

# regi news

newsletter of the committee on regional development



## Next Committee meeting

**Wednesday 29 May 2013**

9.00 - 12.30  
15.00 - 18.30

**Thursday 30 May 2013**

9.00 - 12.30

Room ASP 3 G 2

### *in focus*

- **Exchange of views with DG REGIO on the Strategic Report 2013 on the implementation of the 2007-2013 programmes**
- **Report back on the Interinstitutional negotiations of the 2014-2020 EU Cohesion Policy**
- **Exchange of views with Commissioner Joaquín Almunia on Regional State Aid Guidelines**
- **Vote on**
  - **Regional policy as a part of wider State support schemes**
  - **2014 Budget - Mandate for the Trilogue**
  - **Promoting a European transport-technology strategy for Europe's future sustainable mobility**
  - **Promoting the European cultural and creative sectors as sources of economic growth and jobs**
  - **Implementation of the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2012**

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

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### Next Publication

Committee Meeting of  
Wednesday 19 June 2013  
9.00 - 12.30  
15.00 - 18.30  
and  
Thursday 20 June 2013  
9.00 - 12.30

### Useful Internet links

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



## part 1 meeting of 29 and 30 May 2013

*Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI committee meeting on 29 and 30 May 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. Implementation of the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2012 (Points 4 and 18 of the draft agenda)

**Rapporteur:** Martina Anderson (GUE:NGL)  
**Responsible administrator:** Susanne Pillath  
**Procedure:** 2013/2073(INI)  
**Main committee:** CULT - Georgios Papanikolaou (PPE)

The Joint Report of the Council and the Commission on the EU Youth Strategy was drawn up at the end of the first three-year cycle of the EU Youth Strategy, which is the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field, agreed for 2010 -2018. The report has a dual objective: namely to evaluate the progress made towards the overall objectives of the EU Youth Strategy, and to serve as a basis for establishing a set of priorities for the coming work cycle. The EU Youth strategy pursues activities in eight fields of action: education & training, employment & entrepreneurship, health & well-being, social inclusion, participation, voluntary activities, culture & creativity, youth & the world. The report notes that the second three-year cycle (2013-2015) should address the challenges facing young people as a result of the crisis.

The draft opinion of the rapporteur, Ms Martina Anderson, underlines the importance of non-conditional, quality job creation and notes that cities and regions are the best governmental level to assess local employment markets and tailor programmes for young people.

Due to the very narrow timetable of the main committee which is caused by the parliamentary procedures of the nearing end of the legislative period, the draft report will be considered and voted at the same meeting. Therefore the deadline for tabling amendments was set on 23 May 2013 already before the meeting.

#### **TIMETABLE**

**Consideration of draft opinion:** 29/05/2013  
**Deadline for amendments:** 23/05//2013  
**Adoption REGI:** 30/05/2013  
**Adoption in lead committee (EMPL):** 17-18/06/2013 (tbc)  
**Adoption in plenary:** July 2013 (tbc)

### 2. Eco-innovation - Jobs and Growth through environmental policy (Point 5 of the draft agenda)

**Rapporteur: Jens Nilsson (S&D)**  
**Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring**  
**Procedure: 2012/2294(INI)**  
**Main committee: ENVI - Karin Kadenbach (S&D)**

In his draft opinion the Rapporteur underlines the broad dimension of the Eco-innovation concept as it is defined as any form of innovation aiming at progress towards the goal of sustainable development, through reducing impacts on the environment or achieving a more efficient and responsible use of resources. Furthermore he highlights the untapped environmental-benefit potential of Eco-innovation as it is expected to aid to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and stresses the need to target actions on bottlenecks and barriers to commercialisation of Eco-innovation, as well as the internationalisation of these products and services. He also refers to smart specialisation strategy that is included in the new legislation for Cohesion Policy as an ex-ante conditionality for EU regions, and encourages the regions to integrate Eco-innovation in their smart specialisation strategies. Finally, he underlines that, whilst eco-industries today provide 3.4 million jobs and an estimated annual turnover of 319 billion euro, the potential for creating regional growth and environmental benefits remain largely untapped and reminds in this regard that the cost of inaction may be high.

**TIMETABLE**  
**Consideration of draft opinion: 29/05/2013**  
**Deadline for amendments: 30/05/2013 (tbc)**  
**Adoption REGI: 10/07/2013 (tbc)**  
**Adoption ENVI: November 2013 (tbc)**  
**Plenary: December 2013 (tbc)**

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### **3. Effects of budgetary constraints for regional and local authorities regarding the EU's Structural Funds expenditure in the Member States (Point 6 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.

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.

#### **TIMETABLE**

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

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

**Deadline for amendments: 04/06/2013 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: 10/07/2013 (tbc)**

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

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#### **4. Exchange of views with Veronica Gaffey, Head of Unit at the European Commission, DG REGIO, on Cohesion Policy: Strategic Report 2013 on the implementation of the programmes for 2007-2013 (COM(2013)0210) (Point 7 of the draft agenda)**

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The report adopted by the Commission on the 2007-2013 Cohesion Policy programmes provides the second strategic overview on the overall plan due to be concluded in 2015, summarising the 27 strategic reports presented by the Member States at the end of 2012.

This strategic report follows the previous report issued in March 2010 (COM(2010)0110), on which the Parliament has adopted a resolution on 23 June 2011 (Resolution on the Report 2010 on the implementation of the cohesion policy programmes for 2007-2013 (P7\_TA(2011)0283)).

The strategic report provides an overview of the socio-economic trends and challenges as that have been observed in and by the Member States, and gives an outline of the implementation of the EU funded programmes in a moment of unprecedented economic hardship due to the financial crisis. For this reason, the report contributes to strengthen transparency on and accountability for the achievement of Cohesion Policy objectives.

Ms Gaffey will present to the REGI Committee the main findings of the Strategic Report.

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#### **5. Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) N° 1083/2006 (Point 8 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)**

The Rapporteurs will report back to REGI Committee on the outcome of the trilogue meetings on the CPR which took place on on April, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of May (another one is scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup>). Works focused on the negotiation of the following thematic blocks: Performance Framework, Ex-ante conditionalities, Technical Assistance, Eligibility, Monitoring and Evaluation, Management and Control, Information and Communication, Major Projects, Revenue Generating Operations and PPPs, Financial Management, Financial Instruments, and Financial Issues.

After many negotiating rounds, all the Thematic Blocks of the CPR have now been opened and there is progress in all of the blocks. Territorial Development has reached an agreement and the text of the Common Strategic Framework is about to be finalised. Negotiators have reached conclusions on provisions regarding monitoring committee, monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation, communication measures, audit provisions, reporting deadlines, eligibility of expenditure, relocation.

From a procedural point of view, the political aim is to vote in committee in July, thus all the efforts will be devoted to reach agreements in as many as possible remaining open issues in the upcoming trilogues.

**TIMETABLE**

Exchange of views: 22/11/2011; 19/12/2011, 19/12/2011

Consideration of working doc.: 25/01/12, 27/02/12, 19/03/12

Consideration of draft report: 26/04/2012, 08/05/2012, 29/05/2012

Deadline for amendments: 31/05/2012, 07/06/2012

Consideration of amendments: 20-21/06/2012

Adoption REGI (Mandate): 12/07/2012

Updated draft report with outcome of the negotiations: (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: (tbc)

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## **6. 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 9 of the draft agenda)**

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Rapporteur: Jan Olbrycht (PPE)

Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring

Procedure: 2011/0275(COD)

The Rapporteur will report back to the REGI Committee on the outcome of the trilogue meetings on the ERDF, which have been held on the 6th and 21st of May. Agreement has already been reached on the majority of the text of the ERDF regulation. However, there are still several open issues concerning Art. 3, 5 and 9. As far as thematic concentration is concerned, there is a package proposal which needs a final confirmation. A similar situation concerns the case of indicators (Art 6). The last ERDF trilogue before finalising the draft report is scheduled for the 27th of May.

**TIMETABLE**

Exchange of views: 22/11/2011, 25/01/2012, 20/03/2012, 8/05/2012

Consideration of draft report: 29/05/2012

Deadline for amendments: 31/05/2012

Consideration of amendments: 20-21/06/2012

Adoption REGI (Mandate): 12/07/2012

Updated draft report with outcome of the negotiations: July (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: October (tbc)

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## **7. Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 (Point 10 of the draft agenda)**

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Rapporteur: Victor Bo tinaru (S&D)

Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho

Procedure: 2011/0274(COD)

The third and final trilogue on this file was held on 13 May 2013, with all open issues left from the previous trilogue, of 27 February, on the agenda.

In the framework of the procedure of reporting back to the Committee on progress made so far in the negotiations, the four column table, once concluded by the three institutions, will be distributed and circulated among Members of the Committee prior to the Committee meeting.

The issue of the Connecting Europe Facility (amendment 15) was not dealt with conclusively, and was again left for a later stage, once the whole issue of the CEF is clarified in the context of the MFF and of the CPR.

As far as amendment 36 (Article 4a on macroeconomic conditionality) is concerned, the three institutions decided that this issue will be dealt with in the context of the CPR only.

Regarding the issue of common indicators (Article 4 - amendment 35), it was decided that it will be dealt with horizontally in the context of the ERDF Regulation, and that the outcome in that framework will be applied to the remaining concerned files, i.e., the Cohesion Fund and the ETC Regulations.

The recitals were not dealt with in the trilogue, but it was decided that the Presidency would present a proposal for all the recitals and these would be agreed through written procedure or in an *ad hoc* technical meeting. The Presidency has meanwhile presented the draft recitals and these are now being considered by the Negotiating Team.

#### **TIMETABLE**

**Exchange of views: 22/11/2011, 25/01/2012**

**Consideration of working doc.: 28/02/12, 20/03/12**

**Consideration of draft report: 26/04/2012, 08/05/2012, 30/05/2012**

**Deadline for amendments: 31/05/2012 (tbc)**

**Consideration of amendments: 20-21/06/2012**

**Adoption REGI (Mandate): 12/07/2012**

**Updated draft report with outcome of the negotiations: (tbc)**

**Adoption in plenary: (tbc)**

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## **8. Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the 'European territorial cooperation' (ETC) goal (Point 11 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Riikka Pakarinen (ALDE)**

**Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud**

**Procedure: 2011/0273(COD)**

The Rapporteur may report back to the Committee the undergoing status of negotiations that have begun in the framework of trilogues.

The past trilogues of the 25th April and 6th May have enabled to conclude the negotiations on most of the Articles, including the remaining Articles :

- Article 3 on the geographical coverage
- Article 4 on financial resources

This gives good chances to come up by officially concluding by end of May the negotiations on all the articles of the regulation.

**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: (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: (tbc)

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**9. 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 12 of the draft agenda)**

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Rapporteur: Joachim Zeller (PPE)

Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev

Procedure: 2011/0272(COD)

Two dialogues were held so far on the revision of the EGTC Regulation and agreement was reached a number of elements. However, no agreement has emerged on key points of the future Regulation:

- Employment law applicable to staff of EGTCs;
- Tacit approval for the establishment of new EGTCs after the 6 month period has expired;
- The definition of "neighbouring" countries for the purposes of the Regulation;

The Rapporteur, Mr Zeller, is actually working on compromise solutions and believes that these issues can be agreed in time for the third dialogue which will take place on May 27th.

**TIMETABLE**

Exchanges of views: 22/11/2011, 25/01/2012,

Consideration of working doc.: 28/02/2012, 20/03/2012

Consideration of draft report: 29/05/2012

Deadline for amendments: 31/05/2012 at 6 pm

Adoption REGI (Mandate): 12/07/2012

Informal dialogues: 04/03/2013; 21/03/2013

Updated draft report with outcome of the negotiations: (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: (tbc)

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**10. Exchange of views with Joaquín Almunia, Vice-President of the European Commission, Commissioner responsible for competition, on Regional State Aid Guidelines (Point 14 of the draft agenda)**

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The European Union is modernising State aid rules, and in particular the regional aid guidelines, aiming at ensuring that this type of aid plays an effective role and is concentrated on the most disadvantaged regions of European Union.

In this context, in January 2013, the Commission has launched a consultation of stakeholders on a Commission draft paper regarding regional aid guidelines applicable for the next programming period.



In the REGI meeting of March 2013, an exchange of views with Gert-Jan Koopman, Deputy Director-General on State aid Policy at European Commission DG Competition, and Nicholas Martyn, Deputy Director General for Policy, Performance and Compliance at European Commission DG REGIO, took place in order to discuss the general issue of the relationship between the Regional State aid guidelines and Cohesion Policy, and some specific elements of the regional aid guidelines which are considered more controversial from the point of view of regional policy.

Subsequently, REGI has requested authorisation to draft an own-initiative report on Regional policy as a part of wider State support schemes. On 16 May 2013, the Conference of Presidents has authorised REGI to draft this INI report in association with ECON (Rapporteur: Sharon Bowles), in accordance with Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure (associated committees).

The REGI Rapporteur, Mr. Vlasak, has submitted his draft report in the REGI meeting of April, considering that some of the proposed modifications of the Regional Aid rules raise questions on their compatibility and synergies with Cohesion Policy objectives, and insisting on the need for simplification on the one hand, and for effective complementarity between State aid and Cohesion Policy interventions in order to ensure competitiveness and cohesion, on the other.

Mr. Vlasák's report will be voted on 30 May, and Commissioner Almunia will be heard just before the vote, and also before the final adoption of the above-mentioned guidelines by the Commission in June, on the major aspects that are of relevance and concern for the REGI Committee.

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## **11. Regional policy as a part of wider State support schemes (Point 15 of the draft agenda)**

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<b>Rapporteur:</b> Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)
<b>Responsible administrator:</b> Carla Carvalho
<b>Procedure:</b> (INI)
<b>Main committee:</b> REGI

After the intervention of Commissioner Almunia on the Regional State Aid Guidelines, the draft report on Regional policy as a part of wider State support schemes submitted by Mr. Vlasak will be put to the vote.

140 amendments were tabled to this report, which relate to very differentiated issues, from the status of outermost regions, as well as of border regions, regions with permanent geographic, natural or other handicaps, and insular regions, to the issue of relocation and durability of operations benefitting from regional State aid, the question of large enterprises, and also to the relationship between the current classification of "a" and "c" regions and the proposed classification for the next programming period, including the compatibility of such classification with the categories of regions as proposed in the CPR.

Due to the high number of amendments tabled, and also to their very differentiated and, in some instances, repetitive nature, a considerable number of compromise amendments were proposed by the Rapporteur and are currently under negotiation.

<b>TIMETABLE</b>
<b>Consideration of draft report:</b> 22/04/2013
<b>Deadline for amendments:</b> 02/05/2013
<b>Adoption REGI:</b> 30/05/2013
<b>Adoption in plenary:</b> June 2013 (tbc)

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## 12. 2014 Budget - Mandate for the Trilogue (Point 16 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: Georgios Stavrakakis (S&D)**  
**Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho**  
**Procedure: 2013/2017(BUD)**  
**Main committee: BUDG - Anne E. Jensen (ALDE)**

In the REGI meeting of April, Mr Stavrakakis has submitted to the committee his draft opinion, to which 9 amendments were subsequently tabled, focusing on the possible introduction of the CEF in the context of the limited resources available, on the issue of the suspension of payments, as well as on the need for the Commission to monitor and assess the real needs in terms of payments throughout 2013.

Three compromise amendments were proposed by the Rapporteur and are currently being negotiated.

<b>TIMETABLE</b>
<b>Consideration of draft opinion: 22/04/2013</b>
<b>Deadline for amendments: 25/04/2013</b>
<b>Adoption REGI: 30/05/2013</b>
<b>Adoption BUDG: (tbc)</b>
<b>Plenary: (tbc)</b>

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## 13. Promoting a European transport-technology strategy for Europe's future sustainable mobility (Point 17 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: Jean-Jacob Bicep (Verts/ALE)**  
**Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud**  
**Procedure: 2012/2298(INI)**  
**Main committee: TRAN - Michael Cramer (Verts/ALE)**

30 amendments were tabled to the Draft opinion, with possible compromise amendments under negotiation before the vote.

The own-initiative report tabled in the TRAN committee deals with the communication from the Commission on an European transport-technology strategy for Europe's future sustainable mobility. It follows the 2011 white paper on transport, that had set ambitious objectives for reducing Europe's dependence on imported oil, improving the environment, reducing accidents and sharply cutting greenhouse-gas emissions. The Communication presents the Commission's views on how transport research and innovation could contribute to the ambitious objectives of the White Paper on Transport and support the implementation of Horizon 2020, linking also up with strategies for smart specialisation.

The own-initiative draft report tabled in the lead committee insists particularly in being concerned with achieving the Union's targets in terms of the reduction of energy consumption, traffic noise, air pollutants, GHG emissions, accidents and land use, thereby reducing the impact of transport on climate change and contributing to improving the health of EU citizens and their quality of life.

The Rapporteur will present his draft opinion pointing out the importance of taking into account territorial cohesion and regional specificities when designing and implementing this Transport Technology strategy.

**TIMETABLE**

Consideration of draft opinion: 23/04/2013

Deadline for amendments: 25/04/2013

Adoption REGI: 30/05/2013

Adoption TRAN: 18/06//2013 (tbc)

Plenary: July 2013 (tbc)

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#### **14. Promoting the European cultural and creative sectors as sources of economic growth and jobs (Point 18 of the draft agenda)**

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Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)

Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez

Procedure: 2012/2302(INI)

Main committee: CULT - Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid (PPE)

33 amendments were tabled to complete the Draft opinion, with possible compromise amendments under negotiation before the vote.

The Commission's position on Cultural and Creative Sectors (CCS), illustrated in its Communication (COM(2012)0537), stresses the importance of such sectors within the Europe 2020 strategy, highlighting both their advantages and limits. The CCS are characterised by high fragmentation, making up for a need to overcome the current limits through the following measures: better access to credit, new regulatory framework for the Intellectual Property Rights, and a medium/long run strategy to take into account the existing investment plans for these sectors. The Commission's communication is also shared by the EESC and the CoR as shown in their respective opinions on this issue.

The Rapporteur presents a set of suggestions in its motion for a resolution, encompassing several aspects, including among others: the inclusion of CCS in EU and national socio-economic strategies, especially in the medium-long run, the use of ESF and ERDF to support such sectors, as the future EU budgets should go in the same direction or the CCS possible contribution to create new jobs, with a positive impact on territorial integration.

**TIMETABLE**

Consideration of draft opinion: 22/04/2013

Deadline for amendments: 25/04/2013

Adoption REGI: 30/05/2013

Adoption CULT: 17/09//2013 (tbc)

Plenary: October 2013 (tbc)

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#### **15. The implementation and impact of the energy efficiency measures under Cohesion Policy (Point 20 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**

Two months ago, MEP Mojca Kleva Kekuš presented a working paper, outlining the implementation report on the support from Cohesion Policy to the Energy efficiency objective of the EU, which will be presented during this month's REGI meeting.

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 Mojca 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.

<b>TIMETABLE</b>
<b>Working document: 19/03/2013</b>
<b>Mini-hearing : 23/04/2013</b>
<b>Draft report: 30/05/2013</b>
<b>Deadline for amendments: 04/06/2013 at 12 p.m.</b>
<b>Adoption REGI: 10/07/2013 (tbc)</b>
<b>Adoption in plenary: September 2013 (tbc)</b>

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## **16. Tackling youth unemployment: possible ways out (Point 21 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Luís Paulo Alves (S&D)**  
**Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho**  
**Procedure: 2013/2045(INI)**  
**Main committee: EMPL - Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska (PPE)**

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

The EMPL Committee is drafting an own-initiative report on the above issue, in order to debate how to improve the labour market situation for young people, and in particular on the basis of the existing policies and available funding in the EU which is aimed at boosting youth unemployment.

In the REGI meeting of 29-30 May, the Rapporteur will submit his draft opinion to EMPL's own-initiative report, where, drawing the attention to the significant differences in youth unemployment rates across the EU, Mr. Alves considers that better education and training policies with an improved regional framing should be put in place.

The Rapporteur asks therefore that regional and local authorities ensure that policies in the domains of education and employment are more effective, through anticipating more efficiently the labour market developments, more involvement of all the relevant actors, as well as through a truly regional approach in the assessment of the issues and needs in these areas.

**TIMETABLE****Consideration of draft opinion: 30/05/2013****Deadline for amendments: 31/05/2013 (tbc)****Adoption REGI: 19/06/2013 (tbc)****Adoption EMPL: July 2013 (tbc)****Plenary: September 2013 (tbc)**



## part 2 meeting of 22 and 23 April 2013

*Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meeting held on 22 and 23 April 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
Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)	DRAFT REPORT on " <b>Regional policy as a part of wider State support schemes</b> " 2013/XXXX(INI) - (PE510.510)	02/05/2013 12.00
Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)	DRAFT OPINION on " <b>Promoting the European cultural and creative sectors as sources of economic growth and jobs</b> " 2012/2302(INI) - (PE508.179)	25/04/2013 12.00
Georgios Stavrakakis (S&D)	DRAFT OPINION on " <b>2014 Budget - Mandate for the Trilogue</b> " 2013/2017(BUD) - (PE508.173)	25/04/2013 12.00
Jean-Jacob Bicep (Verts/ALE)	DRAFT OPINION on " <b>Promoting a European transport-technology strategy for Europe's future sustainable mobility</b> " 2012/2298(INI) - (PE508.036)	25/04/2013 12.00

### 2. Exchange of views with guest speakers concerning the Own-Initiative-Report on "The implementation and impact of the energy efficiency measures under Cohesion Policy" (REGI/7/12110) - Rapporteur: Mojca Kleva Kekus

The representatives of Cecodhas - Housing Europe and CEE Bankwatch Network/Friends of the Earth Europe have given presentations where they focused on prospects for sustainable energy investments within the new framework of Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 with particular examples from Central and Eastern Europe.

### 3. Votes

Rapporteur / Draftsperson	Report / Opinion	Result of the votes for/against/abstentions
Jens Geier (S&D)	DRAFT REPORT on " <b>Regional strategies for industrial areas in the European Union</b> " 2012/2100(INI) - (PE506.034)	adopted with amendments <b>41/1/0</b>
Seán Kelly (PPE)	DRAFT OPINION on " <b>Blue Growth - Enhancing sustainable growth in the EU's marine, maritime transport and tourism sectors</b> " 2012/2297(INI) - (PE506.188)	adopted with amendments <b>42/1/0</b>
Riikka Manner (ALDE)	DRAFT OPINION on " <b>Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe</b> " 2012/2295(INI) - (PE506.150)	adopted with amendments <b>43/1/0</b>
Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)	DRAFT OPINION on " <b>Forward policy planning and long-term trends: budgetary implications for capacity-building</b> " 2012/2290(INI) - (PE506.192)	adopted with amendments <b>42/0/2</b>

### 4. Public hearing: "Smart Specialisation - lessons learnt, prospects for the future"

The following experts have given their presentation:

- 1) Dominique Foray: "Smart specialisation: from academic idea to political instrument"
- 2) Lasse Lindquist: "Specialising in the region's strengths: the successful case of Peak Innovation in the Jämtland region in Sweden"
- 3) Philip McCann: "Smart Specialisation Strategy of a reformed Cohesion Policy in the context of the Europe 2020 Agenda"
- 4) Michal Miedzinski: "Eco-innovation – smart specialisation for sustainable growth"

Smart Specialisation is a strategic approach of the European Union to economic development through targeted support to Research and Innovation (R&I). It will be the basis for Structural Fund investments in R&I as the Smart Specialisation Strategy is one of the ex-ante conditionalities for Cohesion policy 2014-2020. Smart Specialisation involves a process of developing a vision, identifying competitive advantage, setting strategic priorities and making use of smart policies to maximise the knowledge-based development potential of any region, strong or weak, high-tech or low-tech. During the public hearing the experts have presented the main theoretical assumptions and the origin of the concept of the smart specialisation. A case example from Sweden has also been presented, as well as the opportunity of using the smart specialisation strategy for promotion of the eco-innovation. A lively debate has followed the experts' presentation in which the Members, the experts and the representative of DG REGIO have emphasised the necessity of having an integrated approach going across different European policies and which requires coordination between different DGs in the European Commission.

### 5. Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006

The Rapporteurs, Ms Constanze Krehl and Mr Lambert van Nistelrooij, gave account of the ongoing Interinstitutional negotiations on the basis of the most recent four columns tables. The CPR Negotiating Team has held 32 trilogue meetings since the beginning of the negotiations. The interinstitutional negotiations led to

concrete progress in all the opened thematic blocks. There are still a number of highly political and technical issues, which are still under negotiation. The Rapporteurs confirmed that the Committee is going to vote on the results of the negotiations in July and go to plenary in October I. The committee agreed unanimously on the results presented by the rapporteurs.

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

The Rapporteur, Mr Olbrycht, reported back on the outcome of the trilogue meetings on the ERDF on the basis of the most recent four columns table. The Rapporteur presented the list of remaining issues that shall be confirmed by the 6th of May, which is the date of the last planned trilogue meeting. The committee agreed on the results presented by the Rapporteur.

**7. Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006**

The Rapporteur, Mr Victor Bostinaru, gave account of the ongoing interinstitutional negotiations on the basis of the most recent four columns table. The Rapporteur expressed his satisfaction with the progress of the trilogues so that in the next trilogue meeting the negotiations could be finalized. The committee agreed on the results presented by the Rapporteur.

**8. Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the 'European territorial cooperation' goal**

The Rapporteur, Mrs Riikka Manner, gave account of the ongoing interinstitutional negotiations on the basis of the most recent four columns tables. The Rapporteur highlighted the budget decision as the most diverging element between the co-legislators. The committee agreed on the results presented by the Rapporteur.

**9. 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**

The Rapporteur, Mr Joachim Zeller, gave account of the ongoing interinstitutional negotiations on the basis of the most recent four columns tables. It was emphasised that the most problematic issues are the legal issues regarding technicalities of the EGTC. The committee agreed on the results presented by the Rapporteur.





## 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

15-May	Warsaw	Polish Confederation of Private Employers 'Lewiatan'	High Level Conference on regional development
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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

16/04/2013	Commissioner Andor	Exchange of views on ESF
17/04/2013	Mr José Ramón Bauzá, President of the Balearic Islands	Meeting with Ms Estaràs Ferragut, MEP
22/04/2013	Mr Juan Carlos Moragues, Conseller de Hacienda y Administraciones Públicas de la Generalitat Valenciana	
23/04/2013	Mr Adonis Constantinides, Head of the Task Force for Programming for the European Structural and Investment Funds 20014-2020, Cyprus	To discuss some aspects of the Cohesion Policy legislation, 2014-2020, and in particular the financial provisions



## Council of European Municipalities and Regions ('CEMR') Press Release

### **26/04/2013 - A look at the involvement of associations of local and regional government in partnership agreements**

With the help of its members, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) has prepared a study on the degree of involvement of national associations of local and regional government in the preparation and negotiation of partnership agreements. The CEMR hopes to see this document incorporated into the Committee of the Regions' report on the subject.

The evidence found and presented in the study shows that the situation differs from country to country: in some member states, local and regional authorities and their representative associations are fully involved in the negotiation process. However, in other countries they are merely consulted, along with a number of other stakeholders.

While the application of the partnership principle has improved in most cases, the CEMR regrets to have noticed that the degree of involvement of municipalities, regions and their national associations varies substantially from one member state to the other. This is all the more worrisome when considering that the provisions of the Code of Conduct, which provide a set of rules on how to involve local and regional authorities in these partnerships, are to become binding in the near future.

The study is available at [http://www.ccre.org/docs/partnership\\_principle\\_survey\\_report\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ccre.org/docs/partnership_principle_survey_report_EN.pdf)  
(currently only in English)

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## Library News

### Recent publications in the field of Regional Development

#### Publications



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**[Understanding restructuring in SMEs in Europe](#)** /by Irene Mandl, Eurofund, May 2013, 108 p.

Based on information derived from 85 case studies across all EU Member States and other sources, the report outlines the features peculiar to SMEs in their anticipation and management of restructuring; it explores the main drivers of change and analyses the factors influencing successful restructuring. It offers also a wide-ranging, comparative view of how restructuring impacts on workers and the company itself and puts forward several policy pointers for future action. [Executive summary](#) and national reports are available [here](#).



© Regional Studies

**[Re-framing regional development evolution, innovation, and transition](#)** /by Philip Cooke. London: Routledge, 2013. 367 p. (available online)

This book uses complementary theoretical approaches to understand and help prescribe policies to 're-frame' the regional development problem in turbulent times. It analyses and proposes ways in which regional economies, in particular, have to be 'reframed' to address these crises. It also describes many of the novel 'framings' involved in understanding the new ways in which this major task is being addressed in theory, policy and everyday practice.

#### Latest analysis



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**[European Commission Perspectives on the 2014-2020 Partnership Agreements & Programmes: A Comparative Review of the Commission's Position Papers](#)** / by C. Mendez, J. Bachtler and K. Granqvist, European Policy Research Paper, no. 84, April 2013, 86 p.

This paper provides a comparative overview of the Commission's Position Papers covering all Member States in order to provide insights on how the Commission assesses the main challenges and policy priorities for the 2014-2020 period. The paper includes: an overview of the main development challenges identified by the Commission; a review of the proposed priorities for funding, including the thematic objectives and associated country-specific recommendations; the Commission's views on ex-ante conditionality and added value; and the proposed changes to governance arrangements, including: the programme architecture; coordination arrangements; horizontal principles; partnership; financial management, audit and control; administrative capacity; and monitoring and evaluation. It also provides a critical assessment of the Position Papers. (Source: the paper)



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**[Partnership Agreements: CEMR Survey Report on "Involvement of national associations of LRAs in the Partnership Agreement preparations"](#)** / Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), April 2013, 17 p.

The purpose of this report is to identify the state of play of local and regional authority associations' involvement in the preparation of the Partnership Agreement. The last December agreement on the Partnership Agreement provisions for the European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) and the publication of the draft European Code of Conduct, which will have a statutory nature, have been a success for the campaigning of CEMR to ensure that the new funds will have strong partnership provisions for Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs). (Source: report)



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**[Have EU structural measures successfully supported the regeneration of industrial and military brownfield sites?](#)** / European Court of Auditors, Special Report no 23/2012, published in April 2013, 62 p.

The ECA special report calls on the European Commission to improve the running of regeneration projects on so-called “brownfield” sites – former industrial and military areas which are often derelict and contaminated.

While most projects successfully transform the sites, say the Auditors, in many cases the redeveloped land and buildings is not being used as planned and job creation has been lower than expected. This was in part because not enough attention was paid to the need for sound market analysis but also because of the economic downturn. ([ECA press release](#))



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**[Investing in Europe's regions and cities. Maximising the impact of local and regional public expenditure: information brochure](#)** / Committee of the Regions, May 2013, 27 p.

This information brochure was published as a background document of the high-level conference organised by the Committee of the Regions and European Investment Bank on 13 May 2013. It includes information on e.g.: subnational public finances in the EU; coordination of budget policies; the crisis and subnational public investments; regional and local investment capacity and the Europe 2020 strategy; and some inspiring case etc. (Presentations and speeches are available [here](#))

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