulation was distributed to all Members of REGI and a written consultation of the coordinators and Negotiating Team Members was started with a view to assess the delegated act and monitor as whether any request to postpone the 2 month period for objection or to object the act as presented.

The Delegated Act is scheduled for debate in REGI the 19 March 2014 with the participation of Mr Nicholas Martyn (EC, DG Regio). After the meeting REGI Members will have the possibility to table a motion for resolution to object the delegated act. If any motion is received, a vote will take place in the last REGI meeting, on 1 April 2014.

TIMETABLE**Exchange of views: 19/03/2014****Deadline for amendments: tbc****Adoption REGI: tbc****Plenary: tbc**

6. Exchange of views with Eugen Teodorovici, Minister of European Funds, on the current stage of preparation of the Partnership Agreement and of the operational programmes in Romania (Point 8 of the draft agenda)

The Minister of European Funds, Mr Eugen Teodorovici, has been invited to share with the Members the recent experiences and difficulties Romania has faced as regards the implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy and in particular the process which should lead to the adoption of the Partnership Agreement and of the Operational Programmes. Following his intervention, an exchange of views with the Members is foreseen.

7. Hearing on "Partnership Agreements: where are we now?" (Point 9 of the draft agenda)

After the adoption of the Cohesion Policy package last year, the focus has been shifted towards the implementation of the new legislation. One of the key elements for the implementation of the new EU Cohesion Policy refers to the partnership agreements. These have to be proposed by the Member States and approved by the European Commission in this period. Therefore, the subject is of utmost importance and the public hearing gives the opportunity of bringing together experts, who could share their experiences concerning the preparation of the Partnership Agreements and of the national operational programmes.

After the presentations of the invited experts and the point of view of the European Commission, a debate will follow on this topic (see more details in the attached programme).

Public Hearing on

Partnership Agreements: where are we now?

19 March 2014

15:30 - 17:00

Room: PHS - P3C050

- Programme -

15:30 - 15:40 **The Dutch bottom-up approach for the Partnership Agreement: multilevel governance as standard approach**

Mr Bas van den Barg

Senior Policy Officer Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) The Netherlands

15:40 - 15:50 **General comments on the Partnership Agreement in Poland**

Mr Marek Kozak

Professor at the Centre for European Regional and Local Studies (EUROREG), University of Warsaw, Poland

15:50 - 16:00 Operational programme: current status and challenges ahead

Ms Marjana Dermelj

Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Slovenia

16:00 - 16:10 Partnership Agreement 2014-2020: Challenges and opportunities for Bulgaria

Ms Dobrinka Vesselinova Krasteva

Director "Programming of EU Funds Directorate within the Council of Ministers, Bulgaria

16:10 - 16:20 Local perspectives on partnership agreement of Romania

Mr Marian – Constantin Vasile

Vice President of Timis County Council in charge with the County's the Development Agency (Romania) and President of Economic and Regional Development Committee of the Assembly of European Regions

16:20 - 16:30 Federal ESF OP Germany - Realization of the partnership principle

Mr Ulrich Tiburcy

Leiter der Vertretung, Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege e. V., EU Vertretung, Brussels

16:30 - 16:40 Mr Normunds Popens Deputy Director General DG Regio - European Commission

16:40 - 17:00 Questions by Members

8. European Union Solidarity Fund (Point 10 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Rosa Estaràs Ferragut (PPE)

Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev

Procedure: 2013/0248(COD)

Main committee: REGI

A mandate to open negotiations with the Council was voted on January 22nd following Rule 70(2) of the Rules of Procedure.

The report has been adopted according to Rule 70(2) first subparagraph and first sentence of second subparagraph, of the Rules of Procedure, in view of establishing a mandate for negotiation. The mandate was adopted by an ample majority of the committee.

The NT is composed of the Chair, presiding, Ms ESTARAS FERRAGUT, rapporteur, and the following shadows: Kerstin Westphal (S&D) Ivars Godmanis (ALDE), Nikos Chrysogelos (Verts/ALE), Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL) and Oldřich Vlasák (ECR).

A political agreement has been reached after only three trilogues on 26th February. The remaining issues were agreed by a written procedure at the EP. The Coreper approved the agreement reached in trilogue on March 12th and the draft consolidated text and an official letter by the EL Presidency was transmitted to Parliament on March 12th.

The vote on the text agreed in accordance with Rule 70(5) of the Rules of Procedure is thus scheduled for March 19th in REGI committee, and if adopted, the agreed text will be tabled to Plenary, for a vote which is to be held during April session.

The political agreement was secured over a package deal, including all the outstanding issues in the reform as follows:

- New mechanism for advance payments - to be available to disaster-hit regions for the first time. The amount will be 10 % of the anticipated contribution (capped at EUR 30 million). This reserve will be constituted by a decision of the budgetary authorities and will come under the annual ceilings agreed for the Fund in the MFF regulation;
- Clearer rules on eligibility for regional disaster - New clear quantitative criteria are introduced with one single criterion for the more limited 'regional' disasters. This will be based on 1.5 % threshold of regional gross domestic product. In addition, the European Parliament team managed to secure a lower threshold of 1% to be applicable to Outermost regions of the European Union;
- Other achievements of the European Parliament's negotiating team include:
 - Extending time limit for the submission of applications by Member States (from 10 to 12 weeks);
 - Extending the implementation time of the funds allocated to 18 months (one year previously).
 - New more coherent and comprehensive guidance to be provided from the European Commission to applicant countries on the use and implementation of the Fund.

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 27/11/2013

Presentation of draft report: 18/12/2013

Deadline for amendments: 06/01/2014

Public hearing: 22/01/2014

Vote of mandate to open interinstitutional negotiations (art 70 of Rules of Procedure): 22/01/2014

Adoption REGI: 19/03/2014

Plenary: April 2014 (tbc)

9. Exchange of views on a draft letter to the Committee on Budgets on the priorities of Committee on Regional Development for the mandate for the Trilogue (EU Budget 2015) (Point 11 of the draft agenda)

The BUDG Committee has informed the specialised committees that the EU Budget 2015 procedure will be organised differently as compared to the usual, due to the elections. Until the end of the current parliamentary term, there will not be any formal procedural steps to be taken in the specialised committees. Indeed, the usual adoption of the Mandate for the Trilogue in June or July Plenary, to which specialised committees normally contribute with opinions is not possible to follow this year. The mandate will thus only be endorsed by the BUDG coordinators in July, taking into consideration priorities communicated by the specialised committees until mid-April in form of a letter. A draft letter on the REGI committee priorities in view of the Mandate for the Trilogue will be debated in the REGI meeting of 19 March, upon previous consultation with the coordinators on the substance.



part 2 meetings of 11 February & 24 February 2014

Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meetings held on 11 February and on 24 February 2014. The following items were discussed as detailed below. Please note that most committee documents (working documents, draft reports, etc.) are available at our website [REGI](#).

Meeting of 11 February 2014

1. External Study on "European Economic Governance and Cohesion Policy"

Outcomes of the study were presented by Iain Begg from London School of Economics and John Bachtler from European Policies Research Centre. This study investigates the likely consequences of the many economic governance reforms adopted in the EU since 2008 and their implications for Cohesion Policy. An exchange of views with the Members followed with specific focus on absorption rate, contradictions between different policies objectives (macroeconomic reforms and cohesion policy), and difficulties linked to the squeeze on national budgets and consequences for Cohesion Policy. There is a need for stronger role of the EP in the GEMU in the future but also stronger cooperation between different committees within the EP. A summary of the presentation will be distributed as usual by the Policy Department.

2. Exchange of views with Walter Deffa, European Commission Director-General of Regional and Urban Policy on the state of implementation of the European Cohesion Policy during 2007-2013 period

Walter Deffa, European Commission Director-General of Regional and Urban Policy presented main results and concerns of the implementation of the Structural and Cohesion Funds implementation in 2007-2013. Few main points were highlighted such as importance of the Cohesion Policy for the overall GDP growth or some particular achievements (almost 600.000 jobs created, near to 78.000 start-ups supported, broadband access for 5 million citizens, number of new or reconstructed railway and roads). Major adaptations were made in order to answer to the crisis. An exchange with Members followed touching mainly upon additionally, public procurement rules in different member States, absorption rate, financial management and coordination with other EC services in order to answer to the specific topics such as Roma issue.

3. Negotiations on the MFF 2014-2020: lessons to be learned and the way forward

M Olbrycht, draftsman, presented his draft opinion highlighting few important points. He emphasized some aspects of the negotiations. Draft opinion received overall support of Members. Some issues were pointed out by Members such as transition between two periods or challenges ahead for the new elected EP regarding own resources and half-mandate vision as well as possible future budgetary issues which may appear as regarding future payments.

4. Amending Decision 2009/831/EC as regards its period of application

The Chair presented background reasons behind the request coming from Portugal regarding Azores and Madeira. Members accepted a simplified procedure under Rule 46 (1) of the Rules of Procedures.

5. Votes

One own initiative report and one draft opinion were voted in this meeting:

Rapporteur / Draftsperson	Report / Opinion	Result of the votes for/against/abstentions
Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)	DRAFT REPORT on " Optimise the potential of Outermost Regions (OR) by creating synergies between the EU structural funds and other EU programmes " 2013/2178(INI) COM(2013)	adopted with amendments 31/2/4
Georgios Stavrakakis (S&D)	DRAFT OPINION on " Discharge 2012: EU general budget - European Commission 2013/2195(DEC) COM(2013)0570[1]	adopted with amendments 33/0/4

6. Gender equality in regional policies for growth – the approach of the new cohesion policy in the Baltic Sea Region to gender equality issues

Exchange of views with the following guest speakers:

- *Marta Hozer Kocmiel, Winnet Center of Excellence, BSR, University of Stettin, Poland*
- *Ewa Ruminska Zimny, International Women's Forum, Warsaw School of Economics*
- *Britt-Marie Söderberg Torstensson, Chair of Winnet Sweden*

The presentations and debates turned around the main findings of the pilot projects in the Baltic Sea Region show importance of the gender issue regarding economic and social development, women role in the economic growth, necessity of better definition of paid and not paid jobs as well as importance of the implementation of the gender approach in other macro regions. An exchange of views with the Members followed.

7. Towards the EU Strategy for Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

Presentation was made by Giannantonio Ballette from the European Commission, DG REGIO focusing on the origin and mandate delivered by the European Council to the Commission in December 2012. Main characteristics of this strategy are built on previous examples such as Baltic Sea Region. It's a reason of the limitation of the scope and focus on 4 pillars including blue growth, connecting region, environmental quality and sustainable tourism. Short discussion with Members followed.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The Chair announced that a proposal by the rapporteur Rosa ESTARAS FERRAGUT to modify the draft agenda has been presented in order to report back on the outcome of the dialogues on the European Solidarity Fund and the possibilities to reach an agreement within this term.

As there was no opposition the draft agenda was modified as proposed and adopted.

2. Chairs announcements

The Chair announced that following the coordinators' decisions taken by written procedure on the *Proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 2004/162/EC with regard to its implementation in Mayotte from 1 January 2014 (*)2014/0010(CNS) - COM(2014)0024* and after its announcement in plenary (the proposal has been announced on the 24 February) the dossier will be adopted through the simplified procedure (RoP rule 46(1) - without amendment).

(*) The purpose of the proposal is to amend Council Decision 2004/162/EC in order to make it applicable to Mayotte. It also determines the lists of products in Mayotte for which France will be authorised to apply, within certain limits, exemptions or reductions in dock dues for particular products produced locally.

3. Proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 2004/162/EC with regard to its implementation in Mayotte from 1 January 2014

Following the decision of the coordinators as above-mentioned in point 2, the Chair informed the Members that the proposal was announced in plenary on the 24th February at 17.00, and therefore the Chair submitted the draft report to the committee and proposed that the Commission proposal should be adopted without amendments, according to Rule 46 of the Rules of Procedure (simplified procedure without amendments).

The Chair asked the committee to accept this simplified procedure drawing the attention of Members to the non-controversial nature of the proposal and to the urgency of adopting this act in February II Plenary, as the Council Decision is to be effective as from 1 January 2014.

The text was adopted following the up -mentioned procedure.

4. European Union Solidarity Fund

The rapporteur informed the members on the on-going negotiations with the Council and on the prospects for reaching an agreement before the end of the legislature.

After reminding the most outstanding issues on this dossier the rapporteur concluded that in her view and given the positive and constructive cooperation with the Council the negotiations are most likely to be concluded by an agreement on the 25th of February after the third and last trilogue. Indeed, a political agreement was reached on the 25th of February.

5. Votes

Rapporteur / Draftsperson	Report / Opinion	Result of the votes for/against/abstentions
Danuta Maria Hübner	DRAFT REPORT on the " Proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 2004/162/EC with regard to its implementation in Mayotte from 1 January 2014 " 2014/0010(CNS) - COM(2014)0024 - (PE529.748)	Adopted by Simplified procedure (Rule 46(1), without amendments)
Jan Olbrycht	DRAFT OPINION on the " Negotiations on the MFF 2014-2020: lessons to be learned and the way forward " 2014/2005(INI) - (PE528.070)	adopted with amendments 29/0/1



part 3 - other news

Here you will find the latest news related to Committee activities and cohesion policy issues



Chair's participation on events on behalf of the Committee between the last and next REGI meeting

18/02/2014	EP	Working Group Budget and Structural Policies	Presentation of the report "Modification of decision 2004/162/EC as regards its application to Mayotte from 01.01.2014"
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More information is available at the Chair's website <http://danuta-huebner.pl/> or with the secretariat.



Chair's meetings with relevant regional policy actors between the last and next REGI meeting

18/02/2014	ESPON team of European Territory 2050 project		
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Members' Research Service - News

Recent publications in the field of Regional Development

Keysources



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[Partnership Agreements within Cohesion Policy 2014-2020](#) / by Sorina Ionescu, posted on 11 March 2014

The European Commission is analysing the official Partnership Agreements already received from 10 Member States: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, and Slovenia. The 18 remaining official Partnership Agreement proposals are to be submitted to the Commission by 22 April 2014.

This Keysource includes PAs for Member States (as available on the national websites), as well as some selected analyses on the role of PAs within the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020.



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[Microfinance in Europe and within Cohesion Policy](#) / by Sorina Ionescu, posted on 18 February 2014

The European Union runs microfinance programmes (loans under €25 000) for self-employed people and businesses with fewer than 10 employees. The EU does not directly provide microloans (loans up to €25 000) to individuals or businesses, but provides guarantees, loans and equity to intermediaries who can then lend to small businesses or make available equity finance.

This Keysource provides some selected documents on: Microfinance in Europe; JASMINE; PROGRESS Microfinance Facility; and on broader topic of Financial Instruments in European Union.

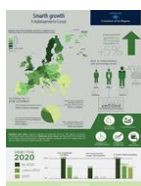
Latest analyses



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[A mid-term assessment of Europe 2020 from the standpoint of EU cities and regions](#) / Committee of the Regions, February 2014, 135 p.

This report seeks to assess the relevance and adequacy of the design of the strategy and the value-added it has provided to local and regional authorities (LRAs). In particular, existing bottlenecks in the design, governance structure and budgetary planning of the strategy are identified, which have limited the progress of the strategy by failing to mobilize and tap into the wealth of regional competences and knowledge. Special emphasis is placed upon the key partnership role of LRAs and the need to better engage them in the context of defining priorities, and delivering and monitoring progress under the Europe 2020 strategy. (Source: the report)



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[Infographic: Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives](#) / Committee of the Regions, February 2014, 7 p.

The Committee of the Regions produced a statistical infographic on the Europe 2020 Flagship initiatives from the point of view of regions and cities. Smart growth includes data on: A digital agenda for Europe, Innovation Union and Youth on the move; Sustainable growth includes: Resource-efficient Europe as well as An industrial policy for the globalisation era. Finally on Inclusive growth: Agenda for new skills and jobs, Fighting poverty and social exclusion.



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European Planning Studies, monthly

European Planning Studies focus upon specific spatial development problems, as well as emerging explanations of new urban, regional, national or supranational developmental tendencies.

Selected articles from the vol. 22, issue 3, 2014:

The Structural Funds in Andalusia for the Programming Period 2014–2020: Time for Tightening Belts / by M. Alejandro Cardenete, M. Carmen Delgado and M. Carmen Lima, pages 563-586 ([Abstract](#))

Analysing How Environmental Concerns are Integrated in the Design of the EU Structural Funds Programmes / by Margarita Argüelles and Carmen Benavides, pages 587-609 ([Abstract](#))

Is Europe 2020 Set to Fail? The Cultural Political Economy of the EU Grand Strategies / by Matej Makarovič, Janez Šušteršič and Borut Rončević, pages 610-626 ([Abstract](#))

Harmony and Melody in Discourse on European Cohesion / by Bernard Elissalde, Frédéric Santamaria and Philippe Jeanne, pages 627-647 ([Abstract](#))

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