



newsletter of the committee on regional development



Next Committee meeting

Monday 23 September 2013

15.00 - 18.30

Tuesday 24 September 2013

9.00 - 12.30 15.00 - 18.30

Room JAN 6 Q 2

in focus

- > Presentation on 'Complementarities between the 4 pan-European (ETC) Programmes'
- Vote on :
 - 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
 - General budget of the EU for 2014
 - European Semester for economic policy coordination
 - eHealth Action Plan 2013-2020
 - Multiannual financial framework for 2014-2020
- Exchange of views with Polish Minister on Regional Development and Czech Deputy Minister-State Secretary on Regional Development
- Hearing on 'The experience of Central and Eastern Europe in implementing Cohesion Policy'
- Presentation of the EC report 'Mind the Gap Education inequalities across EU regions'

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

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Next Publication

Committee Meeting on

Monday 14 October 2013 15.00 - 18.30

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 23 and 24 September 2013

Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI committee meeting on 23 and 24 September 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. Complementarities between the four pan-European (ETC) Programmes (Point 5 of the draft agenda)
Presentation by responsible Directors:

· ESPON: Peter Mehlbye

INTERACT: Matteo Malvani
 INTERREG IVC: Michel Lamblin
 URBACT: Emmanuel Moulin

On request of several Members, the Directors of the four main territorial cooperation programmes will present before the committee their respective pan-European programmes and how they complement and interact between them. Following an introductory presentation, the Members will question the Directors.

2. Multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 (Point 6 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Andrey Kovatchev (PPE)
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho

Procedure: 2011/0177(APP)
Main committee: BUDG

The Parliament has voted on 3 July 2013 its resolution on the political agreement on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, endorsing the political agreement reached on 27 June 2013 at the highest political level between Parliament, the Council Presidency and the Commission on the MFF.

In this context, the Committee on Budgets (BUDG) will adopt on 9 October 2013 its draft recommendation report on the consent to the draft Council Regulation on the MFF.

The Committee on Regional Development (REGI) will, through its Rapporteur Mr. Kovatchev, contribute to this procedure, by presenting on the 23rd a draft opinion. The draft opinion will be voted the following day in order to allow BUDG to take REGI's opinion into account.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 12/07/2012 - 23/09/2013

Deadline for amendments: 17/07/2012 Adoption REGI: 18/09/2012 - 24/09/2013

Adoption BUDG: 18/10/2012

Plenary: tbc

3. EU Member States preparedness to an effective and timely start of the new Cohesion Policy Programming period (Point 7 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Derek Vaughan (S&D)

Responsible administrators: Stefan Donea, Carla Carvalho

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

The Rapporteur is going to present his Working Document on "EU Member States preparedness for an effective and timely start of the new Cohesion Policy Programming period". In his Working Document, 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, the Commission can agree national partnership agreements and operational programmes so that funds can be allocated as soon as possible.

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 is trying to explain the reasons for this situation, what is the approach of the advanced Member States in preparing for the implementation of the future Cohesion Policy as well as why the progress is slower for the others. Based on the lessons learnt from the previous programming cycles and taking into consideration the current preparedness stages, the Rapporteur will make 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 (tbc)

Deadline for amendments: 18/10/2013 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 27-28/11/2013 (tbc)
Adoption in plenary: January 2014 (tbc)

- 4. Report on recent visits of REGI delegations indicated below (Point 8 of the draft agenda)
 - · Kiruna (Sweden) from 16 to 18 June
 - Berlin from 17 to 18 June
 - · Corsica and Sardinia from 15 to 17 July

Kiruna (Sweden) from 16 to 18 June

REGI has organised a delegation visit to Kiruna on 16-18 June 2013, the main objectives of which were to visit the northernmost part of the EU and learn about this regions' uniquely pragmatic approach to regional development, thus strengthening also Parliament's knowledge and understanding of the northern sparsely populated areas (NSPA) that, while facing real and permanent geographic handicaps, manage nevertheless to offer big added value to the whole of Europe through their nature and natural resources, as well as scientific research, tapping into a vast development potential, and finally to gather information on the situation of the

implementation of the EU cohesion and regional policy in this very specific type of region of the Union, by exchanging views with local stakeholders, local authorities and politicians.

The delegation was composed of 5 Members of the Committee on Regional Development: MEP Giorgios Stavrakakis, Chair of the delegation (S&D, Greece), MEP Lambert Van Nistelrooij (EPP, The Netherlands), MEP Costanze Krehl (S&D, Germany), MEP Kerstin Westphal (S&D, Germany), and MEP Jens Nilsson (S&D, Sweden.

Berlin from 17 to 18 June

REGI has organised a delegation to Berlin, Germany, on 17-18 June 2013, to visit projects and programs implemented in Berlin with the support of the European cohesion policy and to gain insights into the practical application of the urban, economic and social dimension of cohesion policy in a metropolitan area. The Delegation had the opportunity to get an overview over the challenges for urban development and the implementation of cohesion policy including the main difficulties in the practical implementation as well as the conditions for the successful implementation. The delegation had the opportunity to get an impression of the possibilities for creating an environment for innovative economic activities and could discuss with stakeholders and managers the conditions for economic success of start-up enterprises. The delegation had also the opportunity to learn to know good practices and innovative approaches to tackle the specific social challenges of an metropolitan area.

The delegation was composed of The delegation consists of 9 Members and substitute Members of the Committee on Regional Development: MEP Seán Kelly, Chair of the delegation (EPP, Ireland), MEP Petru Luhan (EPP, Roumania), MEP Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (EPP, Greece), MEP Derek Vaughan (S&D, United Kingdom), MEP Vilja Savisaar-Toomast (ALDE, Estonia), MEP Joachim Zeller (EPP, Germany), Hermann Winkler (EPP, Germany), Jens Geier (S&D, Germany), Elisabeth Schroedter (Greens/EFA, Germany).

• Corsica and Sardinia from 15 to 17 July

11 members of REGI committee were on a delegation trip to the border regions of Sardinia and Corsica from the 15th to the 17th of July 2013.

The delegation, chaired by Mrs Constanze Krehl co-rapporteur on the Common Provisions Regulation, had as an objective to visit projects of cross- border cooperation between France and Spain, implemented by their respective border regions with the financial support from EU Structural and Cohesion funds.

The delegation members met local and regional authorities, responsible for the implementation of cross-border cooperation projects, shared experiences and received recommendations for the future programming period.

The thematic focus of this delegation is the place of islands in the EU Cohesion Policy and the Mediterranean dimension of EU territorial cooperation policy. The delegation also aimed at understanding the specific problems that the islands' authorities encounter in the implementation of the EU's regional policy and the opportunities offered by the EU co-funded programmes to connect two islands that are peripheral to their Member States.

The MEPs members of the delegation visited the following locations: In France - Corsica region - Figari airport and Bonifacio; In Italy: Sardinia region - Santa Teresa di Galura, Capo Comino and Olbia.

5. ESPON Project "Europe in 2030: Territorial Challenges Ahead" (Point 10 of the draft agenda) Presentation by:

- · Andrew Ulied, MCRIT
- · Roberto Camagni, POLIMI

Members of ESPON and project partners will present first results and conclusions from the on-going ESPON project European Territory 2050. Policymakers in the field of territorial development and cohesion are often in need of a future oriented and integrated vision on the development of the European territory.

This project builds on a territorial vision-building process that involves relevant stakeholders at European, national and regional level and follows a participatory process. The visionary process has a strategic character that allows giving direction to the policy debate on territorial development. The project is expected to support and deliver input to the territorial vision-building process by updating, extending and refining the scenario work already done by ESPON.

The project involves participants from 10 countries representing 12 institutions who aimed at answering important strategic questions: What could be the crisis impact in regional disparities up to 2030? Which territorial strategies could be imagined for Europe up to 2050?, the answers to which will be presented during the September Committee meeting.

6. 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 (Point 11 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)

Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho

Procedure: 2013/0156(COD)

Main committee: REGI

After the submission of the draft report by Mr. Vlasák in the REGI meeting of July, six amendments were further tabled, which will be put to the vote on 23-24 September.

Some of the amendments tabled give continuation to the proposals of the Rapporteur in his draft report, or intend at modifying the top-up rules, or at modifying the time of application of the amending regulation to Member States under a financial assistance programme in accordance with Article 77(2) of the General Regulation.

This procedure complies with Rule 70(2) of the Rules of Procedure, and in particular its first subparagraph and the first sentence of the second subparagraph, providing for the "standard procedure" for entering into negotiations.

The vote is therefore organised as follows:

- the draft report will be adopted by simple majority;
- the decision on opening negotiations, on considering the report as the mandate and on the Negotiating Team composition (Chair, Rapporteur and Shadows, as usual) will be taken at the same meeting, by absolute majority (majority of the committee Members, i.e., 25+1).

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 20/06/2013

Consideration of draft report: 10/07/2013

Deadline for amendments:17/07/2013

Adoption REGI: 24/09/2013 Plenary: October 2013 (tbc)

7. General Budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014 - All sections (Point 12 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Georgios Stavrakakis (S&D)
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho

Procedure:

Main committee: BUDG

The Rapporteur, Mr. Stavrakakis has submitted an opinion on the draft general budget in the REGI meeting of 10-11 July, to which two amendments were tabled, with a view to a vote in the meeting of 23-24 September 2013.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 10/07/2013

Deadline for amendments: 18/07/2013

Adoption REGI: 24/09/2013 Adoption BUDG: 02/10/2013 (tbc) Plenary: October I 2013 (tbc)

8. European Semester for economic policy coordination: implementation of 2013 priorities (Point 13 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Tamás Deutsch (PPE)

Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev

Procedure: 2013/2134(INI)
Main committee: ECON

Some 21 amendments were tabled to the draft opinion by Mr Deutsch. As a majority of the amendments are touching upon politically sensitive issues (ex: macroeconomic conditionality, decommitment rules...) the rapporteur does not wish to put forward compromise amendments and will put the amendments to the vote.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 10/07/2013

Deadline for amendments: 16/07/2013

Adoption REGI: 24/09/2013

Adoption main committee: 30/09/2013 (tbc)

Plenary: October II 2013 (tbc)

9. eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020 - Innovative healthcare for the 21st century (Point 14 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Juozas Imbrasas (EFD)

Responsible administrator: Monika Makay

Procedure: 2013/2061(INI)
Main committee: ENVI

In his draft opinion the rapporteur, Mr. Imbrasas considers that the communication of the European Commission offers an important set of guidelines for national, regional and local institutions on how to prepare the healthcare systems in the EU for today's challenges, which include the ageing of the population, the spread of chronic diseases, growing demand for quality care and specialised services, the need for more efficient use of ever-scarcer resources, reducing red tape and corruption, and creating a stable market environment to encourage innovation. He also considers that eHealth opens up great opportunities for improving the accessibility of healthcare services for all EU citizens, irrespective of their location, citizenship, income or social status, or of disability and age. He stresses that health literacy of patients, digital skills of patients and medical personnel, broadband access and user-

friendly eHealth ICT tools are essential in order to eliminate health inequalities and provide access to preventative healthcare measures and medical advice in remote, sparsely populated and otherwise disadvantaged regions. Furthermore he calls for the role of regional and local authorities in developing eHealth infrastructures to be strengthened. Finally, he encourages local and regional authorities to make use of EU funds for financing eHealth.

28 amendments were tabled to the opinion, aiming inter alia at sustainability, cost reduction, quality and safety of healthcare services

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 10/07/2013

Deadline for amendments: 12/07/2013

Adoption REGI: 24/09/2013

Adoption main committee: 4-5/11/2013 (tbc)

Plenary: (tbc)

10. Multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 (Point 15 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Andrey Kovatchev (PPE)
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho

Procedure: 2011/0177(APP)
Main committee: BUDG

The REGI Committee will vote on the opinion of Mr. Kovatchev the day following its presentation and debate in committee. This procedure only allows for consenting or not consenting to the adoption of the MFF by means of a single vote, and no amendments may be tabled.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 12/07/2012 - 23/09/2013

Deadline for amendments: 17/07/2012 Adoption REGI: 18/09/2012 - 24/09/2013

Adoption BUDG: 18/10/2012

Plenary: tbc

11. Regional quality branding: towards best practice in rural economies (Point 16 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Oldrich Vlasak (ECR)

Responsible administrator: Monika Makay

Procedure: 2013/2098 (INI)
Main committee: AGRI

In the exchange of views the rapporteur, Mr. Vlasák will present his draft opinion on Regional quality branding. He points 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 is 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 highlights 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 points 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 considers that in order to provide for the increased success of regional quality brands, the exchange of experience, networking and partnerships are essential.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 24/09/2013

Deadline for amendments: 25/09//2013 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 14/10/2013 (tbc)

Adoption main committee: 4-5/11/2013 (tbc)

Plenary: (tbc)

12. Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) N° 1083/2006 (Point 17 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)

On 10 July the final report on Common Provisions Regulation was adopted by REGI, reflecting the agreements reached in inter-institutional negotiations before the vote. Negotiations are still on-going on the remaining open and pending issues. Main open issues are macroeconomic conditionality, co-financing rates, performance reserve and performance framework among others.

After the REGI vote further thematic blocks could be closed, such as Common Strategic Framework annex, Financial Management and Financial Instruments. In addition negotiations continued on the Financial Issues block.

Inter-institutional negotiations will go on until the end of September with the aim to reach a first-reading agreement and to adopt the regulation in the October II plenary session.

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)

13. Exchange of views with Ms Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Minister of Regional Development of the Republic of Poland and with Mr Daniel Braun, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic (Point 18 of the draft agenda)

In the context of the finalisation of the current programming period and the preparation of the future one, REGI committee invited two Ministers from Member States falling under the cohesion objective, to exchange their experiences with the Members of REGI committee on the implementation of the regional development policy in their respective states.

14. Hearing on 'The experience of Central and Eastern Europe in implementing Cohesion Policy: lessons learnt and future perspectives' (Point 19 of the draft agenda)

The public hearing with experts will be focusing on the experience of Member States from Central and Eastern Europe with the implementation of the current programming period. The subject is of utmost importance, especially given that countries from Central and Eastern Europe are among the most needy ones in terms of Cohesion Policy's support, but positive experiences are twinned with others needing clear improvements. A public hearing on this topic would give the opportunity of bringing together experts to discuss over each other's experiences and the way forward, in view of the new programming period 2014-2020, when progress by these Member States will be essential for the achievement of Cohesion Policy's goals.

Draft Programme	
16:00 - 16:15	Title of the presentation (tbc)
	Prof. John Bachtler Professor of European Policy Studies, University of Strathclyde
16:15 - 16:30	Title of the presentation (tbc)
	Mr. Gabriel Friptu Laurentiu Director General, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration
16:30 - 16:45	"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 Netwok
16:45 - 17:00	"The role of EU Structural Fund interventions in boosting RTDI potential in CEECs"
	Mr Jacek Walendowski Senior Consultant, Technopolis Group Belgium / Regional Innovation Monitor Plus Coordinator
17:00 - 17:00	Questions by Members
	With the participation of the European Commission

15. Mind the Cap - Education inequalities across EU regions (Point 20 of the draft agenda)

 Presentation of the independent report authored for the European Commission by Sophia Eriksson Waterschoot, Head of Unit Education and Training in Europe 2020 governance at European Commission

The European Commission has published a report "Mind the Gap – education inequality across EU regions" which highlights significant disparities in education opportunities and results across – and within – Member States. The independent report was compiled by the network of experts in social sciences of education and training (NESSE). Because of their importance and relevance for regional development and European cohesion the results of the study will be presented in the meeting of the Committee on Regional Development.



part 2 meeting of 10 and 11 July 2013

Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meeting held on 10 and11 July 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 <u>REGI</u>.

1. Consideration and set of deadlines for tabling amendments

Rapporteur / Draftsperson	Report / Opinion	Deadline for amendments	Tabling procedure
Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)	DRAFT REPORT on "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)	17/07/2013 12.00	AT4AM application
Georgios Stavrakakis (S&D)	DRAFT OPINION on " General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014 - all sections" 18/07/2013 12.00 2013/2145(BUD) - (PE514.867)		AT4AM application
Tamás Deutsch (PPE)	DRAFT OPINION on "European Semester for economic policy coordination: implementation of 2013 priorities" 2013/2134(INI) - (PE514.705)		AT4AM application
Juozas Imbrasas (EFD)	DRAFT OPINION on "eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020 - Innovative healthcare for the 21st century" 2013/2061(INI) - (PE514.579)		AT4AM application
Rosa Estaràs Ferragut (PPE)	DRAFT OPINION on "Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 concerning the opening of the market for domestic passenger transport services by rail" 2013/0028(COD) - (PE514.699)		AT4AM application
Marie-Thérèse Sanchez- Schmid (PPE)	DRAFT OPINION on "Interoperability of the rail system within the European Union (recast) " 2013/0015(COD) - (PE514.700)		AT4AM application
Joachim Zeller (PPE)	DRAFT OPINION on "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" 2013/0029(COD) - (PE514.715)	12/09/2013 12.00	AT4AM application

2. Votes

Rapporteur / Draftsperson	Report / Opinion	Result of the votes for/against/abstentions
Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE) Constanze Angela Krehl (S&D)	DRAFT REPORT on the "Proposal for a regulation 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 covered by the Common Strategic Framework and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006	adopted with amendments 40/3/1
Jan Olbrycht (PPE)	DRAFT REPORT on the "Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions concerning the European Regional Development Fund and the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006" 2011/0275(COD) - (PE487.951)	adopted with amendments 39/0/2
Victor Boştinaru (S&D)	DRAFT REPORT on the "Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Cohesion Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006" 2011/0274(COD) - (PE486.124)	adopted with amendments 43/0/1
Riikka Pakarinen (ALDE)	DRAFT REPORT on the "Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal" 2011/0273(COD) - (PE487.789)	adopted with amendments 42/1/2
Joachim Zeller (PPE)	DRAFT REPORT on the "Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC) as regards the clarification, simplification and improvement of the establishment and implementation of such groupings" 2011/0272(COD) - (PE489.428)	adopted with amendments 40/0/3
Mojca Kleva Kekuš (S&D)	DRAFT REPORT on "The implementation and impact of the energy efficiency measures under Cohesion Policy" 2013/2038(INI) - (PE510.707) 37/2/6	
Erminia Mazzoni (PPE)	DRAFT REPORT on the "Effects of budgetary constraints for the regional and local authorities regarding the EU's Structural Funds expenditure in the Member States" 2013/2042(INI) - (PE510.736)	adopted with amendments 40/2/2
María Irigoyen Pérez (S&D)	DRAFT OPINION on "Reindustrialising Europe to promote competitiveness and sustainability" 2013/2006(INI) - (PE513.076)	adopted with amendments 42/0/3

3. Exchange of views with Rimantas Šadžius, Minister of Finance, President in office of the Council, on the priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency

Mr Rimantas Šadžius, Minister of Finance, President in office of the Council, informed the Members on the priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency. He stressed that the Lithuanian Presidency will be focused on a "credible, growing and open Europe."

The Lithuanian Minister of Finance pointed out that the main priority regarding Cohesion Policy is to finalise the negotiations on this package as soon as possible. He reassured the Members of his personal engagement in order to conclude the negotiations and adopt the package in due time in order to implement the new Cohesion Policy as of January 1st, 2014.

An exchange of views with the Members of several items pertaining to the priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency mainly in the field of Cohesion Policy followed.

4. Outlook on the state of play of the economic, social and territorial cohesion in Croatia

Mr. Raphael Goulet, Head of Unit Austria, Croatia and Slovenia within the European Commission (DG REGIO) has presented the state of play of the economic, social and territorial cohesion in Croatia. Afterwards, a discussion with the Members on the above-mentioned topic took place.

A study on the 'Economic, social and territorial situation of Croatia', drafted by Policy Department B 'Structural and Cohesion Policies' at DG IPOL, was distributed to the Members, as well.

5. Consideration of working document

Consideration of working document for Own-Initiative-Report on " Smart specialisation: networking excellence for a sound Cohesion Policy" (REGI/7/12766) - Rapporteur: Hermann Winkler.



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

10/07/2013	Brussels, EP	Contact Group Meeting on Multiannual Financial Framework
04/09/2013	Brussels, EP	Contact Group Meeting on Multiannual Financial Framework

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

04/07/2013	Mr Michael Fallon, British Minister for Business and Enterprise and Minister of State for Energy
09/07/2013	Mr Javorcik, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
04/09/2013	MEP Dr Eleni Theocharous, on the negotiations on CPR
04/09/2013	Mr Hubert Gambs and Mr Nicola De Michelis, Commissioner Hahn's Head of Cabinet and Deputy Head of Cabinet, DG REGIO, European Commission

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Library News

Recent publications in the field of Regional Development

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<u>Innovative financial instruments for EU policies</u> / by Alessandro D'Alfonso posted on 3 September 2013, 6 p.

Unlike pure grants, innovative financial instruments (IFIs) are EU budget tools that trigger equity or debt funding, for example in the form of investments in share capital, loans or guarantees. Financial institutions and intermediaries are often involved in their implementation on behalf of the European Commission (EC). IFIs are not deemed to fit all kinds of public spending, but have features that make them attractive. Notably, they are expected to increase the impact of the EU budget by leveraging additional funding from other sources. In addition, IFIs generate income through amounts repaid by beneficiaries of funding that can be used for new operations in line with the same policy objectives.

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<u>Towards a Macro-Regional Strategy for the Alps</u> / by Sorina Petrescu, Sorina Ionescu, posted on 22 July 2013.

On 23rd of May 2013, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on a macro-regional strategy for the Alps. The European Parliament calls for the Commission to submit without delay a specific action plan for this area in order to address common challenges such as protection of the environment, investment in competitiveness and innovation, agriculture and forestry, water, energy, environmental and climate issues and transport.

This EP Library Keysource provides a selection of relevant documents on the Alpine area.

More Library Keysources on the EU Macro-Regional strategies are available here.

Latest analysis



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Job creation as an indicator of outcomes in ERDF programmes: synthesis report / prepared by APPLICA and ISMERI Europa for DG Regional and Urban Policy, August 2013, 44 p.

"The report synthesises the main points to come out of the <u>27 national studies</u> produced by the Evaluation Network of independent experts on jobs created as a core indicator of ERDF programmes outcomes. Its main concern is with the comparability of the figures reported and how far they can be meaningfully aggregated across programmes, which has become increasingly important given the growing policy attention paid to job creation across the EU." (Source: the report)



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Analysis of the budgetary implementation of the Structural and Cohesion Funds in 2012 / DG Budget, European Commission, May 2013, 56 p.

The implementation report deals with all the funds of the 2007-2013 programming period assigned to Heading 1b "Cohesion policy" of the financial framework: ERDF and ESF and the Cohesion Fund. It will also continue to cover the EAGGF-G and the FIFG until the closure of the respective programmes, as they are Structural Funds of the period 2000-2006.



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Quality of Government and the returns of investment: examining the impact of Cohesion Expenditure in European Regions / Andrés Rodriguez-Pose, Enrique Garcilazo, OECD Regional Development Working Papers, n°12, July 2013, 22 p.

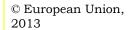
This paper sets out to examine the impact of the quality of local and regional governments on the returns of investment, focusing on the returns of EU structural and cohesion funds. The results of the analysis underline the importance of the quality of government both as a direct determinant of economic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



EU Regional Competitiveness Index: RCI 2013 / Paola Annoni and Lewis Dijkstra, 2013, 169 p.

The Regional Competitiveness Index RCI 2013 reveals a strong regional dimension of competitiveness, which national level indicators cannot capture. The RCI shows the strengths and weaknesses of each of the EU NUTS2 regions. It can provide a guide to what each region should focus on, taking into account its specific situation and its overall level of development.

The Regional Competitiveness Index (RCI) was developed to measure the different dimensions of competitiveness at the regional level. The first edition was published in 2010. (Source: DG Regional and Urban Policy website)





Section Sectio

© European Union, 2013 Opinion No 2/2013 on the amended proposal for a Regulation 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 covered by the Common Strategic Framework and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 / ECA - European Court of Auditors, 18 July 2013, 6 p.

In its General comments "The Court wishes to maintain the general observations made in Part 1 of its Opinion No 7/2011, which are not currently reflected in the Commission's amended proposal of 22 April 2013, and draws particular attention to paragraphs 22 to 37 of that opinion. These relate to the common management and control arrangements for the regulation, which, after the amended proposal, would now also apply to the EMFF. The Court also notes that the detailed recommendations it made in Part II of Opinion No

The Court also notes that the detailed recommendations it made in Part II of Opinion No 7/2011 and the general observations made in Opinion No 9/2012, are not currently reflected in the Commission's amended proposal of 22 April 2013 but ought to be considered."

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