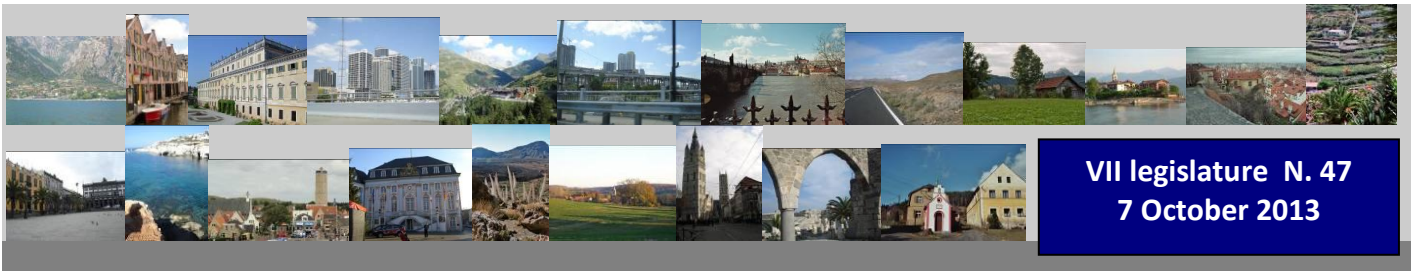


regi news

newsletter of the committee on regional development



Next Committee meeting

Monday 14 October 2013
15.00 - 18.30

Room ASP 1 G 3

in focus

- **Consideration and eventually vote on a possible compromise with the Council on:**
 - **Common provisions on European Funds**
 - **Specific provisions concerning the ERDF**
- **Vote on :**
 - **The change of status of Mayotte with regard to the Union in the fields of environment, agriculture, social policy and public health**
 - **The change of status of Mayotte with regard to the Union in the fields of fisheries and animal health**
 - **Opening of the market for domestic transport services by rail**
 - **Interoperability of the rail system**
 - **The Directive establishing a single European railway area**
 - **Regional quality branding**

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

Legal disclaimer

The items contained herein are drafted by the REGI Secretariat and are provided for general information purposes only. In particular, the content of Part I is merely indicative and subject to changes. The Newsletter may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organizations. The REGI Secretariat does not necessarily endorse the views expressed on these websites.

INDEX

PART 1 - 14 October 2013 Meeting

1. [Financial allocation for certain Member States from the European Social Fund](#)
2. [Smart specialisation: networking excellence for a sound Cohesion Policy](#)
3. [Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation \(EC\) N° 1083/2006](#)
4. [European Regional Development Fund and the 'Investment for growth and jobs' goal](#)
5. [The change of status of Mayotte with regard to the Union in the fields of environment, agriculture, social policy and public health](#)
6. [The change of status of Mayotte with regard to the Union in the field of fisheries and animal health](#)
7. [The opening of the market for domestic passenger transport services by rail](#)
8. [Interoperability of the rail system within the European Union](#)
9. [A single European railway area as regards the opening of the market for domestic passenger transport services by rail and the governance of the railway infrastructure](#)
10. [Regional quality branding: towards best practice in rural economies](#)
11. [How can the European Union contribute to creating a hospitable environment for enterprises, businesses and start-ups to create jobs](#)
12. [EU Member States preparedness to an effective and timely start of the new Cohesion Policy Programming period](#)
13. [Local and regional consequences of the development of smart grids](#)

PART 2 - 23 and 24 September 2013 Meeting

1. [Consideration and set of deadlines for tabling amendments](#)
2. [Votes](#)
3. [Other points on the agenda](#)

PART 3 - Other News

[Chair's participation on events on behalf of the Committee](#)

[Info from the Library](#)

Next Publication

Committee Meeting on

Wednesday 27 November 2013

9.00 - 12.30 & 15.00 - 18.30

and

Thursday 28 November 2013

9.00 - 12.30

Useful Internet links

EP Library - Info on items related to regional development

OEIL - The Legislative Observatory

Regional Policy Info regio

EUR-Lex

Committee of the Regions

EP studies Website

REGI Website



part 1 meeting of 14 October 2013

Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI committee meeting on 14 October 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. Financial allocation for certain Member States from the European Social Fund (Point 3 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: (PPE)
Responsible administrators: Carla Carvalho, Stefan Donea
Procedure: 2013/0271(COD)
Main committee: REGI

In line with the Conclusions of the European Council of 27-28 June 2013, the Commission has presented a legislative proposal amending the General Regulation (COM(2013)0560), modifying several provisions and annexes of the General Regulation in order to provide for a budgetary solution to address specific situations of unemployment, in particular youth unemployment, and of poverty and social exclusion in the most affected Member States, namely France, Italy and Spain, with a view to strengthening the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the Union.

As a contribution to the special effort needed to address those issues in these particular Member States, the Commission proposes to increase the European Social Fund allocations to those three Member States for the year 2013.

This amending Regulation must imperatively enter into force before the end of 2013 and, therefore, the calendar for the adoption of this proposal in the Parliament will necessarily be quite tight.

The Rapporteur, who had not yet been appointed by the time of the preparation of this edition of REGINEWS, is thus expected to present a draft report on this legislative proposal during the REGI meeting of 14 October.

TIMETABLE
Consideration of draft report: 14/10/2013
Deadline for amendments: tbc
Adoption REGI: tbc
Plenary: tbc

2. Smart specialisation: networking excellence for a sound Cohesion Policy (Point 4 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Hermann Winkler (PPE)
Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring
Procedure: 2013/2094(INI)
Main committee: REGI

During the June REGI meeting the Working Document received a widespread support and interest from the Members who welcomed the smart specialisation as a concept and conditionality. This time the Rapporteur will present his draft report in which both research and policy concepts are presented and discussed. The Rapporteur emphasises that policymakers have very high expectations of the new approach, which was developed as a research concept just a few years ago and is now being implemented in the form of an ex-ante conditionality. The research community is also keen to see proof of its effectiveness in practice. The challenges for all the stakeholders are already becoming clear, as are the risks of this new and demanding process. The draft report is divided into the following parts: first general remarks are presented, which is followed by the part concerning setting up of the “right” priorities by the regions, then the role of the regional management and cooperation among stakeholders is discussed, afterwards the role of synergies between different EU programmes is presented, and finally the challenges connected with external dimension of smart specialisation strategies are described.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of working document: 11/07/2013
Presentation of draft report: 14/10/2013
Deadline for amendments: 18/10/2013 (tbc)
Adoption REGI: 28/11/2013 (tbc)
Plenary: January 2014 (tbc)

3. Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) N° 1083/2006 (Point 5 of the draft agenda)

Co-rapporteurs: Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE) & Constanze Angela Krehl (S&D)
Responsible administrators: Diana Haase, Monika Makay, Gabriel Alvarez Recarte
Procedure: 2011/0276 (COD)

The Common Provisions Regulation is in the draft agenda as it was initially scheduled to hold a vote on a possible overall agreement. This agreement is uncertain at this moment as there are still open issues to be agreed at the ongoing interinstitutional negotiations.

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 22/11/2011, 25/01/2012
Consideration of working doc.: 28/02/2012, 20/03/2012
Consideration of draft report: 08/05/2012, 30/05/2012
Deadline for amendments: 31/05/2012
Adoption REGI (Mandate): 12/07/2012
Updated draft report with outcome of the negotiations:
- Consideration of updated draft Report: 19/06/2013
- Deadline for amendments: 20/06/2013 12:00
- Adoption REGI (Mandate): 10/07/2013

4. Specific provisions concerning the European Regional Development Fund and the 'Investment for growth and jobs' goal and repeal of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (Point 6 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Jan Olbrycht (PPE)
Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring
Procedure: 2011/0275(COD)

REGI Committee has voted the outcome of the interinstitutional negotiations on the ERDF agreement on the 10th of July. This outcome is incorporated in the final Committee report (Rapporteur: Jan Olbrycht) consisting of 72 amendments to the Commission's proposal, which is available at the EP internet site. This point was put on Agenda in case any update was needed, however, no further interinstitutional agreements have taken place since the July vote so far.

TIMETABLE
Exchange of views: 22/11/2011, 25/01/2012
Consideration of working doc.: 28/02/2012, 20/03/2012
Consideration of draft report: 08/05/2012, 30/05/2012
Deadline for amendments: 31/05/2012
Adoption REGI (Mandate): 12/07/2012
Updated draft report with outcome of the negotiations:
- **Consideration of updated draft Report: 19/06/2013**
- **Deadline for amendments: 20/06/2013 12:00**
- **Adoption REGI (Mandate): 10/07/2013**
Adoption in plenary: October II 2013 (tbc)

5. Amending Directive in the fields of environment, agriculture, social policy and public health by reason of the change of status of Mayotte with regard to the Union (Point 7 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Patrice Tirolien (S&D)
Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev
Procedure: 2013/0192(COD)
Main committee: ENVI

A special procedure will be applied for the adoption of the two opinions concerning Mayotte. REGI committee has decided to vote on both draft opinions and amendments in the same session because of lack of pressing timetable at the leading committees PECHE and ENVI.

Decision 2012/419/EU modifies the statute of Mayotte with regards to the EU. As of 1st of January 2014 the island will become an Outermost region of the EU, within the meaning of Article 349 and Article 355 of the TFEU and the EU legislation will be applicable on the territory of Mayotte.

The European Commission has proposed a series of derogations in order to assure the smooth transition towards full application of the "acquis communautaire".

The draftsman, Mr Tirolien, suggests adding to the legal basis of the Directive Article 349 of the TFEU. In addition, he proposes to REGI members to add a number of elements to the Commission's proposal in order to ensure animal's welfare and the protection of human health and environmental sustainability such as improvement of water purification systems and standardisation of poultry cages in use in Mayotte.

Only 4 amendments were tabled by the Members of REGI committee to the draft proposal.

TIMETABLE**Deadline for amendments: 30/09/2013****Adoption REGI: 14/10/2013****Adoption main committee: 27/11/2013 (tbc)****Plenary: January 2014 (tbc)**

6. Amending Regulation in the field of fisheries and animal health by reason of the change of status of Mayotte with regard to the Union (Point 8 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Patrice Tirolien (S&D)**Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev****Procedure: 2013/0191(COD)****Main committee: PECH**

A special procedure will be applied for the adoption of the two opinions concerning Mayotte. REGI committee has decided to vote on both draft opinions and amendments in the same session because of lack of pressing timetable at the leading committees PECH and ENVI.

The draftsman has made a number of proposals to the PECH committee in order to better take into account the specific situation of Mayotte vis-a-vis the possibility to raise its catch quotas.

Only 6 amendments were tabled to the draft proposal.

TIMETABLE**Deadline for amendments: 30/09/2013****Adoption REGI: 14/10/2013****Adoption main committee: 27/11/2013 (tbc)****Plenary: January 2014 (tbc)**

7. Amendment of Regulation (EC) N° 1370/2007 concerning the opening of the market for domestic passenger transport services by rail (Point 9 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Rosa Estaràs Ferragut (PPE)**Responsible administrator: Susanne Pillath****Procedure: 2013/028(COD)****Main committee: TRAN**

Regulation 1370/2007 on public passenger transport services by rail and by road set out a framework for awarding public service contracts and compensating for public service obligations but not a common approach to awarding contracts for rail passenger transport.

Given that no common EU rules on the award of such contracts apply, some Member States have introduced competitive tendering for these contracts, while others award them directly. This patchwork of regulatory systems in the EU makes it difficult for railway companies to exploit the full potential of operating in an Internal Market.

This proposal forms part of the Fourth Railway Package put forward by the Commission. It should result in the competitive tendering of public service contracts with a view to improving the quality of rail passenger services and enhancing their operational efficiency, thereby improving the competitiveness and attractiveness of rail vis-à-vis other modes and developing further the Single European Railway Area.

The Rapporteur calls in his draft opinion on the responsible committee, Transport and Tourism, to incorporate several amendments to take into account the interests of Territorial cohesion objective and facilitate the Regional Authorities' daily work to reach this objective. Further 21 amendments were tabled by Members of REGI to take account of the special interests of regional authorities and railway undertakings and to promote regional cohesion.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 11/07/2013

Deadline for amendments: 12/9/2013

Adoption REGI: 14/10/2013

Adoption main committee: 26/11/2013 (tbc)

Plenary: January 2014 (tbc)

8. Interoperability of the rail system within the European Union (recast) (Point 10 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid (PPE)

Responsible administrator: Susanne Pillath

Procedure: 2013/0015(COD)

Main committee: TRAN

This proposal for a Directive, along with the proposal to recast Directive 2004/49/EC on rail safety, are part of this fourth package which focuses on the removal of remaining administrative and technical barriers by:

- establishing a common approach to safety and interoperability rules to increase economies of scale for railway undertakings active across the EU;
- decreasing administrative costs,
- accelerating administrative procedures, as well as avoiding disguised discrimination,
- relying on the European Railways Agency.

The Rapporteur calls in his draft opinion on the responsible committee, Transport and Tourism, to incorporate several amendments to take into account the interests of Territorial cohesion objective and facilitate the Regional Authorities' daily work to reach this objective. Members of REGI tabled 20 additional amendments concerning the way of obtaining the objective of territorial cohesion with regard to the technical compatibility and the vehicle authorisation.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 11/July/2013

Deadline for amendments: 12/09/2013

Adoption REGI: 14/10/2013

Adoption in lead committee (TRAN): 26/11/2013 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: January 2014 (tbc)

9. Amendment of Directive 2012/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 November 2012 establishing a single European railway area, as regards the opening of the market for domestic passenger transport services by rail and the governance of the railway infrastructure (Point 11 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Joachim Zeller (PPE)

Responsible administrator: Susanne Pillath

Procedure: 2013/0029(COD)

Main committee: TRAN

The proposal to amend directive 2012/34/EU, establishing a single European railway area, as regards the opening of the market for domestic transport services by rail and the governance of the railway infrastructure, is one out of six proposals forming the Fourth Railway Package. With this proposal the Commission intends to intensify competitive pressure on domestic rail markets and strengthen governance of the infrastructure manager.

To intensify competitive pressure on domestic rail markets the Commission proposes the opening of the railway market with all national passenger transport routes to new entrants and service providers from December 2019 on.

To ensure equal access to the infrastructure the proposal provides to strengthen the governance of the infrastructure manager by several provisions. The proposal allows vertically integrated undertakings including those with a holding structure, to maintain ownership of the infrastructure manager on condition that there are strong and efficient safeguards protecting the infrastructure manager's independence.

The Rapporteur MEP Joachim Zeller calls in his draft opinion on the responsible committee, Transport and Tourism, to incorporate several amendments which aim at protecting the needs and operating conditions of the regional small and medium railway undertakings. Further amendments intend to strengthen the role of the regional authorities in the governance of the railway infrastructure. Members of REGI tabled additional 31 amendments concerning the governance of the railway infrastructure like modalities to ensure the independence of the infrastructure managers or the coordination committee.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 11/07/2013

Deadline for amendments: 12/09/2013

Adoption REGI: 14/10/2013

Adoption in lead committee (TRAN): 26/11/2013(tbc)

Adoption in plenary: January 2014 (tbc)

10. Regional quality branding: towards best practice in rural economies (Point 12 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Oldrich Vlasak (ECR)

Responsible administrator: Monika Makay

Procedure: 2013/2098 (INI)

Main committee: AGRI

In the REGI meeting in September the rapporteur, Mr. Vlasák presented his draft opinion on Regional quality branding. He pointed out that regional quality branding is important for local territories and rural economies, as it highlights the connection to a specific and exceptional territory in terms of the origin of products and services. He was of the opinion that at a time of globalised economies, regional quality brands can serve as significant promoters of regional, territorial and local identity, as well as contribute to regional development and territorial marketing, and help improve the competitiveness of rural territories. Furthermore he invites the Member States and sub-national entities to take due account of regional quality branding and the role the brands play in rural territories by including them in their local and regional development strategies. He also highlighted that in order to be successful, regional brands need a necessary critical mass of professionals and funding, and that they should, therefore, be better supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds. In addition he pointed out that for the success of funding received from the European Structural and Investment Funds, the relevant administrative procedures should be made as simple and straightforward as possible for the beneficiaries. Finally, he considered that in order to provide for the increased success of regional quality brands, the exchange of experience, networking and partnerships are essential.

31 amendments were tabled to the opinion, concerning inter alia agricultural foodstuffs, Local Action Groups, networks, workers' rights and environmental impacts.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 24/09/2013

Deadline for amendments: 25/09//2013

Adoption REGI: 14/10/2013

Adoption main committee: 25-26/11/2013 (tbc)

Plenary: (tbc)

11. How can the European Union contribute to creating a hospitable environment for enterprises, businesses and start-ups to create jobs? (Point 13 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Karin Kadenbach (S&D)

Responsible administrator: Susanne Pillath

Procedure: 2013/2176(INI)

Main committee: EMPL - Anthe McIntyre (ECR)

The initiative report tabled in EMPL points out that Member States, with support from the EU institutions, in order to create a hospitable environment to create jobs must address skills, entrepreneurship, demographics, market access, finance and the labour market. In particular the report notes that Europe's education and training systems are not adapted to businesses' skills needs. European programmes should be further promoted to help entrepreneurs develop and create jobs. Reforms on the labour market and the creation of opportunities on the single market through opening up borders are important tools to help start-ups to grow and create jobs. Furthermore the report underlines that providing better regulation and reducing of administrative burden are essential for a hospitable environment to create jobs.

The Rapporteur Karin Kadenbach points out in her draft opinion that cohesion policy provides with the European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds a wide range of measures to support the creation of jobs, especially for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) as the main job creators in the European economy. The opinion asks also for a widening of the possibilities for small and medium-sized enterprises to have access to finance and so diminishing one of the main obstacles obstructing the growth of SMEs.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 14/10/2013

Deadline for amendments: 16/10/2013 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 27/11/2013 (tbc)

Adoption main committee: 05/12/2013 (tbc)

Plenary: tbc

12. EU Member States preparedness to an effective and timely start of the new Cohesion Policy Programming period (Point 14 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Derek Vaughan (S&D)

Responsible administrators: Stefan Donea, Carla Carvalho

Procedure: 2011/2095 (INI)
Main committee: REGI

The Rapporteur will present his draft report on "EU Member States preparedness for an effective and timely start of the new Cohesion Policy Programming period." During the presentation of the Working Document in the September REGI meeting, many questions have been raised by the Members, who have 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.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of working doc.: 23/09/2013

Consideration of draft report: 14/10/2013

Deadline for amendments: 18/10/2013

Adoption REGI: 27-28/11/2013

Adoption BUDG: 4/11/2013 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: January 2014 (tbc)

13. Local and regional consequences of the development of smart grids (Point 15 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Elisabeth Schroedter (Verts/ALE)

Responsible administrator: Monika Makay

Procedure: 2013/2128(INI)

Main committee: REGI

In the exchange of views the Rapporteur, Ms Schroedter will present his working document, in which she points out that there are already many solutions on the ground as regards smart energy systems and smart grid initiatives, she also presents several examples. She further argues that one of the major incentives for a change in today's energy grid is the better inclusion of variable energy sources. She stresses that a smart grid is more than a smart meter; a comprehensive and multi-sectorial approach is of utmost importance. A smart grid implementation has to be embedded in an overall regional policy context in order to maximise benefits for the region. In the

working document the Rapporteur also presents the positive impacts of smart energy grids on local employment within the regional economy. Furthermore the democratic aspects of smart grids and local renewable energy production and distributions are outlined in the document underlining the importance of consumers and citizens as active agents in smart energy infrastructure and distribution. In addition the working document describes issues like data protection and privacy; framework needed for Smart Energy Systems and cross-border regions and a transnational network.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of working document: 14/10/2013

Presentation of draft report: 27/11/2013 (tbc)

Deadline for amendments: 29/11/2013 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 18/12/2013 (tbc)

Plenary: tbc



part 2 meeting 23 and 24 September 2013

Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meeting held on 23 and 24 September 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. Consideration and set of deadlines for tabling amendments

▪ Discussion on the advancement of the inter-institutional negotiations on the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)

The two rapporteurs, Mrs Krehl and Mr Van Nistelrooij, made a presentation on the advancement of the negotiations on the CPR. The rapporteurs informed the Members that a **document reflecting all the elements negotiated since the end of the summer recess had been distributed to Members.**

The rapporteurs explained to the committee that since the vote in July of the report, the negotiations went on and that at this moment around 95 of the PR was agreed, with dozens of chapter finalised. However, there were several important issues where there were no progress as the Commission and Council remain unmoved. The remaining problematic issues are as follows:

- **Performance reserve;**
- **Macroeconomic conditionality;**
- **Co-financing of projects;**
- **Pre-financing of projects;**

The Rapporteurs declared that the Negotiated Team was doing everything on their hands to advance in the negotiations. The rapporteurs also presented briefly the new proposal on the SMEs that the EV had brought to the table.

The Chair has added that **all negotiations have to come to a close on October 10th if the vote in plenary is maintained for October II session.**

▪ Other reports presented in committee

Rapporteur / Draftsperson	Report / Opinion	Deadline for amendments	Tabling procedure
Oldřich Vlasák	DRAFT OPINION on "Regional quality branding: towards best practice in rural economies" 2013/2098(INI) - (PE516.946)	25.09.2013 at 18:00	AT4AM application
Derek Vaughan	Consideration of working document on "EU member states preparedness to an effective and timely start of the new Cohesion Policy programming period" 2013/2095(INI)	TBC	TBC

2. Votes

Rapporteur/ Draftsperson	Report/ Opinion	Result of the votes for/against/abstentions
Oldřich Vlasák	DRAFT REPORT on the "Draft report on the Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 as regards certain provisions relating to financial management for certain Member States experiencing or threatened with serious difficulties with respect to their financial stability and to the decommitment rules for certain Member States" 2013/0156(COD) - (PE514.735)	adopted with amendments 36/3/6
Georgios Stavrakakis	DRAFT OPINION on the "General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014 - all sections" 2013/2145(BUD) - (PE514.867)	adopted with amendments 44/0/3
Tamás Deutsch	DRAFT OPINION on "European Semester for economic policy coordination: implementation of 2013 priorities " 2013/2134(INI) - (PE514.705)	adopted with amendments 43/3/1
Juozas Imbrasas	DRAFT OPINION on "eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020 - Innovative healthcare for the 21st century " 2013/2061(INI) - (PE516.648)	adopted with amendments 44/1/1
Andrey Kovatchev	DRAFT OPINION on the "Multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020" 2011/0177(APP) - (PE519.472)	adopted without amendments 43/3/1

3. Other points on the agenda

▪ Exchange of views with Ministers

Mr. Marcin Kubiak, Deputy-Minister of Regional Development of Poland and Mr Daniel Braun, Secretary of State at the Ministry of regional development of the Czechs Republic made short presentations on the implementation of the Cohesion Policy in their countries. The accent was put on the achievements, the lessons learned and on the way forward looking to the implementation of the future programming period 2014-2020. The presentations were followed by discussion with MEPs.

▪ Public hearing with experts

A public hearing with experts entitled "**Experiences of Central and Eastern European countries in implementing Cohesion policy**" took place during REGI meeting on September 24th. The focus was on the experience of Member States from Central and Eastern Europe with the implementation of the current programming period.

Four presentations were given by the following experts:

- "**Experiences of Central and Eastern European countries in implementing Cohesion policy**" Prof. John Bachtler, Professor of European Policy Studies, University of Strathclyde

- **"Experience of Central and Eastern Europe in implementing Cohesion Policy: Integrated urban development – Growth Poles Policy in Romania"** by Mr. Laurentiu Gabriel Friptu, Director General, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration

- **"Successful Cohesion policy in Central and Eastern Europe through partnership: lessons learned and opportunities not to be missed"**, Ms. Alda Ozola, National coordinator and project manager, CEE Bankwatch Network.

- **"The role of EU Structural Fund interventions in boosting RTDI potential in CEECs"** by Mr Jacek Walendowski, Senior Consultant, Technopolis Group Belgium / Regional Innovation Monitor Plus Coordinator.

The presentations were followed by a debate with Members of REGI committee.

▪ **Reports from recent REGI delegations**

The Chairs of the following delegations reported to the committee on the outcomes of the delegations:

- Kiruna (Sweden) from 16 to 18 June
- Berlin from 17 to 18 June
- Corsica and Sardinia from 15 to 17 July

▪ **Presentations**

- **ESPON PROJECT "EUROPE IN 2030: TERRITORIAL CHALLENGES AHEAD"**

Mr Peter Mehlbye, ESPON Director

Mr Jacek Szlachta, SGH

Mr Andrew Ulied, MCRIT

Mr Roberto Camagni, POLIMI

Peter Mehlbye, ESPON's director, made a short presentation of the European Territory 2050 project and then the representatives of the project partners, made presentations on the main projects and outcomes.

- **COMPLEMENTARITIES BETWEEN THE FOUR PAN-EUROPEAN (ETC) PROGRAMMES**

Mr Peter Mehlbye, ESPON

Mr Matteo Malvani, INTERACT

Mr Michel Lamblin, INTERREG IVC

Mr Emmanuel Moulin, URBACT

On request of several Members, the Directors of the four main territorial cooperation programmes have presented before the committee their respective pan-European programmes and how they complement and interact between them.

Following an introductory presentation, the Members of REGI committee have questioned the Directors.

- **MIND THE GAP - EDUCATION INEQUALITIES ACROSS EU REGIONS**

An independent report commissioned by DG EAC, European Commission

A presentation was given by Mrs Sophia Eriksson Waterschoot, HoU "Education and training in Europe 2020" at DG Education and culture at EC.

The independent report "***Mind the Gap – education inequality across EU regions***", which was commanded by the EC and compiled by the network of experts in social sciences of education and training (NESSE), highlights significant disparities in education opportunities and results across – and within – Member States.



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

01/10/2013 afternoon	Brussels, EP	5th Knowledge 4 Innovation Summit	Summit Conference session on "Improving the Framework Conditions for Innovation"
01/10/2013 evening	Brussels, EP	5th Knowledge 4 Innovation Summit	Dinner debate in cooperation with the Puglia region on "Towards world class clusters: policy support and funding instruments at EU and regional level"
07/10/2013 9.30 - 15.00	Brussels	Meeting of the Assembly of Polish Voivodships	"European Regional Policy after 2013"
07/10/2013 13.50 to 15.00	Brussels	Microsoft	"How innovative technology-based projects can be translated into EU funded projects?"

More information is available at the Chair's website <http://danuta-huebner.pl/> or with the secretariat.

* * *



Library News

Recent publications in the field of Regional Development

Library Briefings



[The \(low\) absorption of EU Structural Funds](#) / by Ivana Katsarova, posted on 2nd October 2013

Cohesion policy and its Structural Funds are one of the main EU instruments to sustain economic growth, while reducing disparities between regions. These funds are allocated to Member States (MS) under a complex legal framework, according to the level of development of their regions.

© European Union, 2013

Library Keyresources



[EU macro-regional strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region \(EUSAIR\)](#) / by Maria Isabel Moran Vidal posted on 27 September 2013.

The European Council has requested the Commission to present an EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) by the end of 2014. This strategy builds on the Maritime Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas adopted by the European Commission on 30 November 2012. In all, four EU Member States (Greece, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia) and four non-EU countries (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia) will be involved on this macro-regional strategy. More Library Keyresources on the EU Macro-Regional strategies are available [here](#).

© European Union, 2013

Latest analysis



[Eurostat regional yearbook 2013](#) / Eurostat, October 2013, 284 p.

"The Eurostat regional yearbook 2013 gives a detailed picture relating to a broad range of statistical topics across the regions of the Member States of the European Union (EU), as well as the regions of EFTA and candidate countries. These regional indicators are presented for the following 11 subjects: economy, population, health, education, the labour market, structural business statistics, tourism, the information society, agriculture, transport, and science, technology and innovation. In addition, four special focus chapters are included in this edition: these look at European cities, the definition of city and metro regions, income and living conditions according to the degree of urbanisation, and rural development."(Source: Eurostat)

© European Union, 2013



[Regional Statistics Illustrated](#) / Eurostat, July 2013

Regional Statistics Illustrated contains more than 50 indicators by NUTS 2 regions, grouped into 10 statistical domains namely: economy, labour market, population, education, health, agriculture, transport, tourism, information society, science and technology.

© European Union, 2013

Using the interactive map, individual regions can quickly be selected while different visualisation options allow to compare and analyse regional data in an user-friendly way. An animated timeline shows how regions have performed over time.

The tool accesses the latest available data in the Eurostat database so that the selected indicators always show the latest figures. (Source: Eurostat)



© OECD,
2013

[The Competitiveness of Global Port-Cities: the case of Danube Axis \(Bratislava, Štúrovo, Komárno – Slovak Republic\)](#) / by Marten van den Bossche, Olaf Merk and Jing Li, OECD Regional Development Working Papers, no14, 2013, 107 p.

This paper sets out to examine the impact of the quality of local and regional governments on the returns of investment, focusing on the returns of EU structural and cohesion funds. The results of the analysis underline the importance of the quality of government both as a direct determinant of economic growth, as well as a moderator of the efficiency of structural and cohesion funds expenditure. (Source: the document)



© DPA
Insight, 2013

[EU Cohesion Policy: Poor relief turns into an investment fund](#) / by Joachim Weidemann, DPA Insight EU, July 2013

This analysis and dossier with links discusses the Cohesion Policy as a key EU policy instrument and its process of being reshaped. The author thinks that Europe's structural and development funds are financial tools designed to promote growth but in this arena there are some losers too.

Library Infosessions



The Library is organising an InfoSession on Regional Development, focusing on the related sources, products and services available via the Library. The session will take place in English on Monday, 14th October 2013 from 15:00 to 16:00 in the room ASP06D126 (access via Library, ASP05D).

[Register online](#) or contact [Sorina Ionescu](#) with queries or suggestions for particular issues you would like the session to cover.

* * *