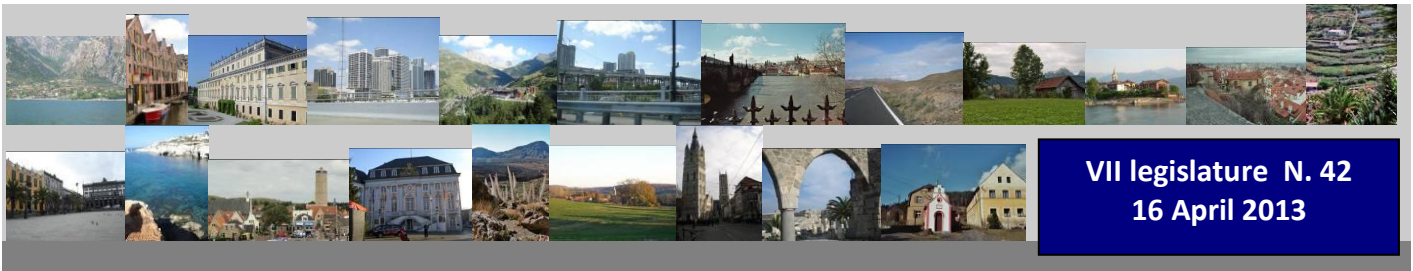


# reginews

newsletter of the committee on regional development



## Next Committee meeting

**Monday 22 April 2013**  
15.00 - 18.30

**Tuesday 23 April 2013**  
9.00 - 12.30

Room Paul-Henri Spaak 4 B 001

### *in focus*

- **Public hearing on 'Smart Specialisation - lessons learnt, prospects for the future'**
- **Vote on**
  - **Regional strategies for industrial areas in the EU**
  - **Blue Growth - Enhancing sustainable growth in the EU's marine, maritime transport and tourism sectors**
  - **Innovating for sustainable growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe**
  - **Forward policy planning and long-term trends: budgetary implications for capacity-building**
- **Exchange of views with guest speakers on the energy efficiency measures under Cohesion Policy**
- **Report back on the Interinstitutional negotiations of the 2014-2020 EU Cohesion Policy**

**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 29 May 2013  
9.00 - 12.30  
15.00 - 18.30  
and  
Thursday 30 May 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 22 and 23 April 2013

*Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI committee meeting on 22 and 23 April 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. Public Hearing on 'Smart specialisation - lessons learnt, prospects for the future' (Point 3 of the draft agenda)

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. This public hearing should look at present developments in this field and should elaborate on the prospects for the future in the framework of the new legislation.

The guests and their respective topics are the following:

- **Dominique Foray** (Professor at the 'Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale' of Lausanne): Smart specialisation: from academic idea to political instrument,
- **Lasse Lindquist** (Peak Innovation, Sweden): Specialising in the region's strengths: the successful case of Peak Innovation in the Jämtland region in Sweden,
- **Philip McCann** (Professor of the University of Groningen, Faculty of Spatial Sciences): Smart Specialisation Strategy of a reformed Cohesion Policy in the context of the Europe 2020 Agenda,
- **Michal Miedzinski** (Senior Consultant at Technopolis Group, Belgium): Eco-innovation – smart specialisation for sustainable growth.

### 2. Effects of budgetary constraints for regional and local authorities regarding the EU's Structural Funds expenditure in the Member States (Point 4 of the draft agenda)

**Rapporteur: Erminia Mazzoni (PPE)**  
**Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev**  
**Procedure: 2013/2042(INI)**  
**Main committee: REGI**

In the context of the ongoing financial and economic crisis sub-national (regional and local) authorities are increasingly faced with challenging conundrum as 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 result of the crisis, putting an extra pressure on their public purses.

The interest of this report in this particular context would be to analyse 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 to suggest ways to improve financing capacity of these entities towards productive investment.

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, it is of utmost political importance for the European Parliament to analyse and recommend viable options for regional and local authorities to regain capacity to invest in smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

***TIMETABLE***

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

**Consideration of draft report: 29/05//2013 (tbc)**

**Deadline for amendments: 05/06/2013 tbc)**

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

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

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### **3. Regional policy as a part of wider State support schemes (Point 5 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)**

**Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho**

**Procedure: (INI)**

**Main committee: REGI**

Along with the package on the Common provisions regulations 2014 - 2020, the European Union is modernising State aid rules, and in particular the regional aid guidelines, so that this type of aid plays an effective role and is concentrated on the most disadvantaged regions of European Union.

The Rapporteur, Mr. Vlasak, will submit a draft own initiative report, considering that that cohesion policy objectives have been widely discussed with public and within the Parliament, and some major priorities have been set. However, some of the proposed modifications of the Regional Aid rules raise questions on their compatibility and synergies with cohesion policy objectives. The flexibility of the system, in light of rapid and dramatic economic disruption, is called to question, and the redefinition of the aid schemes should be cautious and also discussed with a view to Cohesion Policy, so that they do not create more cross-regional disparities.

***TIMETABLE***

**Consideration of draft report: 22/04//2013**

**Deadline for amendments: 26/04/2013 tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: 28/05/2013 (tbc)**

**Adoption in plenary: (tbc)**

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#### 4. Promoting the European cultural and creative sectors as sources of economic growth and jobs (Point 6 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)**

The Commission's position on Cultural and Creative Sectors (CCS), illustrated in its Communication (COM 2012 537 final), 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 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. A delay for amendments will be open in order to allow MEPs to complete the Rapporteur's suggestions.

**TIMETABLE**  
**Consideration of draft opinion: 22/04/2013**  
**Deadline for amendments: 25/04/2013 (tbc)**  
**Adoption REGI: 29/05/2013 (tbc)**  
**Adoption CULT: 17/09//2013 (tbc)**  
**Plenary: October 2013 (tbc)**

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#### 5. 2014 Budget - Mandate for the Trilogue (Point 8 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)**

Mr Stavrakakis will submit to the committee his draft opinion, underlining the strategic role of Cohesion Policy in generating jobs and growth in the EU, and of structural and cohesion funds in public investment in the Member States and their regions. Expressing concern that the uncertainty linked to the adoption of the MFF constitutes an obstacle for any serious budgetary planning, the Rapporteur welcomes also the Commission's proposal on Draft Amending Budget 2/2013 for a total amount of EUR 11.2 billion, of which EUR 9 billion are devoted to Cohesion Policy and while he considers it as a first step in the effort to tackle the shortfall in payments, he underlines that this amount does not suffice to cover all unpaid payment claims from 2012. Finally, while asking that administrative deficiencies in the implementation of Cohesion Policy are effectively addressed on the ground, Mr Stavrakakis considers that the next programming period constitutes an opportunity to improve the positive impact

of Cohesion Policy and insists that the preparation of the Partnership Agreements and programmes should take place as soon as possible.

**TIMETABLE**

**Consideration of draft opinion: 22/04/2013**

**Deadline for amendments: 25/04/2013 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: (tbc)**

**Adoption CULT: (tbc)**

**Plenary: (tbc)**

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## **6. Promoting a European transport-technology strategy for Europe's future sustainable mobility (Point 9 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Jean-Jacob Bicep (Verts/ALE)**

**Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud**

**Procedure: 2012/2100(INI)**

**Main committee: TRAN - Michael Cramer (Verts/ALE)**

The initiative report tabled in the transport 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 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: 22/04/2013**

**Deadline for amendments: 25/04/2013 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: 29/05/2013 (tbc)**

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

**Plenary: July 2013 (tbc)**

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## **7. Regional strategies for industrial areas in the European Union (Point 10 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Jens Geier (S&D)**

**Responsible administrator: Ana Dobre**

**Procedure: 2012/2100(INI)**

**Main committee: REGI**

The INI report stresses the need for assistance when developing regional strategies for old industrialised areas and presents ideas on how the specific challenges and obstacles can be overcome by developing well structured regional strategies. It highlights that sustainable regeneration of old industrialised regions is very costly and therefore, European public funding needs to play an important role in possible future attempts to reconvert old industrialised regions. The Report highlights as well examples of successful conversion strategies aiming thus to bring a contribution to and shape the decision-making process in support of future integrated territorial investment and policy delivery for the 2014-2020 period.

60 amendments were tabled to the report drafted by Mr Jens Geier. The amendments emphasise the importance of the industrial reconversion in Europe with a view to a modern and sustainable re-industrialisation but also with the view of reaching the Union's priorities. The amendments highlight the challenges that old industrialised areas are faced with: such as regeneration of derelict land, rehabilitation of housing and infrastructure, addressing ecological needs, massive changes in economic activities and jobs. They also stress how Cohesion Policy has to contribute even further to these evolutions and how local and regional actors need to increase further their capacity to plan and develop a new base for future economic, social and territorial development.

The Rapporteur is working on a number of compromise amendments if possible.

**TIMETABLE**

**Exchange of views: 27/11/2012, 23/01/2013**

**Working document: 19/02/2013**

**Consideration of draft report: 18/03/2013**

**Deadline for amendments: 21/03/2013**

**Adoption REGI: 23/04/2013**

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

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## **8. Blue Growth - Enhancing sustainable growth in the EU's marine, maritime transport and tourism sectors (Point 11 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Seán Kelly (PPE)**

**Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud**

**Procedure: 2012/2297(INI)**

**Main committee: TRAN - Spyros Danellis (S&D)**

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

The initiative report tabled in the transport committee deals with two communications from the Commission : the First on the second progress report on the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy and the second on "Blue Growth: opportunities for marine and maritime sustainable growth". The commission seeks for the future to maximize the contribution of the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The EU's blue economy represents 5.4 million jobs and a gross added value of just under EUR 500 billion per year. In all, 75% of Europe's external trade and 37% of trade within the EU is seaborne.

The Communication identifies five focus areas in which additional efforts at EU level could yield long-term growth and sustainable jobs: Blue energy, Aquaculture, Maritime, Coastal and cruise tourism, Marine mineral resources and Blue biotechnology.

For each of the five activities highlighted the Commission will analyse policy options and consider further initiatives.

**TIMETABLE****Consideration of draft opinion.: 18/03/2013****Deadline for amendments: 22/03/2013****Adoption REGI : 23/04/2013****Adoption in TRAN committee : 30/05/2013 (tbc)****Adoption in plenary: July 2013 (tbc)**

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**9. Innovating for sustainable growth: a Bioeconomy for Europe (Point 12 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Rikka Manner (ALDE)****Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev****Procedure: 2012/2295(INI)****Main committee: ENVI - Paolo Bartolozzi (PPE)**

The opinion on the Bio-economy in Europe to ENVI committee has received 33 amendments exposing very diverse opinions and positions. The rapporteur, Mrs Manner, is working to suggest compromise amendments before the opinion is voted.

**TIMETABLE****Consideration of draft opinion: 18/03/2013****Deadline for amendments: 25/03/2013****Adoption REGI: 23/04/2013****Adoption ENVI: 29/05//2013 (tbc)****Plenary: July 2013 (tbc)**

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**10. Forward policy planning and long-term trends: budgetary implications for capacity-building (Point 13 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)****Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho****Procedure: 2012/2290(INI)****Main committee: BUDG - James Elles (ECR)**

The draft opinion of Mr. Vlasak will be put to the vote, including 17 amendments that were tabled, and possibly a compromise amendment. The amendments tabled focus essentially on the need to involve economic and social partners, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders in the development of long-term strategies alongside public bodies at the level of Member States and of the Union. Moreover, a strong emphasis is put on the need to reinforce and support administrative capacity in the use and implementation of Cohesion policy instruments. In this context, a reference is also made to e-governance, deemed to be able to play a key part in capacity-strengthening, administrative modernisation and better horizontal and vertical coordination.

**TIMETABLE****Consideration of draft opinion: 18/03/2013****Deadline for amendments: 22/03/2013****Adoption REGI: 23/04/2013****Adoption BUDG: 30/05/2013 (tbc)**



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## 11. The implementation and impact of the energy efficiency measures under Cohesion Policy - Exchange of views with guest speakers (Point 14 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**

During March 2013 REGI session, the rapporteur Mrs Mojca Kleva presented her Working Document outlining the basic concepts and content of her future draft report.

This month's REGI session will host a mini - hearing with two guest speakers to discuss the aspects of Energy Efficiency and the support from the future Cohesion Policy, especially applied to housing stock in the EU.

- **Mr Julien Dijol**, Policy Coordinator **CECODHAS – HOUSING EUROPE** -

Mr Dijol is co-author of a report entitled "*Practical recommendations to increase the share of sustainable energy investments in the upcoming SCF programming period 2014-2020*". This report is based on the outcome of SF Energy Invest project, whose aim is to help Structural Funds Managing Authorities to increase the spending for sustainable energy projects. After setting out the new policy scene for the Structural Funds in 2014-2020, the report tried to identify barriers and obstacles to a greater use of Structural Funds for sustainable energy projects and proposes recommendations at all levels of governance and on different issues, for instance partnership, prioritization of the funds on low-carbon economy, integrated approach, selection of projects, etc.

Mr Dijol will focus on recommendations for energy efficiency measures in the housing sector.

- **Mr Markus Thrilling**, EU funds campaign coordinator for **CEE Bankwatch Network/Friends of the Earth Europe**, will make a presentation on the "*Opportunities and challenges for Energy Efficiency financing in Central and Eastern Europe*".

**TIMETABLE**

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

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

**Draft report: 29/05/2013 (tc)**

**Deadline for amendments: (tbc)**

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

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

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## 12. Amendment to the fuel quality directive and the renewable energy directive (Indirect Land Use Change) (Point 15 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: Riikka Manner (ALDE)**  
**Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev**  
**Procedure: 2012/0288(COD)**  
**Main committee: ENVI**

Policy context and COM proposal

The EU committed itself to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 by 20% compared to 1990s levels, to increase the share of renewable energies in the total EU energy consumption by up to at least 20% and increase their energy efficiency by 20%. Moreover, by 2020 each Member State must ensure that the share of biofuels in transport-related fuel consumption is at least 10% (“20-20-20 Decision”).

The use of biofuels in Europe has been growing in response to the target set in the EU Renewable Energy Directive. This requires that 10 per cent of energy used in transport should be from renewable sources in every EU Member State by 2020. The biofuels used for this must not be produced from resources derived from areas with a high level of biological diversity or high carbon stock (wetlands, forests) (“sustainability criteria”, Art. 17 Directive 2009/28/EC and Art. 7b Directive 98/70/EC).

Overlooked at the time the Directive was agreed, the indirect land use change (ILUC) consequences of ramping up biofuel use have now been recognised. The onus has been on the European Commission to come forward with a means of addressing the ILUC problem in EU legislation.

The current proposal makes two major advancements:

- Takes account of indirect land-use changes in assessing the greenhouse gas balance of biofuels;
- Limits the extent to which conventional biofuels count to half of the 10% expansion target for renewable energy as a partial correction of political shortcomings.

In her opinion to ENVI committee, your draftsman, Mrs Rikka Manner emphasizes the importance of second generation biofuels and their potential to create economic growth and jobs in the regions. She also puts the accent on the need to improve resource efficiency and at the importance of the European Union's regional policy and structural funds in promoting innovative and new biofuels.

#### **TIMETABLE**

**Consideration of draft opinion: 23/04/2013**

**Deadline for amendments: 25/04/2013 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: 19/06/2013 (tbc)**

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

**Plenary: November 2013 (tbc)**

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### **13. Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) N° 1083/2006 (Point 16 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 the 20th, 26th, 27th of March and 8th and 10th of April. 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 and Revenue Generating Operations and PPPs.

The interinstitutional negotiations led to concrete progress in all the opened thematic blocks enumerated above. There are still a number of highly political and technical issues, which are still under negotiation.

**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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**14. 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 17 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 took place on the 9th and 22nd of April. These trilogue meetings were mainly dedicated to Art. 4 on Thematic concentration, follow up on Art. 5 on Investment priorities, and the co-legislators have reached a provisional agreement on Art. 7 and 8 on Sustainable urban development. Until now the co-legislators came to a conclusion with regard to the scope of support (Art. 3) but some elements are still linked to the solution on Art.5. As far as Art. 6 on common indicators is concerned, the Parliament Negotiating Team works on a common solution for the CF, the ERDF and the ETC. Two trilogue meetings are still scheduled: on the 22nd of April and the 6th 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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**15. Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 (Point 18 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Victor Boştinaru (S&D)**  
**Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho**  
**Procedure: 2011/0274(COD)**

The second trilogue on this file was held on 27 February, with all Articles of the proposal for a Regulation on the agenda. At this trilogue, the institutions have come to some understandings on some issues and provisions, and some parts of the text will still be modified or rephrased for further consideration.

In the framework of the procedure of reporting back to the Committee on progress made so far in the negotiations, the four column table was distributed and circulated among Members of the Committee prior to the Committee meeting of 18-19 March.

The issue of the Connecting Europe Facility (amendment 15) was not dealt with, and was again left for a later stage, once the whole issue of the CEF is clarified. Indeed, the Rapporteur has reiterated that it is imperative to include a reference to the CEF in the Cohesion Fund Regulation. The Presidency considers that the CEF issue pertains to the CPR and not to the Cohesion Fund Regulation, while the Commission refers that although it is legally unnecessary to have a reference to the transfer to the CEF in the Cohesion Fund Regulation, as this is included in the CPR, there is however no major objection to keeping it.

The same goes for amendment 36 (Article 4a), which was left for later, as the discussion on this provision depends on the conclusions taken on the issue of macro-economic conditionality in the framework of the CPR.

Regarding the issue of common indicators (Article 4 - amendment 35), a joint meeting between the Negotiating Teams for the CF, the ERDF, the ETC, and the ESF, on one hand, and the Commission and the Council, on the other, took place on 18 March 2013, in order to discuss the possible approaches to the issue. Further to this joint meeting, another meeting between the Parliament's Negotiating Teams on the CF, the ERDF and the ETC is scheduled for 16 April, in view of establishing a common approach to this issue ahead of the future trilogues on the various concerned files.

The third trilogue on the Cohesion Fund is scheduled for 13 May 2013.

**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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## **16. Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the 'European territorial cooperation' (ETC) goal (Point 19 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Riikka Manner (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 March and 08th April have enabled to conclude the negotiations on most of the articles, and to begin the discussions on articles 5 and 6 on Thematic concentration and Investments priorities.

The next trilogues planned in end of April and May will enable to conclude on the remaining articles :

- Article 3 on the geographical coverage
- Article 4 on financial resources
- Article 15 on indicators, that will be agreed according to an horizontal approach within the legislative package
- Art 28, now 24bis is about to reach an agreement on a common drafting

The Commission is now working on a drafting proposal for the recitals to be adjusted to the last version of the articles agreed in trilogues.

This gives good chances to come up by concluding by 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)**

**17. 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 20 of the draft agenda)**

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

The second trilogue on the EGTC regulation took place on March 21st during which the review of the text in its entirety was completed. As an outcome, a number of issues subject to controversy were identified.

Most relevant issues are:

- Tacit approval of the establishment of an EGTC after 6 months. (EGTC Regulation Article 4; par 3);
- Single competent authority in MS responsible for examining the request for authorising an EGTC (Article 4; par 3);
- Rules applicable to staff of EGTCs (Article 8; par 2);
- Participation of 3rd countries to an EGTC (Article 3 (a)).

During the committee meeting, the rapporteur Mr Joachim Zeller will give a full account of the advancement of the negotiations process. The updated 4-column document will be sent to REGI Members prior to the committee meeting.

**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 trilogues: 04/03/2013; 21/03/2013**  
**Updated draft report with outcome of the negotiations: (tbc)**  
**Adoption in plenary: (tbc)**



## part 2 meeting of 18 and 19 March 2013

*Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meeting held on 18 and 19 March 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
Jens Geier	DRAFT REPORT on " <b>Regional strategies for industrial areas in the European Union</b> " 2012/2100(INI) - (PE506.034)	<b>21.03.2013 at 12:00</b>
Seán Kelly	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)	<b>22.03.2013 at 12:00</b>
Riikka Manner	DRAFT OPINION on " <b>Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe</b> " 2012/2295(INI) - (PE506.150)	<b>22.03.2013 at 12:00</b>
Oldřich Vlasák	DRAFT OPINION on " <b>Forward policy planning and long-term trends: budgetary implications for capacity-building</b> " 2012/2290(INI) - (PE506.192)	<b>22.03.2013 at 12:00</b>

### 2. Consideration of working document

Consideration of working document for Own-Initiative-Report on "**The implementation and impact of the energy efficiency measures under Cohesion Policy**" (REGI/7/12110) - Rapporteur: Mojca Kleva Kekus.

### **3. Votes**

The following votes took place:

<b>Rapporteur / Draftsperson</b>	<b>Report / Opinion</b>	<b>Result of the votes for/against/abstentions</b>
Younous Omarjee	DRAFT OPINION on the " <b>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived</b> " 2012/0295(COD) - (PE505.979)	adopted with amendments <b>28/5/9</b>
Salvatore Caronna	DRAFT OPINION on " <b>Social Housing in the European Union</b> " 2012/2293(INI) - (PE504.250)	adopted with amendments <b>37/0/3</b>

### **4. Exchange of views with Johannes Hahn, Commissioner on Regional Policy on Multiannual Financial Framework and the ongoing Interinstitutional negotiations on the post 2014 EU Cohesion Policy**

Commissioner Johannes Hahn gave an overview on his evaluation of the agreement of the Member States on the Multiannual Financial Framework. The proposed financial resources would principally provide a basis for the new strategic orientation of the Regional Policy. He underlined that the negotiations between European Parliament and Council on the MFF should come soon to a result so that the negotiations on the sectoral policies would not be delayed and a reliable programming would be possible. In the debate many Members gave their comments and asked questions, in particular on the level and allocation of the budget, the performance reserve, flexibility as well as macroeconomic conditionality or thematic concentration.

### **5. Exchange of views with Liviu Dragnea, Romanian Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Regional Development and Public Administration, and with Eugen Orlando Teodorovici, Romanian Minister of EU Funds**

Vice Prime Minister Liviu Dragnea outlined the Romanian administrative reforms to prepare for the Cohesion Policy period 2014 - 2020 and to increase the absorption capacity for EU funds in Romania. He explained the intended restructuring of the country's regions and how the decentralization will be organized. Minister Orlando Teodorovici explained how Romanian government will improve the implementation and delivery of European Funds according to the rules. Members expressed their acknowledgement and support for the reforms and administrative reorganization.

### **6. 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 rapporteurs explained in detail the ongoing negotiations, the main political obstacles encountered and those ahead. The rapporteurs presented in detail the tentative calendar in order to conclude negotiations at the end of May, in order to vote in JULY and go to plenary in October I.

The committee agreed unanimously on the results of the negotiations presented by the rapporteurs and on the tentative calendar presented. As it was already agreed by the committee, the specific funds regulations will follow the same calendar as the CPR.

**7. 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 Chair, Ms Danuta Hübner, on behalf of the Rapporteur Jan Olbrycht, gave account of the ongoing interinstitutional negotiations on the basis of the most recent four columns table. The committee agreed on the results presented by the Chair.

**8. 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 committee agreed on the results presented by the rapporteur.

The rapporteur expressed his satisfaction with the progress of the trilogues so that in the next triologue meeting the negotiations could be finalized.

**9. 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 committee agreed on the results presented by the rapporteur.

The rapporteur expressed her view that there are good chances to come up by the end of April of May with a final agreement on all the articles of the regulation, except the article 4 with financial figures largely depending on the agreement on the Multiannual Financial Framework.

**10. 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. The committee agreed unanimously 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 March	Brussels, EC	DG REGIO	Conference "From pilots to outcomes" Evidence based lessons on Roma communities socio-economic inclusion"
28 March	Ankara (Turkey)	Turkish Ministry of Development	Conference on "Growing together: International Conference on Cohesion Policy"
10 April	Brussels (Permanent Representation of Poland)	Visegrad 4 Integration & Cohesion Group	Meeting of Ministers from Visegrad Group and Slovenia responsible for Cohesion Policy and EU affairs to discuss important issues related to the regulatory framework for cohesion policy

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**

12 March	Mr Reichenbach, Head of the Task Force for Greece, European Commission	to exchange on the current situation in Greece and on the best way to prepare the next programming period
9 April	Mr Dominique de Crayencour, European Investment Bank Honorary Director General	to discuss European Programmes like JASMINE and PROGRESS



## Library News

Recent publications in the field of Regional Development

### Publications



© Regional Studies

**Regional studies** / Regional Studies Association, monthly

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

Selected articles from volume 47, Issue 4, 2013:

**The Happiness of Cities** / by Richard Florida, Charlotta Mellander and Peter J. Rentfrow, pp. 613-627 ([full text](#))

**The Determinants of Outsourcing and Offshoring Strategies in Industrial Districts: Evidence from Italy** / by Marco Capasso, Lucia Cusmano and Andrea Morrison, pp. 465-479 ([full text](#))

**External Productivity and Utility Effects of City Airports** / by Gabriel M. Ahlfeldt and Wolfgang Maennig, pp. 508-529 ([full text](#))

### Latest analysis



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**[No time to waste - Cohesion Funds for a resource-efficient Europe](#)** / CEE Bankwatch Network, March 2013, 26 p.

"The aim of this policy analysis is to directly link the European Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) and the new Cohesion Policy Regulation by understanding the Resource Efficient Europe Initiative. This study offers evidence and guidelines for the development of sustainable Operational Programmes in EU Member States in the waste management sector, the sector where most countries in central and eastern Europe seriously lag behind EU standards and achievements." (Source: the study)



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**[Quels rôles pour les fonctions de suivi et d'évaluation des futurs programmes européens \(2014-2020\) au regard des leçons de la période de programmation 2007-2013 et des intentions de la Commission européenne / DG Regio pour l'avenir ?](#)** / par Mickaël Vaillant, Études Européennes, 26 mars 2013, 21 p.

Cet article propose de revenir à une distinction claire entre les missions de suivi et d'évaluation lesquelles doivent être conçues, en théorie comme en pratique, comme des fonctions autonomes et complémentaires, mais séparées. Il formule également des propositions en vue du déploiement de dispositifs de suivi et d'évaluation distincts mais complémentaires pour la future politique de cohésion (objectifs, méthodes et temporalités respectifs du suivi et de l'évaluation ; recentrage de l'évaluation sur les vrais « temps forts » de la programmation ; conditions d'élaboration d'un dispositif national de suivi de l'Accord de partenariat et des programmes 2014-2020.



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**[Are tools in place to monitor the effectiveness of European Social Fund spending on older workers?](#)** / European Court of Auditors, Special report 25/2012, published March 2013, 44 p.

This special report by the European Court of Auditors has found that neither the Member States nor the Commission are in a position to establish how many older workers have gained new qualifications, or found or kept a job after having benefited from an action funded by the ESF. The necessary tools to provide relevant and reliable information in this respect have not been put in place by most audited member states. ([ECA press release](#))

## Library Briefings



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[EU competition policy. State aid control measures](#) / by Marcin Szczepanski, posted on 9 April 2013

State aid is an important mechanism to control the conditions for competition in markets. Major policy developments in 2012 included modernisation of state aid rules (including new regional state aid framework) and adoption of the de minimis Regulation.

## Library Key sources



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[European Cultural & Creative Sectors as Sources for Economic Growth & Jobs](#) / by Peter Berninger, posted on 8 April 2013

The concept of Cultural and Creative Industries is wide and includes performing and visual arts, cultural heritage, film, television and radio, music, publishing, video games, new media, architecture, design, fashion and advertising.

The Library published a navigator on "[Unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries](#)" in April 2012, which is updated regularly. There is also a [Library Alert](#) providing regularly updated access to information about this topic added to the Library website. The present keysource draws on these sources, but is more condensed and focussed on the CULT Committee exchange of views with experts on 22 April 2013, called within EP's own initiative procedure [2012/2302\(INI\)](#).

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