

regi news

newsletter of the committee on regional development



Next Committee meeting

Wednesday 18 December 2013

9.00 - 12.30
15.00 - 18.30

Room PHS 3 C 50

in focus

- **Vote on :**
 - **Local and regional consequences of the development of smart grids**
 - **EU Member States preparedness to an effective and timely start of the new Cohesion Policy Programming period**
 - **Long-term financing of the European economy**
 - **Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking**
- **"Cohesion Policy and Demographic Change" - Hearing and presentation of an external study**
- **Exchange of views with Nicholas Martyn, DG REGIO, on the Delegated and Implementing Acts following the adoption of the legislative package on EU Cohesion Policy**

comments and subscriptions at regi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu

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Next Publication

Committee Meeting on
Wednesday 22 January 2014
9.00 - 12.30
15.00 - 18.30
Thursday 23 January 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 18 December 2013

Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI committee meeting on 18 December 2013. 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. Optimise the potential of Outermost Regions (OR) by creating synergies between the EU structural funds and other EU programmes (Point 4 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)

Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev

Procedure: 2013/2178(INI)

Main committee: REGI

In his INI report, Mr Omarjee is proposing a new approach to EU's public investment in the Outermost Regions – policies based on the promotion of sustainable development. He considers that the support to Outermost Regions is beneficial to the whole of the European Union as it will considerably contribute to the overcoming some essential challenges that the EU is facing in terms of its global presence, sustainable development or climate change. The Outermost Regions of the EU are opening new perspectives to the EU. Investment in the OR 's is investment in the EU's future.

The rapporteur is considering that the Outermost Regions were left aside for too long and the focus should come back to them. These regions are a strong asset for the EU.

Art 349 of the TFEU is recognizing that the OR are having their own specificities. Therefore a differentiated and adapted treatment of these regions would be more than welcome.

The rapporteur is proposing a series of synergies that can be developed between the European Structural and Investment and all other programmes and public funds available. He's believe is that by creating such strong and permanent synergies between the ESI Funds and Horizon 2020, Life, the CAP, and many other programmes the Outermost Regions will have better opportunities to develop their real potential as valuable territories of the EU.

TIMETABLE

Presentation of draft report: 18/12/2013

Deadline for amendments: 07/01/2014 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 11/02/2014 (tbc)

Plenary: February II 2014 (tbc)

2. Local and regional consequences of the development of smart grids (Point 5 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Elisabeth Schroedter (Verts/ALE)

Responsible administrator: Monika Makay

Procedure: 2013/2128(INI)

Main committee: REGI

In her draft report the Rapporteur, Ms Schroedter welcomes a paradigm shift for the regions in the way energy is produced and consumed. She also highlights the opportunities for geographical (or territorial) changes to the energy grid for disadvantaged regions, which can develop from energy consumers into energy producers. Furthermore she calls on Member States and the regions to invest as early as possible in local smart grids by using the European Structural and Investment Funds. She stresses that the deployment of smart grids requires a stable, long-term policy framework and calls on the Commission to propose ambitious, binding targets for 2030 for energy efficiency and renewable energies as well as for greenhouse gas emissions. She also stresses that citizens must be involved in all phases of energy and grid planning, implementation and transformation, with public participation at each stage, and the active involvement of distribution service operators and providers of smart grid technologies. Further in her draft report she outlines in detail smart energy systems, positive impacts on local employment, the role of citizens, data protection and privacy and the framework for successful smart energy systems.

67 AMs were tabled by the Members to the draft report and ITRE adopted an opinion containing 24 suggestions. The Rapporteur, Ms Schroedter, is currently working on a comprehensive pack of compromises which will reflect the content of tabled AMs.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of working document: 14/10/2013

Presentation of draft report: 27/11/2013

Deadline for amendments: 28/11/2013

Adoption REGI: 18/12/2013

Plenary: February I - 2014 (tbc)

3. EU Member States preparedness to an effective and timely start of the new Cohesion Policy Programming period (Point 6 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Derek Vaughan (S&D)

Responsible administrators: Stefan Donea, Carla Carvalho

Procedure: 2011/2095 (INI)

Main committee: REGI

The Rapporteur presented his draft report on "EU Member States preparedness for an effective and timely start of the new Cohesion Policy Programming period" in the October REGI meeting. Like during the presentation of the Working Document in the September REGI meeting, many questions were raised by the Members, who paid a real interest to the topic.

In his draft report, the Rapporteur mentions the current context when the European Union is facing difficult economic and social challenges with Member States and regions struggling to get economies back on track and emerge from the crisis. Therefore, at this time of economic uncertainty, Cohesion Policy funding can make a valuable contribution to helping Member States and regions create employment, increase competitiveness and encourage sustainable growth.

The Rapporteur points out that the European Parliament has succeeded in negotiating many important improvements to the Cohesion Policy package, including greater local and regional involvement in the planning and implementation phases, more flexibility and a focus on environmental issues. After the vote of the Parliament on the new legislation and the adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014 - 2020, the Commission can agree national partnership agreements and operational programmes so that funds can be allocated as soon as possible. These agreements and programmes should be in line with the new elements brought by the Cohesion Policy package such as thematic concentration, smart specialisation, effectiveness of funds, etc.

However, the Member States are at very different stages. Some of them are making good progress and will be able to present the Commission their Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes in the near future, while others are further behind in the process. The Rapporteur stresses the different approaches used by the Member States in preparing for the implementation of the future Cohesion Policy. He comes with suggestions for the advanced Member States as well as for those whose progress is slower. Based on the lessons learnt from the previous programming cycles and taking into consideration the current preparedness stages, the Rapporteur makes recommendations, which should underpin the on-going efforts for an effective and timely start of the new Cohesion Policy Programming period.

Finally, 82 amendments were tabled to this report, to which 7 suggestions of the BUDG opinion are added. All amendments concern inter alia the timely start of the new Cohesion Policy programming, evolution of various partnership agreements and operational programmes, lessons from the 2007 - 2013 period, effectiveness of funds, simplification process and partnership among different authorities within a multilevel-governance system. Scheduled initially for the November REGI meeting, the vote of this draft report has been postponed for the December reunion of the committee at the request of a political group. In meantime, 8 compromise amendments have been agreed and proposed by the Rapporteur to the vote.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of working doc.: 23/09/2013

Consideration of draft report: 14/10/2013

Deadline for amendments: 18/10/2013

Adoption REGI: 18/12/2013

Adoption BUDG: 14/11/2013

Adoption in plenary: February 2014 (tbc)

4. Long-term financing of the European economy (Point 7 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur Joachim Zeller (PPE)

Responsible administrator: Susanne Pillath

Procedure: 2013/2175 (INI)

Main committee: ECON – Wolf Klinz (ALDE)

The financial crisis has affected the ability of the financial sector in Europe to channel savings to long-term investment needs. Above all, it has created a climate of uncertainty and risk aversion, particularly in those Member States under financial pressure and for SMEs. With the Green Paper 'long-term financing of the European economy' the Commission is seeking to initiate a broad debate about how to foster the supply of long-term financing and how to improve and diversify the system of financial intermediation for long-term investment in Europe.

The Commission identifies the following areas for action to enhance the long-term financing: (1) the capacity of financial institutions to channel long-term finance; (2) the efficiency and effectiveness of financial markets to offer long-term financing instruments; (3) cross-cutting factors enabling long-term saving and financing instruments; (4) the ease of SMEs to access bank and non-bank financing.

The Rapporteur underlines the role of the European Structural- and Investment Funds for long-term financing of regional economies and points out to the diverse instruments of cohesion policy to provide necessary financing,

particularly to SMEs. He asks to take into account the special requirements of the local and regional level when considering the regulation of financial markets.

REGI Members tabled 19 amendments which focus on the availability of financing for SMEs and the use of financial instruments provided by cohesion policy for this purpose.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 27/11/2013

Deadline for amendments: 28/11/2013

Adoption REGI : 18/12/2013

Adoption in Lead committee (ECON) : 20/01/2014 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: tbc

5. Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (Point 8 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska (PPE)

Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring

Procedure: 2013/0241(NLE)

Main committee: ITRE

One of the main aims of Horizon 2020, the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation covering the period 2014-2020, is to strengthen European industry through actions supporting research and innovation across a range of industrial sectors. In particular, it provides for the creation of public-private partnerships that will contribute to tackling some of the key challenges Europe is facing.

This proposal concerns setting-up the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU) for a period ending on 31 December 2024. It will have its seat in Brussels, Belgium. It will be founded by the EU, represented by the European Commission, and the Biobased Industries Consortium (BIC). The activities of the BBI JU will be jointly funded by its founders. The Commission and BIC will contribute in equal parts to the running costs of the BBI JU. The research and demonstration activities will be funded through contributions by the BIC member companies with monetary and non-monetary resources (staff, equipment, consumables, etc.), and monetary resources from the EU. The level of EU resources will vary, in line with Horizon 2020 rules, depending on the type of activity considered.

In her draft opinion the Rapporteur presented amendments which, inter alia, emphasised the role of interregional cooperation and the active participation of the regions in drawing up strategies for the bio-economy. She also pointed at cross financing opportunities and the role of the so-called 'Triple Helix' actors for Joint Technology Initiatives on Bio-based Industries. Some 18 amendments have been tabled by the Members, which put emphasis particularly on the role of relevant stakeholders, including small producers. The Members confirmed also the important role of interregional and transnational cooperation. Draftsperson, Mrs Elżbieta Łukacijewska is currently working on compromises.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 27/11/2013

Deadline for amendments: 28/11/2013

Adoption REGI: 18/12/2013

Adoption ITRE: 09/01/2014 (tbc)

Plenary: March 2014 (tbc)

6. European Union Solidarity Fund (Point 9 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Rosa Estaràs Ferragut (PPE)
Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev
Procedure: 2013/0248(COD)
Main committee: REGI

The Solidarity Fund: 10 years of success in applying the solidarity principle in the EU

Following the devastating floods in central Europe in 2002, and given the lack of a tool that would enable it to respond in order to assist the population and Member State affected by a disaster, the Union created a new instrument: the European Union Solidarity Fund.

Since then, not even minor changes have been made to the regulation governing the Solidarity Fund to adapt it to the new needs and correct some of the shortcomings that have become apparent in its 10 years of operation.

Since its creation and up to September 2012, the Fund has provided financial aid to offset the damage caused by 49 disasters, chiefly fires and floods.

In July 2013 the European Commission has presented its legislative proposal to revise the EUSF regulation.

The main objective of the proposal is to improve the functioning of the existing Solidarity Fund instrument by making it quicker to respond and more visible to citizens, simpler to use and its provisions clearer. This is to be achieved by a limited number of technical adjustments to the Regulation. The principles of the instrument remain unchanged as do its financing method outside the multiannual financial framework (MFF) and the likely level of spending.

A year ago, in December 2012, the European Parliament adopted an INI report on the reform of the EUSF. In this context, the EP's rapporteur, Mrs Rosa Estaràs Ferragut (EPP) will to a great extent follow the recommendations of the Parliament's resolution to be introduced in the revised Regulation.

Some of the main recommendations for this revision are:

- A clear definition of the scope of the EUSF;
- A new and simple single criterion for the exceptional mobilisation of the EUSF for so-called extraordinary regional disasters based on a GDP-related threshold;
- The introduction of the possibility to make rapid advance payments upon request of the affected Member State;
- The inclusion of a specific provision for slowly unfolding disasters such as drought

REGI committee is also looking forward to organising a public hearing on the reform of the EUSF either in December 2013 or in January 2014.

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 27/11/2013

Presentation of draft report: 18/12/2013

Deadline for amendments: 6/01/2014 at 12.00

Public hearing: 22/01/2014

Vote of mandate to open interinstitutional negotiations (Art 70 of Rules of procedure: 23/01/2014

Adoption REGI: 10/02/2014 (tbc)

Plenary: April 2014

7. European Commission's 7th and 8th progress reports on the EU Cohesion Policy and the Strategic Report 2013 on programme implementation 2007-2013 (Point 10 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Vilja Savisaar-Toomast (ALDE)

Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho

Procedure: 2013/2008(INI)

Main committee: REGI

The Draftswoman, Ms. Savisaar-Toomast has submitted her draft report in the meeting of 27-28 November 2013, voicing concerns over the need to increase cohesion and reduce poverty and social exclusion. The Draftswoman further considers that in order to evaluate the results, reliable data for measuring are necessary, but the focus is more on the use of the funds than on results.

In the debate that followed, Members emphasised the need for quality statistics and for using these, as gathered by the Commission in its regular reports, for future improvements, while not creating extra administrative burden for local and regional authorities. Members have also expressed concerns over the existence and quality of data used for monitoring.

The Commission has underlined that, although complementary, the three reports that are the object of the own-initiative report in question deal with different kinds of statistics: the progress reports deal with macroeconomic statistics and the strategic report looks at the implementation of current programmes, monitoring the funding and the first outputs. The reports show that investment at local and regional level is under severe strain, due the crisis, and this constitutes now the major challenge for cohesion policy. The policy has been responding through reprogramming, but there is still great potential as 50% of the funding remain unspent. The statistics and the implementation monitoring results of these three reports must be used to see what works and to decide what needs to be done. As regards the issue of the quality of data, the Commission considers that there is indeed scope for improvement, and emphasised that more recent data is now available (regarding 2012, while the strategic report was based on 2011 data), further informing that the data used is based on voluntary use of core indicators. An evaluation is now needed on the data provided in the three reports, which is the aim of the forthcoming *ex post* evaluation.

A deadline for amendments was open until 3 December and 42 amendments were tabled, which will be debated in the meeting of 18 December.

TIMETABLE

Presentation of draft report: 27/11/2013

Deadline for amendments: 03/12/2013, noon

Adoption REGI: 22/01/2014 (tbc)

Plenary: February 2014 (tbc)

8. Hearing on "Cohesion Policy and Demographic Change" and Presentation of an external study on "How can regional and cohesion policies tackle demographic challenges?" (Point 12 of the draft agenda)

The Committee on Regional Development will hold a Public Hearing entitled "Cohesion Policy and Demographic change" on 18 December.

Prior to the Public Hearing, a Study will be presented on "How can regional and cohesion policies tackle demographic challenges?"

The subject of the Public Hearing "**Cohesion Policy and Demographic Change**" is of the utmost importance, considering the existing demographic trends and the need to adapt the current Cohesion Policy to these trends in order to guarantee economic growth as well as social cohesion in the medium and long terms. A Public Hearing on this topic would give the opportunity of bringing together experts to exchange the experiences and good practises to discuss the way forward in view of the new programming period 2014-2020, where the progress by Member States to adapting to demographic trends will be essential for the achievement of Cohesion Policy's goals. The Public Hearing would also offer the possibility of presenting and/or analysing related studies.

The main aim of the hearing is thus to explore with experts from academia different options on how to better use cohesion policy in order to tackle the challenges that demographic change will mean for European societies, debating the way in which Cohesion Policy has been implemented so far and how it should be implemented in the future, to make the most of this pattern of social change.

The following experts have been invited to this hearing:

- **Leo van Wissen**
General Director, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, Hague, NL
- **Albert Esteve Palós**
Deputy Director, Research Scientist, Center of Demographic Studies, Barcelona, ES
- **Lars Rademacher**
Professor, Macromedia University for Media and Communication, Munich, DE

The study will be presented by:

- **Manuela Samek Lodovici**
Head of the Labour Market Area at IRS; Professor of Public Economics at the Università Cattaneo (LIUC) in Castellanza and Labour Economics at the Università Cattolica in Milan.

9. European single market for electronic communications (Point 13 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: François Alfonsi (Verts/ALE)
Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev
Procedure: 2013/0309(COD)
Main committee: ITRE

The Commission's proposal for a Regulation on the Single European market in telecommunications is the result of more than a decade of intense legislative activity at the EU level in this field. The overall objective is to allow for better access to borderless telecommunication services for the end users and for businesses across the EU at better price and quality.

The EU internal market in telecommunications remains to date quite fragmented and many discrepancies are still present. The fragmentation across 28 Member States is present in terms of distinct authorization procedures, with different regulatory systems and frequency allocation rules and consumer protection.

This fragmentation has a very negative impact on competition, business development and end consumers.

In his opinion, the draftsman considers that the Commission proposal is very timely and will have a strong impact on the fragmentation especially in remote outermost and island regions of the EU. He underlines the importance of a borderless internal market for telecoms on cross border territorial cooperation. In his proposal for an opinion, the draftsman also is putting the accent on the importance of the European Structural and Investment funds to support the European Digital Agenda. He considers the new Regulation highly stimulating the public investment in this field.

TIMETABLE**Consideration of draft opinion: 18/12/2013****Deadline for amendments: 20/12/2013 (tbc)****Adoption REGI: 23/01/2014 (tbc)****Adoption ITRE: 27/02/2014 (tbc)****Plenary: April 2014 (tbc)**

10. Exchange of views with Nicholas Martyn, Deputy Director General for Policy, Performance and Compliance at European Commission, DG REGIO, on the Delegated and Implementing Acts following the adoption of the legislative package on EU Cohesion Policy (Point 14 of the draft agenda)

After the adoption of the legislative package the Commission will shortly begin transmitting to Parliament acts and measures in the framework of the exercise of its delegated and implementing powers, as provided for in each of the regulations that are part of the cohesion package.

In this context, Members will have the opportunity to reflect on the content of these acts and measures and exercise the different powers conferred on the legislator for the assessment and control of delegated acts and implementing acts.

This exchange of views with the Commission intends at allowing Members to receive information on the calendar and other relevant aspects of the inter-institutional procedures on delegated and implementing acts, in order to prepare the exercise of Parliament's scrutiny powers regarding the forthcoming delegated and implementing acts.



part 2 meeting of 27 and 28 November 2013

Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meetings held on 27 and 28 November 2013. 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](#).

1. 5th Interparliamentary Committee Meeting with national Parliaments

REGI has organized the 5th annual Interparliamentary Committee Meeting " *The implementation challenges of the future Cohesion Policy: Towards productive investment for growth and cohesion through improved synergies between local, national and EU level to deliver the EU 2020 Strategy*. 25 Members of National Parliaments from 15 Member States actively participated in the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Mr Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for Regional Policy, European Commission, and by Mr Theodoros N. Sotiropoulos, Ambassador, Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU, and by Mr Raimundas Karoblis, Ambassador, Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU and several other experts.

2. Votes

Rapporteur/ Draftsperson	Report/ Opinion	Result of the votes for/against/abstentions
Hermann Winkler	DRAFT REPORT on " Smart Specialisation: networking excellence for a sound Cohesion Policy " 2013/2094(INI) - (PE519.699)	Adopted with amendments unanimously 31/0/0
Derek Vaughan	DRAFT REPORT on " EU Member States preparedness to an effective and timely start of the new Cohesion Policy Programming period " 2013/2095(INI) - (PE519.777)	Postponed
Karin Kadenbach	DRAFT OPINION on " How can the European Union contribute to creating a hospitable environment for enterprises, businesses and start-ups to create jobs? " 2013/2176(INI) - (PE519.736)	Adopted with amendments unanimously 31/0/0
Danuta Hübner Maria	DRAFT REPORT on " Amendment to Decision 2002/546/EC as regards its period of application " 2013/0387(CNS) - (PE524.495)	Adopted by Simplified procedure (Rule 46(1), without amendments)

3. Exchange of views: European Union Solidarity Fund

An exchange of views on the EC legislative proposal was held. The rapporteur presented orally her positions and informed the committee on the calendar. The committee insisted on doing as many efforts as necessary to conclude the procedure before the end of the Parliament. The draft report will be presented in December in order to adopt a report, which will be the basis for the negotiations, in January.

4. Consideration and set of deadlines for tabling amendments

- DRAFT REPORT on "Local and regional consequences of the development of smart grids"
REGI/7/13171 - 2013/2128(INI)
Rapporteur: Elisabeth Schroedter
The deadline for tabling amendments was set on 28 November 2013 at 12:00.
- DRAFT REPORT on " European Commission's 7th and 8th progress reports on the EU Cohesion Policy and the Strategic Report 2013 on programme implementation 2007-2013"
REGI/7/1164 - 2013/2008(INI) - COM(2011)0776
Rapporteur: Vilja Savisaar-Toomast
The deadline for tabling amendments was set on 3 December 2013 at 12:00.
- DRAFT OPINION on " Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking
REGI/7/13380 - 2013/0241(NLE) COM(2013)0496 – C7-0257/2013
Rapporteur: Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska
The deadline for tabling amendments was set on 28 November 2013 at 12:00.
- DRAFT OPION on "Long-term financing of the European economy"
REGI/7/13716 - 2013/2175(INI) - COM(2013)0150
Rapporteur: Joachim Zeller
The deadline for tabling amendments was set on 28 November 2013 at 12:00.
- DRAFT OPINION on the " Statistics for the macroeconomic imbalances procedure
REGI/7/13004 - 2013/0181(COD) - COM(2013)0342 – C7-0162/2013
Rapporteur. Ivars Godmanis
The deadline for tabling amendments was set on 2 December 2013 at 12:00.
- DRAFT OPINION on "Discharge 2012: EU general budget - European Commission"
REGI/7/13873 - 2013/2195(DEC) - COM(2013)0570[01] – C7-0273/2013
Rapporteur: Georgios Stavrakakis
The deadline for tabling amendments was set on 17 December 2013 at 18:00.

5. External Study on "Internet, digital agenda and economic development of European regions"

Ms Rosanna Lifonti, co-author of the study, presented the study on "Internet, digital agenda and economic development of European regions" which focuses on the development of information society in Europe and on the contribution of Structural funds to its implementation.

In the following debate the Members emphasized the importance of Information and Communication Technologies for the economic and social development of the regions and stressed the need for investments in these technologies and particularly the role of the Structural and Investment Funds for this.



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

25/11/2013	Vilnius (LT)	Lithuanian Presidency (Committee on Environment Protection and Committee on State Administration and Local Authorities of the Seimas)	Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees on Environment Protection and the Committees on State Administration and Local Authorities on "Macro-Regional Strategies: Development and Prospects"
26/11/2013	Vilnius (LT)	Lithuanian Presidency	Ministerial meeting on Cohesion Policy
28/11/2013	Brussels	Committee of the Regions	Intervention during CoR Plenary session
02/12/2013	Cornwall (UK)	Combined Universities in Cornwall (CUC)	Visit to Cornwall on 1st and 2nd December 1) Discussion centring on smart specialisation and the agri-food sector 2) Round-table discussion with Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership, Cornwall Council, Combined Universities in Cornwall, Department of Business, Innovation and Skills
03/12/2013	Brussels	Mr Tomasz Poreba, MEP	Conference on "the Macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian Region"
04/12/2013	Katowice	Konrad Adenauer Foundation and House of Polish-German Cooperation	Conference on "EU Budget 2014-2020 - New financial perspective for Poland and for the EU"

05/12/2013	Brussels	EurActiv (Brussels Network Office: International Press Center)	High-level debate on "EU Budget 2014-2020: From Priorities to Financing"
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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**

28/11/2013	Delegation of 20 regional Ministers from Confédération des Gouvernements de Suisse occidentale (CGSO)
05/12/13	Ms Britt-Marie Torstensson, coordinator of the projects concerning gender in the Baltic Sea area (Winnet project)

REGI-COTER meeting

'Cohesion policy 2014-2020: From programming to implementation, main challenges ahead'

This year REGI-COTER meeting will take place on 17 December, from 14.30 to 17.00, at the Committee of the Regions premises (JDE 52).

Programme outline:

The new Cohesion policy package 2014-2020 will shape the Union policy for regional development in the upcoming years. It is expected that this package will be adopted soon and subsequently enter into force beginning of 2014. It is therefore time to already focus on the future implementation of the new Cohesion policy package. In this regard, the take up of the new territorial-approach oriented instruments in the new wave of operational programmes, the involvement of local and regional authorities in the elaboration and implementation of the partnership agreements, as well as the future absorption of Structural and Investment Funds are of particular importance for cities and regions.

Draft Agenda:

- 13:00 – 14:30 Networking event for REGI and COTER members (JDE building, Atrium 5, Lunch provided)
- 14:30 – 14:50 Introductory speeches by the Chair of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy of the Committee of the Regions, Mr Marek Wozniak, and the Chair of the Committee on Regional Development of the European Parliament, Mrs Danuta Hübner
- 14:50 – 15:50 Is the "Place based approach" reflected in the new wave of partnership agreements and operational programmes?

The new Cohesion policy sees a substantial strengthening of the principles of partnership and multi-level governance, inter alia by the introduction of partnership agreements and the elaboration of a European Code of Conduct on Partnership (ECCP), which will guide Member States in the implementation of these principles. At the same time, the new Cohesion policy package introduces new instruments to promote a place-based approach to territorial development, namely Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI), Community-led local development (CLLD), as well as joint action plans, territorial pacts (for ESF) or multi-fund operational programmes. The first session will have a first look into the take up of these instruments in the preparatory process of the new wave of operational programmes, and examine to what extent national governments have effectively engaged local and regional authorities in the elaboration of partnership agreements and how the principles of partnership and multilevel governance should be ensured in the implementation phase.

- Introduction by Mr Fabrizio Barca (*to be invited, tbc*)
- Discussion with COTER and REGI members

15:50 – 16:50 Absorption of Structural and Investment Funds: how will it improve in the next financing period?

The second session will focus on the potential absorption of the Structural and Investment Funds by local and regional authorities and discuss how to ensure that the new Cohesion policy package impacts positively on absorption. The discussion will explore possible ways to facilitate absorption, inter alia by looking at measures to increase the capacity building of public administrations dealing with EU funds. Within this discussion the evolution of the outstanding commitments (RAL), the difficulties of local and regional authorities to co-finance investments, and the impact of the new n+3 rule will also be highlighted.

- Introduction by Mr Nicholas Martyn, Deputy Director-General, DG REGIO, European Commission (*to be invited, tbc*)
- Discussion with COTER and REGI members

16:50 – 17:00 Conclusions by Mr Marek Wozniak and Mrs Danuta Hübner

17:00 End of the meeting



Members' Research Service - News

Recent publications in the field of Regional Development

Briefings

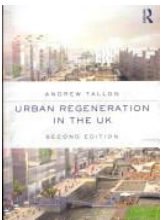


[Maritime spatial planning](#) / by Gregor Erbach, posted on 5 December 2013, 1 p.

Some EU Member States (MS) have introduced a maritime spatial planning (MSP) process to manage the activities taking place within their seas and coastal areas. Increased activities at sea are expected to contribute to economic growth and innovation. The European Commission has proposed a Directive that would oblige MS to make such plans and coordinate them with other MS.

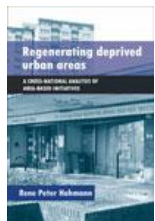
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Publications



Urban regeneration in the UK / by Andrew Tallon. New York: Routledge, 2013, 352 p.

"Striking transformations are taking place in the urban landscape. The regeneration of urban areas in the UK and around the world has become an increasingly important issue amongst governments and populations since the global economic downturn. This textbook provides an accessible and critical synthesis of urban regeneration in the UK, analyzing key policies, approaches, issues and debates. It places the historical and contemporary regeneration agenda in context." (Source: Publisher). (Available for loan - make reservation [here](#))



Regenerating deprived urban areas: a cross-national analysis of Area-Based Initiatives / by Rene Peter Hohmann. Bristol: Policy Press, 2013, 240 p.

"The implementation of area-based initiatives (ABIs) for deprived urban areas, such as the 'New Deal for Communities' in England and the 'Social City Programme' in Germany, is an example of these New Localism(s). ABIs can be seen as test-beds for new forms of urban governance seeking to foster an active participation of residents and the voluntary sector. Based upon comparative research in two cities, Bristol in England and Duisburg in Germany, this book is the first to cross-nationally compare the impacts of ABIs in two deprived urban areas in England and Germany. It evaluates the impacts of these New Localism(s) on organisations and development actors at the neighbourhood level." (Source: Publisher) (Available for loan - make reservation [here](#))

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Latest analysis



[Regions and Innovation: Collaborating across Borders](#) / OECD, 26 November 2013, 232 p.

"This report examines cross-border collaboration on innovation, building on case studies of cross-border areas that include the following countries: Finland, Sweden, Norway, Estonia, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, United Kingdom and Ireland." (Source: OECD)

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[OECD Regions at a glance 2013](#) / OECD, 5 December 2013, 198 p.

"This fifth edition of [OECD Regions at a Glance](#) shows how regions and cities contribute to national growth and the well-being of societies. It updates its regular set of region-by-region indicators, examining a wide range of policies and trends and identifying those regions that are outperforming or lagging behind in their country. The report covers all 34 OECD member countries, and, where data are available, Brazil, China, Colombia, India, the Russian Federation and South Africa. It will also be available in [French](#)." (Source: OECD).

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Publications



Regional studies / Regional Studies Association, monthly

Regional Studies is an international journal in theoretical development, empirical analysis and policy debate in the multi- and inter-disciplinary field of regional studies. It contains: high-quality research, critical surveys, policy debates and special thematic issues. (Available in the Library - see catalogue entry [here](#))

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Studies

Selected articles from volume 47, Issue 10, 2013:

Analysis of the Graduate Labour Market in Finland: Spatial Agglomeration and Skilljob Match / by Davide Consoli, Francesco Vona and Toni Saarivirta, pp. 1624-1652 ([full text](#))

Research Networks and Inventors' Mobility as Drivers of Innovation: Evidence from Europe / by Ernest Migulez and Rosina Moreno, pp. 1668-1685 ([full text](#))

Localized Technological Change and Efficiency Wages across European Regional Labour Markets / by Cristiano Antonelli and Francesco Quatraro, pp. 1686-1700 ([full text](#))

EPRS Keysources and Navigators



[The MFF 2014-2020: how much can the EU budget contribute to growth and employment?](#) / by Jan Avau, Alessandro D'Alfonso posted on 9 December 2013.

The Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership has identified two strategic areas of focus for cooperation with Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) in the Eastern Partnership countries: the need to enhance the capacity of LRAs and the need to enhance their responsiveness to citizens, thus improving the quality of local democracy. Progress can be made in addressing these needs through a focus on three priority areas for action across the EaP countries, which will add an enhanced territorial dimension to the Eastern Partnership. These are: public administration reform, fiscal decentralisation and territorial cooperation. (Source: Study)

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[An EU budget for economic growth and employment](#) / by Jan Avau posted on 9 December 2013

The EU budget, by contrast with the national budgets of the Member States, is mainly an investment budget. A very important part of the EU funds is spent to stimulate economic growth and the creation of jobs in Europe - in the Multiannual Financial Framework, this growth related financing falls mainly under the headings 1a (competitiveness for growth and jobs) and 1b (cohesion policy) and, to a lesser extent, heading 2 (local and rural development) This navigator gathers the main documents on the issue from the EU institutions and scholarship and think-tanks analysis.

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[Future European Union Culture and Media Programme\(s\)](#) / by Anne Vernet, Peter Berninger, posted on 20 November 2013

On 23 November 2011 the European Commission launched a proposal for the establishment of "**Creative Europe**", will bring the current Culture, MEDIA and MEDIA Mundus programmes together under a common framework that will support the cultural and creative industries. The present keysource was published in April 2012, but it has been updated to include among others the latest legislative agreements reached until the approval of Creative Europe by the Council last 5 December. There is also a [Library Alert](#) providing regularly updated access to information about this topic added to the Library website.

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