

# regi news

newsletter of the committee on regional development



## Next Committee meeting

**Wednesday 10 July 2013**

9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30

**Thursday 11 July 2013**

9.00 - 12.30

Room PHS 3 C 50

### *in focus*

- **Vote on :**
  - **Common provisions on European Funds**
  - **Specific provisions concerning the ERDF and the 'Investment for growth and jobs' goal**
  - **Cohesion Fund**
  - **Support from the ERDF to the 'European Territorial Cooperation' goal**
  - **EGTC as regards the clarification, simplification and improvement of the establishment and implementation of such groupings**
  - **The implementation and impact of the energy efficiency measures under Cohesion Policy**
  - **Effects of budgetary constraints for regional and local authorities regarding the EU's Structural Funds expenditure in the Member States**
  - **Reindustrialising Europe to promote competitiveness and sustainability**
- **Exchange of views with Rimantas Šadžius, Minister of Finance, Lithuanian Presidency**
- **Presentation by DG REGIO of the state of play of the economic, social and territorial cohesion in Croatia**

**comments and subscriptions at [regi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:regi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu)**

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### Next Publication

Committee Meeting on  
Monday 23 September 2013  
15.00 - 18.30  
and  
Tuesday 24 September 2013  
9.00 - 12.30  
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 10 and 11 July 2013

*Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI committee meeting on 10 and 11 July 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. 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 4 of the draft agenda)**

**Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)**  
**Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho**  
**Procedure: 2013/0156(COD)**

The Commission has adopted a legislative proposal amending the General Regulation (COM(2013)0301), aiming at extending the increased co-financing for Member States threatened with serious difficulties with respect to their financial stability, and as a follow-up to the European Council Conclusions of 7-8 February, and in particular its paragraph 87, regarding the extension of the decommitment deadline for Romania and Slovakia. In the REGI meeting of June 2013, the Commission was invited to present legislative proposal.

Meanwhile, the Rapporteur has tabled his draft report, which will be debated in the meeting of 10-11 July.

While welcoming the Commission's proposal on the increase of the co-financing rate for certain Member States, the Rapporteur seeks in his draft report at unifying the conditions applicable to all Member States as regards decommitment, already through this modification of the General Regulation, which would be valid for the remaining of the current programming period.

This procedure will follow the new Rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure, which entered into force on 10 December 2012, and applies to all legislative procedures for which negotiations with other institutions are foreseen. Rule 70 provides for the standard procedure for entering into negotiations, implying basically that a draft report will be adopted in committee before entering into negotiations, report which constitutes the mandate for negotiation.

This vote includes also the legislative resolution, and the decision on the Negotiating Team composition will be taken at the same meeting (Chair, Rapporteur and Shadows, as usual). The decisions are notified to the President, and the negotiations may formally start after the adoption of the report/mandate in the committee.

Once the negotiations are concluded the resulting agreed text is voted in committee and the adopted text is submitted to the plenary.

**TIMETABLE**  
**Exchange of views: 19/06/2013**  
**Consideration of draft report: 10/07/2013**  
**Deadline for amendments: 17/07/2013 (tbc)**  
**Adoption REGI: 23/09/2013 (tbc)**  
**Plenary: October II 2013 (tbc)**

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

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

After numerous trilogue meetings, the Rapporteurs presented the draft report consisting of 388 amendments. 121 amendments have been tabled to the draft report, of which 81 amendments have been presented by the Rapporteurs in line with the latest outcome of inter-institutional negotiations. The additional 40 amendments tabled by other Members are related to thematic objectives, ex-ante conditionalities, financial corrections under the performance framework and financial instruments among others. Additionally, the Rapporteurs will present compromise amendments which include the final tuning of the texts on thematic objectives, Common Strategic Framework, ex-ante conditionalities, financial instruments, revenue-generating operations, major projects, audit and control just to quote a few examples.

### **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: (tbc)**

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## 3. 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)

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

After 13 trilogue meetings and the written procedure which followed the co-legislators have finalised negotiations on ERDF with all articles agreed. As the result the Rapporteur presented the draft report consisting of 74 amendments, then 48 amendments have been tabled to the draft report, of which 21 amendments have been presented by the Rapporteur in line with the latest outcome of inter-institutional negotiations. The additional 27 amendments tabled by other Members concerned in vast majority the derogation for islands from thematic concentration. Additionally, 5 compromise amendments have been put forward which include the final tuning of the indicators proposed after the consultations between the Commission and Member States' experts and introduction of a standard Recital on alignment between the ERDF and CF regulations. These amendments will be voted in REGI on the 10th of July. If the Committee agrees with this outcome of the inter-institutional negotiations, this can pave the way for the first reading agreement as on the 26th of June the Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) of the Council has adopted the outcome of negotiations with the European Parliament on the ERDF regulation and the outgoing Irish Presidency informed the European Parliament that the latest text outlined in the fourth column table document could constitute a basis for a compromise between the

two institutions subject to the principle that "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed" and that it is subject to legal scrutiny and finalisation by the jurist-linguists.

**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: (tbc)**

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#### **4. Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 (Point 7 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Victor Boștinaru (S&D)**

**Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho**

**Procedure: 2011/0274(COD)**

The Rapporteur, Mr. Bostinaru, has submitted to the Committee his draft report stemming from the negotiations, in the REGI meeting of June 2013. The draft report contained 53 amendments, the text of which is almost entirely resulting from the agreement reached within the negotiations, the last trilogue of which took place on 13 May.

Further amendments were tabled within the deadline for amendments, making a total of 64 amendments that will be put to the vote in July.

These amendments were almost totally tabled by the Rapporteur, with the exception of one amendment, and relate mainly to some open points that were left after the trilogues, and concern in particular the reference to the CEF, as well as a provision on the establishment of the Cohesion Fund.

Meanwhile, the text of some parts of the Regulation was subject to further slight modifications, which will be also put to the vote as compromise amendments. These modifications result from simple redraftings, from alignments with Article 9 CPR, as well as from minor modifications in two indicators in the annex.

**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: (tbc)**

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#### **5. Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the 'European territorial cooperation' (ETC) goal (Point 8 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Riikka Pakarinen (ALDE)**  
**Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud**  
**Procedure: 2011/0273(COD)**

The conclusions of the inter institutional negotiations are reflected in the Draft Report tabled by the Rapporteur, plus additional additional amendments that adapt to the last minutes conclusions of the interinstitutional agreements (mainly on the last minute agreement on ERDF indicators, changes that apply also to ETC indicators).

4 additional amendments were tabled by other Members, on recitals and on the islands.

This negotiation process has enabled to conclude the negotiations on almost all the Articles, except minor adjustments and alignments with CPR regulation to be finalized and the key issue of the financial figures for ETC (Article 4) : without preempting and while waiting for an agreement on the Multi Financial Framework (MFF), the European Parliament maintains its request for 7% of Cohesion Policy amounts dedicated to ETC.

The result of these negotiations is that the regulation is now clearly defining that the scope of the ETC is the same as within the ERDF, but in addition it lists a few ETC specific investment priorities. Also are now explicitly considered the new forms of territorial cooperation, such as Macro-regional and sea-basin strategies .As well are better taken into account for ETC the specificities of the territories with specific features such as outermost regions, islands, or northern sparsely populated regions.

The EP achieved to bring more flexibility on the thematic concentration in two directions :

- by addressing 80 % of the funds to 4 thematic objectives and leave the 20% open.
- and through a 15 % flexibility to transfer the funds between the cross-border and transnational strands This brings more flexibility with more precise drafting of investment priorities.

**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: (tbc)**

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**6. Amendment of 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 (Point 9 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Joachim Zeller (PPE)**  
**Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev**  
**Procedure: 2011/0272(COD)**

Thanks to the devotion and stamina of the European Parliament's EGTC team, a deal was reached with the Council in only three dialogues. The compromise text was agreed in COREPER on June 27th.

Thus, during this month's session REGI MEPs will vote the final consolidated text, which will be presented to the Plenary for a first reading agreement with Council.

In general, after negotiations the purpose of EGTCs is extended to cover the facilitating and promotion of territorial cooperation in general, including strategic planning and the management of regional and local concerns in line with Cohesion and other Union policies, thus contributing to the Europe 2020 strategy or to the implementation of macro-regional strategies

More particularly, under the agreement a number of significant improvements have been achieved:

- **Reducing administrative burden and clarifying procedures**- Improvement of procedures and requirements for establishment of new EGTCs and limiting the time period for authorisation;
- **Extension of scope and tasks** - EGTCs will be able to implement operations with financial support other than that provided by Union cohesion policy;
- **Membership** - Third neighbouring countries and OCTs will be able to become members of an EGTCs. It's a breakthrough compared to the current regulation, and a high priority in the Parliament's position, as French Guyana, an OCT, would be allowed to implement territorial cooperation projects with Brazil or with Suriname through an EGTC;
- **Employment rules and applicable law**- More clarity and legal certainty is brought also to the provisions pertaining to the management of staff of the EGTCs, which are actually identified as the biggest hurdle for the establishment of new EGTCs. Thus, the future EGTCs will have more options as to the applicable law to their employees, especially in complex cross-border situations.

Amongst the other important changes to the regulation, which were defended by the rapporteur Mr Joaquim Zeller are the possibility for the future EGTCs to manage and define terms and conditions for the use of public infrastructure or a service of general economic interest, including the tariffs and fees to be paid by the users.

#### **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: (tbc)**

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## **7. The implementation and impact of the energy efficiency measures under Cohesion Policy (Point 10 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Mojca Kleva Kekuš (S&D)**

**Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev**

**Procedure: 2013/2038(INI)**

**Main committee: REGI**

With Cohesion Policy being one of the major sources of support to put the EU back on track to reach the energy efficiency objective, the Commission has proposed for the next programming period (2014-2020) almost double the proportion of the Cohesion Policy budget dedicated to climate-related expenditure, including energy efficiency.

Increased financial commitment, strengthened position within upcoming legislative texts (thematic concentrations) and a clear role of energy efficiency measures within implementation procedures (operational programmes) are three pillars of support for the future of energy efficiency measures within Cohesion Policy.

The future report by MEP Mojka Kleva Kekuš will aim to contribute to the debate on the importance of energy efficiency by assessing current results of Cohesion Policy measures targeted at energy efficiency and proposing a line of recommendations to strengthen the impact of measures in the upcoming programming period.

The report also embarks on a mission to clarify how compatible are the intertwined European, national, regional objectives and targets of Cohesion Policy with the energy efficiency objectives.

In the latest "Synthesis report" by the Presidency of the Council on the Implementation of the European Semester from March 4, 2013, the Presidency concludes that national delegations remarks concerning energy efficiency suggest that *"the factors adversely affecting its [energy efficiency] development were considered to be more practical than regulatory and include inadequate information and financial incentives, low profile of energy efficiency, and inadequate implementation of existing legislation."*

Taking into account this latest synthesis report by the Council, the report also carefully considers and analyses points raised in the latest Court of Auditors report on Cost-effectiveness of Cohesion Policy Instruments in Energy Efficiency<sup>1</sup>, as well as the Commission's strategic report on the implementation of the programmes for 2007-2013.

**The report by Mrs Mojka Kleva Kekuš** attracted the attention of REGI Members who tabled no less than 154 AMs to the draft report. Actually, the rapporteur is working on a pack of compromises which should incorporate the concerns and additions by her colleagues.

**TIMETABLE**

**Working document: 19/03/2013**

**Mini-hearing : 23/04/2013**

**Draft report: 30/05/2013**

**Deadline for amendments: 11/06/2013**

**Adoption REGI: 10/07/2013**

**Adoption in plenary: September 2013 (tbc)**

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## **8. Effects of budgetary constraints for regional and local authorities regarding the EU's Structural Funds expenditure in the Member States (Point 11 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Erminia Mazzoni (PPE)**

**Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev**

**Procedure: 2013/2042(INI)**

**Main committee: REGI**

The current crisis puts significant constraints on public finances of the Member States. Moreover, in the context of the ongoing financial and economic crisis sub-national (regional and local) authorities are increasingly faced with challenging conundrum regarding their capacity to secure productive investment. On the one hand, they witness a sharp decrease in their revenues, as central governments cut transfers and ask regional and local governments to contribute towards austerity, while on the other they have to secure increasingly demanding social services, as a result of the crisis, putting an extra pressure on their public purses.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://eca.europa.eu/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/20590745.PDF>



In her INI draft report, Ms Mazzoni makes concrete proposals in order to allow all possible flexibility for the national co-financing of EU development expenditure in a context of rigorous implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact. This will be done by analysing to what extent the current crisis has impacted on the capacity of sub-national authorities to pursue the objectives of growth and jobs contained in the Europe 2020 strategy and by suggesting ways to improve the financing capacity of these entities towards productive investments.

Given the ongoing negotiations on the future Cohesion Policy, on the MFF and in more general terms the debate on the future Economic and Monetary Union, Ms Mazzoni stresses the utmost political importance for the Parliament to identify and recommend viable options for national, regional and local authorities to invest in smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

In the light of what has been said above, Ms Mazzoni deems it necessary to exploit in particular all margins of flexibility in the macro-economic governance framework to allow for adequate investment, in particular rethinking the relationship between the Stability and Growth Pact and the productive public investment. Namely, looking for ways of excluding public expenditure related to the implementation of programmes co-financed in the framework of Cohesion Policy and rural development policy from the SPG limitations because they are expenditure devoted to support competitiveness and growth.

Some 54 AMs were tabled to the draft INI report. The rapporteur, Mrs Mazzoni, is currently working on a comprehensive pack of compromises which will fully reflect her colleagues' additions and remarks.

#### **TIMETABLE**

**Working document: 22/04/2013**

**Consideration of draft report: 29/05//2013**

**Deadline for amendments: 04/06/2013**

**Adoption REGI: 10/07/2013**

**Adoption in plenary: September 2013 (tbc)**

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## **9. Reindustrialising Europe to promote competitiveness and sustainability (Point 12 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: María Irigoyen Pérez (S&D)**

**Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev**

**Procedure: 2013/2006(INI)**

**Main committee: ITRE - Reinhard Bütikofer (Verts/ALE)**

In her opinion to ITRE committee, MEP Ms Irigoyen Perez underlines the important potential that the industry sector has to stimulate innovative and sustainable growth and jobs in EU's regions.

The rapporteur on the opinion expresses her concerns about the impact of the current crisis on the sector and emphasises the need for the future Cohesion Policy to continue to deliver key support for a genuine European industrial policy.

Key concerns of the opinion are the setting of a clear industrial competitiveness policy strategy in the National Reform Programmes of Member States, the need for more targeted support from the future Cohesion Policy as part of a strategic, integrated approach, the Smart Specialisation Strategies and more flexibility and creativity for the access to finance, with a special focus to SMEs active in the sector.

Some 42 AMs were tabled to the draft opinion and the drafts person is working on compromise amendments that will be put to the vote.

**TIMETABLE****Consideration of draft opinion: 20/06/2013****Deadline for amendments: 21/06/2013****Adoption REGI: 10/07/2013****Adoption ITRE: 19/09/2013 (tbc)****Plenary: October 2013 (tbc)**

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**10. Exchange of views with Rimantas Šadžius, Minister of Finance, President in office of the Council, on the priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency (Point 13 of the draft agenda)**

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Mr Rimantas Šadžius, Minister of Finance, President in office of the Council, will come to the committee in order to inform the Members on the priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency. An exchange of views will follow with the members.

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**11. General Budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014 - All sections (Point 14 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Georgios Stavrakakis (S&D)****Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho****Procedure:****Main committee: BUDG**

The Commission has adopted the consolidated Draft Budget on 27 June 2013, proposing an amount of commitment appropriations of EUR 47 560,6 million for heading 1b (-13,5% as compared to 2013), and of payment appropriations of EUR 51 093,7 million (-9,3% as compared to 2013, basing its overall estimates on the assumption that the additional EUR 11,2 billion payment appropriations as requested through DAB 2/2013 will be fully authorised in the course of 2013, which is particularly relevant for heading 1b.

As usual, an opinion on the draft general budget will be presented by the Rapporteur, Mr. Stavrakakis, and debated in the REGI meeting of 10-11 July, with a view to vote in the meeting of September 2013.

**TIMETABLE****Consideration of draft opinion: 10/07/2013****Deadline for amendments: 18/07/2013 (tbc)****Adoption REGI: 23-24/09/2013 (tbc)****Adoption EMPL: 2-3/10/2013 (tbc)****Plenary: 9/10/2013 (tbc)**

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**12. European Semester for economic policy coordination: implementation of 2013 priorities (Point 15 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Tamás Deutsch (PPE)****Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev****Procedure:****Main committee: ECON**

This opinion to ECON's INI on the European Semester is the second in a early cycle of two reports (and opinions) on the so called European Semester for macro economic coordination. A first round of reports and opinions was focusing on the Annual Growth Survey 2013 issued by the EC last December. This second INI report is focusing on the Country Specific Recommendations and the whole process.

The draftsman, Mr Tamas Deutsch, is taking the opinion that the CSRs are very positive especially given their focus on the need for growth. His opinion is outlining the acute need for re-financing the productive economy, regain competitiveness by all means necessary and pursue the necessary reforms to achieve a functioning labour market, especially given the endemic unemployment rates in some Member States.

**TIMETABLE**

**Consideration of draft opinion: 10/07/2013**

**Deadline for amendments: 19/07/2013 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: 24/09/2013 (tbc)**

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

**Plenary: October II 2013 (tbc)**

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### 13. eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020 - Innovative healthcare for the 21st century (Point 16 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: Juozas Imbrasas (EFD)**

**Responsible administrator: Monika Makay**

**Procedure: 2013/2061(INI)**

**Main committee: ENVI**

In the exchange of views the rapporteur, Mr. Imbrasas will present his draft opinion on the Commission communication on the eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020. He considers that it 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 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.

**TIMETABLE**

**Consideration of draft opinion: 10/07/2013**

**Deadline for amendments: 12/07/2013 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: 24/09/2013 (tc)**

**Adoption main committee: 17/10/2013 (tbc)**

**Plenary: (tbc)**

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#### **14. Outlook on the state of play of the economic, social and territorial cohesion in Croatia: Presentation by Mr Raphael Goulet, Head of Unit Austria, Croatia and Slovenia at DG REGIO, European Commission (Point 18 of the draft agenda)**

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Mr Raphael Goulet, Head of Unit 'Austria, Croatia and Slovenia' at DG REGIO, European Commission, will present the state of play of the economic, social and territorial cohesion in Croatia.

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#### **15. Amendment of Regulation (EC) N° 1370/2007 concerning the opening of the market for domestic passenger transport services by rail (Point 19 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Rosa Estaràs Ferragut (PPE)**

**Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud**

**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.

**TIMETABLE**

**Consideration of draft opinion: 11/07/2013**

**Deadline for amendments: 12/9/2013 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: 14/10/2013 (tbc)**

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

**Plenary: January 2014 (tbc)**

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#### **16. Interoperability of the rail system within the European Union (recast) (Point 20 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid (PPE)**

**Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud**

**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.

**TIMETABLE**

**Consideration of draft opinion: 11/July/2013**

**Deadline for amendments: 12/09/2013 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: 14/10/2013(tbc)**

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

**Adoption in plenary: January 2014 (tbc)**

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**17. 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 21 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Joachim Zeller (PPE)**

**Responsible administrator: Susanne Pillath**

**Procedure: 2013/0029(COD)**

**Main committee: TRAN**

The overall objective of the Fourth Railway Package is to enhance the quality and efficiency of rail services by removing any remaining legal, institutional and technical obstacles and to foster the performance of the railway sector and its competitiveness, in order to further develop the Single European Railway Area.

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.

**TIMETABLE**

**Consideration of draft opinion: 11/July/2013**

**Deadline for amendments: 12/09/2013 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: 14/10/2013(tbc)**

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

**Adoption in plenary: January 2014 (tbc)**

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## 18. Smart specialisation: networking excellence for a sound Cohesion Policy (Point 22 of the draft agenda)

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

The Rapporteur is going to present his Working Document on " Smart Specialisation: networking excellence for a sound Cohesion Policy". In the Working Document the concept of smart specialisation strategy is presented in the political context and the role that it is going to play in the next edition of Cohesion Policy. The Rapporteur is asking critical research questions such as the rationale of smart specialisation as an ex-ante conditionality, whether smart specialisation strategy is a cohesion policy concept for all regions, why there is so much emphasis on the entrepreneurial discovery process, whether the timeline given for the regions is realistic, what dangers can be associated with setting up priorities, are the regions sufficiently supported, what about "the external dimension" of smart specialisation strategy, and finally, how should the synergies between the structural funds and other EU-programmes be implemented.

**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)**



## part 2 meeting of 19 and 20 June 2013

*Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meeting held on 19 and 20 June 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

Rapporteur / Draftsperson	Report / Opinion	Deadline for amendments	Tabling procedure
Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE) Constanze Angela Krehl (S&D)	DRAFT REPORT on " <b>Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006</b> " 2011/0276(COD)      COM(2013)0246	20/06/2013 12.00	AT4AM application
Jan Olbrycht (PPE)	DRAFT REPORT on " <b>Specific provisions concerning the European Regional Development Fund and the 'Investment for growth and jobs' goal and repeal of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006</b> " 2011/0275(COD)      COM(2011)0614	20/06/2013 12.00	AT4AM application
Victor Boştinaru (S&D)	DRAFT REPORT on " <b>Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006</b> " 2011/0274(COD)      COM(2011)0612	20/06/2013 12.00	AT4AM application
Riikka Pakarinen (ALDE)	DRAFT REPORT on " <b>Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the 'European territorial cooperation' goal</b> " 2011/0273(COD)      COM(2011)0611	20/06/2013 12.00	AT4AM application
Joachim Zeller (PPE)	DRAFT REPORT on " <b>Amendment of 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</b> " 2011/0272(COD)      COM(2011)0610	20/06/2013 12.00	AT4AM application
María Irigoyen Pérez (S&D)	DRAFT OPINION on " <b>Reindustrialising Europe to promote competitiveness and sustainability</b> " 2013/2006(INI)      COM(2012)0582	21/06/2013 12.00	AT4AM application

## 2. Votes

Rapporteur / Draftsperson	Report / Opinion	Result of the votes for/against/abstentions
Luís Paulo Alves (S&D)	DRAFT OPINION on " <b>Tackling youth unemployment: possible ways out</b> 2013/2045(INI)	adopted with amendments <b>35/4/0</b>
Riikka Manner (ALDE)	DRAFT OPINION on " <b>Amendment to the fuel quality directive and the renewable energy directive (Indirect Land Use Change)</b> " 2012/0288(COD) COM(2012)0595 – C7- 0337/2012	adopted with amendments <b>32/6/0</b>
Jens Nilsson (S&D)	DRAFT OPINION on " <b>Eco-innovation - Jobs and Growth through environmental policy</b> " 2012/2294(INI)	adopted with amendments <b>32/1/1</b>

### 3. Exchange of views with the Rapporteur on the 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

The Commission (Mr. Moray Gilland, Head of the Unit "Competence Centre Operational Efficiency", DG REGIO) made a presentation of the legislative proposal. It was followed by a debate between the rapporteur and the members.

It was decided that the rapporteur would present his draft report at the meeting in July, with view to vote the report and the negotiating mandate in September.

### 4. Exchange of views with the Rapporteurs on the ongoing Interinstitutional negotiations on the Cohesion Policy package

The respective Rapporteurs reported back to the committee on the outcome of the latest Interinstitutional negotiations and presented their draft reports, which reflect the state of play at the end of May, when they were sent to translation. They also presented in detail the amendments that, on behalf of the negotiating teams, they intended to present in order to reflect the agreements reached after the draft report was drafted.

### 6. European Commission DG REGIO Study on Sustainable Regeneration in Suburbs – promoting social integration in deprived neighbourhoods through housing interventions by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

The following experts have given their presentation:

1) Charlina Vitcheva, Director, Directorate "Inclusive growth, Urban and Territorial Development and Northern Europe", DG REGIO, European Commission :

The European Commission has presented the above study, focusing on the Cohesion Policy contribution to sustainable urban regeneration through ERDF support for housing in 2007-2013 programming period.

2) Jan Maarten de Vet, Director of Ecorys Brussels;  
3) John Dodd, Senior Research Manager - EU Policy at Ecorys UK;

A debate between Members, the Commission and the experts followed.





## 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**

26/06/13	Brussels, Charlemagne building	EU Sustainable Energy Week, High Level Conference organised by DG ENERGY, European Commission	High Level Session on 'Financing and Sustainable energy - the message to the market' during the EU Sustainable Energy Week
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More information is available at the Chair's website <http://danuta-huebner.pl/> or with the secretariat.



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

18/06/2013	Meeting with Mr Daniel Braun, Deputy Minister for Regional Development of the Czech Republic
18/06/2013	Meeting with Mr Ivan Korcok , Slovak Ambassador to the EU
19/06/2013	Meeting with Mr Rimantas Sadzius, Minister of Finance in charge of Cohesion Policy in Lithuania
20/06/2013	Meeting with Mr Raimundas KAROBLIS, Lithuanian Ambassador (COREPER)

25/06/2013	Meeting with Mr Paulino Rivero Baute, President of the autonomous community of the Canary Islands
25/06/2013	Meeting open to all REGI Members: presentation of ESPON project "Europe in 2030. The Crisis Aftermath. Implications for Spatial Strategies", based on the ESPON project European Territory 2050
02/07/2013	Meeting with Ms Lourdes Goicoechea, Vicepresidenta del Gobierno y Consejera de Economía, Hacienda, Industria y Empleo de Navarra

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## Library News

Recent publications in the field of Regional Development

### Library Keysources



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[Regional policy in Croatia](#) / by Sorina Silvia Ionescu, posted on 28 June 2013

As of 1st July 2013, Croatia becomes the 28th EU Member State.

This Library Keysources provides a selection of relevant documents regarding the EU pre-accession support to Croatia and the planned cohesion policy budget for 2007-2013, also for the 2014-2020 programming period.

### Latest analysis



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[“Has the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund delivered EU added value in re-integrating redundant workers?”](#) / European Court of Auditors, Special Report, no 7, 25 June 2013, 48 p.

Between March 2007 and December 2012, the European Globalisation Fund paid out over € 600 million to workers who had lost their jobs in mass redundancies caused by shifting patterns in world trade [...] The auditors found that most eligible workers were offered personalised and well-coordinated assistance. In their recommendations, the auditors say that *the Globalisation Fund could be replaced by an adapted European Social Fund framework in order to bring support to workers more quickly.*" (Source: [ECA press release](#))



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[Updated urban-rural typology: integration of NUTS 2010 and the latest population grid](#) / Eurostat, Statistics in focus, no 16, 25 June 2013

The Urban-rural typology classifies the NUTS-3 regions of the European Union (EU) into three different categories: predominantly urban, intermediate and predominantly rural. The methodology used to do this has remained unchanged. However, the typology has been updated by taking the latest version of the NUTS classification and population grid into account. In the text, the term 'update' refers to these changes. (Source: [Eurostat](#))



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[EUROCIITIES statement on 2030 EU climate and energy framework](#) / EUROCIITIES, 28 June 2013, 3 p.

"If the EU climate and energy framework for 2030 is to deliver, it must engage all levels of government. The EU should continue establishing direct links with local efforts on climate change, such as through the Covenant of Mayors, EU funding for local climate action and exchange of best practices. City authorities should be closely involved in designing partnership agreements for structural funds to ensure that EU funding meets the needs on the ground." (Source: Eurocities's statement)



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[Re-industrialising the Eurozone](#) / by Jean-Luc Gaffard, OFCE and SKEMA Business School, Working Paper, no 8, June 2013, 16 p.

The author of this paper believes that "Real divergences in economic performances that emerge between countries belonging to the eurozone make it necessary to define an economic policy oriented toward a re-industrialization of some regions in Europe. This requires reconsidering both national and European policies that are growth-enhancing, that is, competition policy, labour policy, regional policy, but also industrial policy that takes the form of large public programmes." (Source: the document)

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