

regi news

newsletter of the committee on regional development



Next Committee meeting

Monday 18 March 2013

15.00 - 18.30

Tuesday 19 March 2013

9.00 - 12.30

15.30 - 19.00

Room József Antal 4 Q 2

in focus

- *Exchange of views with Johannes Hahn, Commissioner on Regional Policy*
- *Exchange of views with Romanian Ministers Liviu Dragnea and Eugen Orlando Teodorovici*
- *Vote on*
 - *the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived*
 - *Social Housing in the European Union*
- *Report back on the Interinstitutional negotiations of the 2014-2020 EU Cohesion Policy*

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

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Next Publication

Committee Meeting of

Monday 22 April 2013

15.00 - 18.30

and

Tuesday 23 April 2013

9.00 - 12.30

Useful Internet links

EP Library - Info on items related to regional development

OEIL - The Legislative Observatory

Regional Policy Info regio

EUR-Lex

Committee of the Regions

EP studies Website

REGI Website



part 1 meeting of 18 and 19 March 2013

Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI committee meeting on 18 and 19 March 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. Regional strategies for industrial areas in the European Union (Point 4 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Jens Geier (S&D)
Responsible administrator: Ana Dobre
Procedure: 2012/2100(INI)
Main committee: REGI

The Rapporteur, Mr Jens Geier, will present the Draft Report on Regional strategies for industrial areas in the European Union. The Draft Report stresses the need for assistance when developing regional strategies for old industrialised areas. In this context, the Rapporteur will present ideas on how the specific challenges and obstacles can be overcome by developing well structured regional strategies. Despite the fact that it is undeniable that every region has its own specificity and there is no “blueprint” for a regional strategy for industrial areas, the initiative report intends to point out common features of all old industrialised regions and identify solution opportunities. In addition, the Rapporteur intends to examine the different policy instruments Cohesion policy offers to tackle the challenges of old industrialised areas. The initiative report 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. Furthermore, the Rapporteur will illustrate these ideas by emphasising the successes of the development strategies of cities with an old industrial legacy like Manchester, Essen, Lille and Bilbao.

Finally, the Rapporteur’s project and primary intention when embarking on the drafting of this report is to draw further attention to the problems of old industrialised areas on the one hand and highlight examples of successful conversion strategies on the other hand. The aim is 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.

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 27/11/2012, 23/01/2013
Working document: 19/02/2013
Consideration of draft report: 18/03/2013 (tbc)
Deadline for amendments: 21/03/2013 tbc)
Adoption REGI: 23/04/2013 (tbc)
Adoption in plenary: May 2013 (tbc)

2. Innovating for sustainable growth: a bioeconomy for Europe (Point 5 of the draft agenda)

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

The opinion drafted by MEP Rikka Manner looks at the links between the development of the Bio-economy in Europe, a substantial part of the smart and sustainable growth objective, and the Cohesion policy.

MEP Rikka Manner takes the opinion that a strong Bio-economy in the EU can be major factor for creating sustainable and innovative jobs, by focusing on smart-specialisation in our regions.

The draftsperson reminds that regional economies are key to achieving smart, sustainable and inclusive growth as they have both the required knowledge and capacity to mobilise local stakeholders in accordance with the regional specificities. She also emphasises that the bio-economy contributes significantly to better resource efficiency and can significantly reduce the dependency on imported raw materials and energy. She also recommends more coherency and coordination between the different funding sources (CP; CAP; Horizon 2020) supporting the development of the bio-economy in Europe.

TIMETABLE
Consideration of draft opinion: 18/03/2013
Deadline for amendments: 25/03/2013 (tbc)
Adoption REGI: 22/04/2013 (tbc)
Adoption ENVI: 29/05/2013 (tbc)
Plenary: July 2013 (tbc)

3. Forward policy planning and long-term trends: budgetary implications for capacity-building (Point 6 of the draft agenda)

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

The Rapporteur, Mr. Oldřich Vlasák (ECR), will submit to the committee his draft opinion to the BUDG committee INI report on forward policy planning and long-term trends: budgetary implications for capacity-building. In his draft opinion, the Rapporteur emphasises that modern administrative and management capacities are needed by all actors and bodies involved in designing and implementing policies in the EU, further recalling that funding is available under the ESF and the ERDF for strengthening institutional and administrative capacities at all levels of decision-making. The Rapporteur considers also that although the MFF constitutes a very important instrument for the long-term planning of the European project, better coordination between the EU budget and the Member States' national budgets, and greater complementarity for the spending of public funds, are however needed, while recognising that cohesion policy displays a strong forward-planning component. Finally, noting that policy formulation in respect of cohesion policy and other fields depends increasingly on the timely identification of long-term global trends, the Rapporteur recommends the establishment of an interinstitutional system to identify long-term trends in respect of major policy issues facing the Union, involving staff from all the relevant EU institutions and bodies, including the Committee of the Regions.

TIMETABLE
Consideration of draft opinion: 18/03/2013
Deadline for amendments:
Adoption REGI:
Adoption BUDG: 30/05/2013 (tbc)
Plenary: July 2013 (tbc)

4. Blue Growth - Enhancing sustainable growth in the EU's marine, maritime transport and tourism sectors (Point 7 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Seán Kelly (PPE)
Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud
Procedure: 2012/2297(INI)
Main committee: TRAN - Spyros Danellis (S&D)

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.

The Rapporteur will present his draft opinion pointing out the strong interactions with Regional policy.

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

5. The implementation and impact of the energy efficiency measures under Cohesion Policy (Point 9 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Mojca Kleva Kekuš (S&D)
Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev
Procedure: (INI)
Main committee: REGI

MEP Mojca Kleva Kekuš is presenting a working paper, outlining her future report on the support from Cohesion policy to the Energy efficiency objective of the EU.

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.

TIMETABLE

Working document: 19/03/2013

**Mini-hearing and consideration of draft report:
23/04/2013 (tbc)**

Deadline for amendments: 23/05/2013 tbc)

Adoption REGI: 19/06/2013 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: July 2013 (tbc)

6. Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (Point 10 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)

Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez

Procedure: 2012/0295(COD)

Main committee: EMPL - Emer Costello (S&D)

One of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy is to dramatically reduce the number of deprived people. This objective has become a bigger challenge given the current economic crisis. In this context, the European Commission has proposed a new and complementary fund in order to strengthen the existing social cohesion tools. This Fund focuses on the most deprived people and aims to provide them access to the basic alimentary needs. The 2014-2020 budget proposed is 2.5 billion € coming from the ESF budget.

In January an exchange of views took place and in February the rapporteur presented 86 amendments to improve the EC proposal which were completed by other MEPs until a total number of 353.

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 23/01/2013

Consideration of draft opinion: 19/02/2013

Deadline for amendments: 21/02/2013

Adoption REGI: 19/03/2013

Adoption EMPL: 23/04/2013 (tbc)

Plenary: tbc

7. Social housing in the European Union (Point 11 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Salvatore Caronna (S&D)
Responsible administrator: Susanne Pillath
Procedure: 2012/2293 (INI)
Main committee: EMPL - Karima Delli (Verts/ALE)

The draft own-initiative report "Social Housing in the European Union" emphasizes the role of social housing in absorbing the shocks of the current economic and social crisis and asks the Member States and the European Commission to take care for ensuring the fundamental right of access to decent housing at affordable prices. The politics of the European Union and the Member States have to fight poverty and to promote social inclusion and cohesion in the housing sector with an integrated policy approach. The investments for providing social housing and in the quality as well as in the energy efficiency of housing have to be strengthened. The draft report stresses the necessity to take care against the increasing appearance of energy poverty.

The Rapporteur, Mr Salvatore Caronna, has presented in the committee meeting of 19 February 2013 his draft opinion in which he welcomes that the proposals of the European Commission for the future cohesion policy provide the eligibility of investments in energy efficiency and of measures for an integrated sustainable urban development as well as for the fight against social exclusion. In the debate Members supported the role that the integrated approach of the structural funds can play for urban development and social inclusion. Members pointed also out to the very different approaches to social housing policy which are pursued in the Member States.

49 amendments were tabled. The amendments underline the importance of social housing and point out to the role the structural funds can play in supporting the goal of social inclusion.

TIMETABLE
Consideration of draft opinion: 19/02/2013
Deadline for amendments: 22/02/2013
Adoption REGI: 19/03/2013
Adoption in lead committee (EMPL): 23/04/2013 (tbc)
Adoption in plenary: July 2013 (tbc)

8. 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 (Point 12 of the draft agenda)

The Commissioner on Regional Policy will come to the committee in order to inform the Members on the Multiannual Financial Framework and the ongoing Interinstitutional negotiations on the post 2014 EU Cohesion Policy.

Following his presentation, there will be a debate with the Members of the REGI committee.

9. Exchange of views with Liviu Dragnea, Romanian Deputy Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Regional Development and Public Administration, and with Eugen Orlando Teodorovici, Romanian Minister of European Funds (Point 13 of the draft agenda)

Mr Liviu Dragnea, Romanian Deputy Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Regional Development and Public Administration, and Mr Eugen Orlando Teodorovici, Romanian Minister of European Funds, appear before the REGI committee in order to present the Members a complete view of the implementation, benefits and obstacles encountering the EU cohesion policy in Rumania.

An exchange of views will follow with the members.

10. Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) N° 1083/2006 (Point 14 of the draft agenda)

Co-rapporteurs: Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE) & Constanze Angela Krehl (S&D)
Responsible administrators: Diana Haase, Ana Maria Dobre
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 the 20th and 27th of February and the 5th and 6th of March. Works focused on the final drafting of CSF articles and Annex as well as the closure of the Territorial Development block, and on the opening of two new thematic blocks: Ex Ante Conditionality and Performance Framework.

During the trilogue on 6 March, the legislators came to a conclusion with regard to the scope, and content of the CSF annex and its adoption. Modification of the annexe is still subject to negotiations. Upon confirmation by the Council, the EP position as regards the CSF being included as an annex in the basic act is secured. The content of the annex will include most of the key issues, as proposed in the REGI mandate voted last July. The territorial development block was also concluded with a few technical issues remaining open. The ideas from the EP amendments on the clarification and strengthening of the provisions on community-led local development and integrated territorial investment have been clearly safeguarded in the context of the inter-institutional negotiations.

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): 11/07/2012

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

Adoption in plenary: (tbc)

11. 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 15 of the draft agenda)

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

The Rapporteur will report back to REGI Committee on the outcome of the trilogue meetings on the ERDF, which took place on the 21st of February and on the 4th of March. These trilogue meetings were mainly dedicated to Art. 5 on Investment priorities and the co-legislators have reached agreements on the majority of the investment priorities; however, several issues remained unsolved such as the introduction of eco-innovation and creative and cultural industries to Art. 5(2)(b), addition of "primarily in SMEs" to 5(4)(b), addition of conversion areas and noise pollution to Art. 5(6)(e), etc. Until now, for this regulation, the co-legislators have reached some preliminary agreements regarding Art. 3 (Scope of support). Concerning sustainable urban development (Art. 7, 8, and 9) two major issues are still to be resolved during the next meetings: the delegation provision as referred to in Article 113(7) of the CPR regulation and the issue of the "urban development platform". For the next trilogue meetings scheduled for the 18th and 25th of March, the second round of the discussion on thematic concentration (Art. 4) is the main point for Agenda.

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): 11/07/2012
Updated draft report with outcome of the negotiations (tbc)
Adoption in plenary: (tbc)

12. Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 (Point 16 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Victor Bo tinaru (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.

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 in particular the issue of common indicators (Article 4 - amendment 35), it was decided that the Parliament Negotiating Team would organise a joint meeting between the Negotiating Teams for the CF, the ERDF and the ETC, the Commission and the Council, in order to try to establish a coordinated approach to this issue of common indicators. This joint meeting is now scheduled for 18 March, and will replace the trilogue that was foreseen for that date.

No other trilogue is scheduled for the moment.

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): 11/07/2012

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

Adoption in plenary: (tbc)

13. Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the 'European territorial cooperation' (ETC) goal (Point 17 of the draft agenda)

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.

Under the Cypriot Presidency, Three trilogues took place dealing with articles 2, 7,8, 11,12 (thematic block "programming") and on 17, 18 and 19 (rules of eligibility) of the regulation.

Apart the thematic block "programming"(2,7,8,11,12), mainly to adjust and align the drafting of Art 7 ETC with the agreed version of Art 87 CPR. a final common agreement is likely to be found on many of the items discussed.

Under the Irish presidency, three trilogues have already taken place, (28th January, 26th February and 6th March), putting forward many new articles to negotiation :

- Articles 9 and 10 on Territorial Development
- Articles 13 and 14 on monitoring and evaluation
- Articles 20, 22, 23 and 24 on management and control
- Articles 25 and 26 on financial management.
- Articles 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 on the final provisions :
- Article 21 on European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)
- Article 1 on the scope of the regulation

The negotiations on articles 5 and 6 on Thematic concentration and Investments priorities are depending on the ones in ERDF and CPR on that matter and will be reopened as soon as possible in the next trilogues planned the 25th March and in April.

Some discussions are still on going on on the conditions of participation of third countries in cooperation programmes (Article 28, now 24bis) as well as regarding EGTC (Article 21)

All the other remaining articles will be also put forward to the negotiation in the forthcoming trilogues.

This gives good chances to come up by the end of April or 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 (MFF).

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): 11/07/2012

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

Adoption in plenary: (tbc)

14. 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 18 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Joachim Zeller (PPE)

Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev

Procedure: 2011/0272(COD)

Rapporteur MEP Joaquin Zeller will present to the REGI committee the outcome of the first trilogue, which took place on March 4th.

Some substantive work has been achieved during this first meeting between MEPs and the Irish presidency on the EGTC file. A number of important points, such as establishment of EGTCs, acquisition of legal personality and tasks have been discussed in depth.

As a result, a number of elements susceptible to represent a base for future agreement were identified. Nevertheless, some issues seem to divide at a very conceptual level, such as conditions for employment of staff and applicable law.

Next trilogue is scheduled for the 21st of March.

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): 11/07/2012

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 19 February 2013

Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meeting held on 19 February 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. EU Regional State Aid

Exchange of views with:

- **Gert-Jan Koopman**, Deputy Director-General on State aid Policy at European Commission DG Competition;
- **Nicholas Martyn**, Deputy Director General for Policy, Performance and Compliance at European Commission DG REGIO;

and with the participation of **Jean-Paul Denanot**, rapporteur of the Committee of the Regions on this matter.

In January, the European Commission has launched a consultation of stakeholders on a Commission draft paper regarding regional aid guidelines applicable for the next programming period. Mr. Koopman (EC, DG Competition) outlined the most important parts of this document and the ideas of the Commission. He highlighted that the revision of regional aids is part of a larger reform of state aid modernisation. The three most important aims are promoting growth, reducing red tape and improving of enforcement. He also mentioned that the biggest part of cohesion policy falls outside of regional aid. It is proposed to prohibit aid to large enterprises in three regions. Research shows that these aids don't change the behaviour of large enterprises. Mr. Koopman also emphasized the importance of transparency, value added and the evaluation of large schemes. He added that expenditure on SMEs should be used in a more efficient way.

Mr. Martyn (EC, DG Regio) highlighted that Cohesion Policy is fully subject to state aid rules. He drew attention to several important aspects, inter alia simplification, consistency and effectiveness. He also mentioned some open points in the consultation process: consistency of maps, difference in reference periods and aid for large enterprises.

Mr. Denanot (CoR) presented the CoR opinion on "The regional state aid guidelines ofr 2014-2020".

After the presentations Members of REGI took the floor to express their concerns and ask questions. They emphasized the importance of consistency between cohesion policy and competition policy, as well as of simplification. They were of the opinion that state aids should be possible to large enterprises, as many SMEs depend on large enterprises. Questions were asked concerning state aid for ICT and private housing. Furthermore, the issue of transparency was raised, especially in cases when we do not know the owner of enterprises receiving aid. Some Members voiced that the proposal is not in line with needs arising from the crisis. It was also criticized that the conditions are much more restrictive than before. It was underlined that more coordination with other policies is necessary. Finally, the necessity of other indicators was raised.

2. Votes

The following votes took place:

Rapporteur / Draftsperson	Report / Opinion	Result of the votes for/against/abstentions
Jan Olbrycht (PPE)	DRAFT OPINION on " 2011 discharge: EU general budget, Section III, Commission " 2012/2167(DEC) - (PE502.212)	adopted with amendments 40/0/1
Riikka Manner (ALDE)	DRAFT OPINION on " Current Challenges and Opportunities for Renewable Energy in the European Internal Energy Market " 2012/2259(INI) - (PE502.098)	adopted with amendments 39/3/0

3. Exchange of views with Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, President of the Committee of the Regions on the post 2014 EU Cohesion Policy

The President of the Committee of the Regions was invited to present the positions of CoR concerning the Multiannual Financial Framework and the legislative package on the future cohesion policy. Mr. Valcárcel Siso (President of CoR) took the view that the real negotiations on MFF will start now, and he drew the attention to the new powers of the European Parliament granted in the Lisbon Treaty. He was reasonably satisfied as in his opinion EP and CoR share the view on many aspects on MFF. He encouraged the Members of REGI to change and improve the MFF, however he did not support the rejection of the whole MFF. He emphasized that Cohesion Policy could be a key instrument to find a way out of the crisis. He added that without the Structural Funds the Member States could never carry out sufficient investments.

The presentation was followed by a debate with the Members of REGI. Members were divided in the assessment of MFF. Although nobody was satisfied with the result achieved so far, some Members were of the opinion that despite of the many concerns the agreement reached by the Council should not be rejected, but it should be rather improved. In their view the rejection would jeopardize the long-term results. Others were of the opinion that the MFF in its current form is not acceptable and it should be rejected. It does not meet the needs arising from EU2020. In addition several problems were raised, inter alia unemployment, macroeconomic conditionalities, deficit in the budget, situation of poor regions. It was also called as a conservative budget, that does not promote growth.

4. Social housing in the European Union

Rapporteur: Salvatore Caronna (S&D)
Responsible administrator: Susanne Pillath
Procedure: 2012/2293 (INI)
Main committee: EMPL - Karima Delli

The rapporteur, Mr Caronna presented his draft opinion to the REGI Members. He welcomed that the proposals of the European Commission for the future cohesion policy provide the eligibility of investments in energy efficiency and of measures for an integrated sustainable urban development as well as for the fight against social exclusion. He pointed out that the integrated approach of the structural funds could play an important role for urban development and social inclusion. In his view also the positive effects on the labour market and for SMEs have to be considered as a result of investments in social housing.

In the following exchange of views Members highlighted the positive effects of social housing inter alia on local jobs and macroeconomic stability. It was also stressed that this was a sensitive matter, being in national competence, therefore this problem should be tackled at the lowest possible level. The principle of multilevel governance should apply and it should be avoided to set up new bureaucracy.

The deadline for amendments was set to 22 February, at 12.00.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 19/02/2013

Deadline for amendments: 22/02/2013

Adoption REGI: 18-19/03/2013(tbc)

Adoption in lead committee (EMPL): 23/04/2013 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: July 2013 (tbc)

5. Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived

Rapporteur: Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)

Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez

Procedure: 2012/0295(COD)

Main committee: EMPL - Emer Costello

One of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy is to dramatically reduce the number of deprived people. This objective has become a bigger challenge given the current economic crisis. In this context, the European Commission has proposed a new and complementary fund in order to strengthen the existing social cohesion tools. This Fund focuses on the most deprived people and aims to provide them access to the basic alimentary needs. The 2014-2020 budget proposed is 2.5 billion € coming from the ESF budget.

The Rapporteur presented his draft opinion to the REGI Members. He welcomed the new complementary fund proposed by the Commission and outlined his suggestions aiming at improving the Commission text. In the exchange of views Members were divided on the necessity of this new fund. Some Members were very much in favour of this idea, while others criticized the proposal. In their view the solution of this problem should be the responsibility of the national, regional and local authorities. They added that efforts should be concentrated on the creation of jobs for deprived people and not on direct aid to them.

The deadline for amendments was set to 21 February, at 18.00.

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 23/01/2013

Consideration of draft opinion: 19/02/2013 (tbc)

Deadline for amendments: 21/02/2013 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 19/03/2013 (tbc)

Adoption EMPL: 23/04//2013 (tbc)

Plenary:

6. Exchange of views with the rapporteurs on the ongoing interinstitutional negotiations

The respective Rapporteurs reported back from the Interinstitutional negotiations (trilogues) and presented the forthcoming steps of negotiation forecast with the ongoing Irish Presidency.

6.1. Exchange of views on Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006

The negotiations are ongoing on the blocks on 'thematic concentration' and the 'Common Strategic Framework' (CSF). No final agreement has been reached yet. The negotiators are currently concentrating on the finalisation of the CSF annex and the compromises on articles 10 to 12. The Rapporteurs reported back to REGI Committee on the outcome of the trilogue meetings on the CPR, which took place on the 21st, 29th and 31st of January. During negotiations the CSF Annex was deeply studied by the Parliament's Negotiating Team and the Council, with the support of the Commission. Almost the entire Annex was tackled. The remaining details will be closed during a technical meeting and then presented to the Negotiating Team.

6.2. Exchange of views on European Regional Development Fund and repeal of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006

The Rapporteur reported back to REGI Committee on the outcome of the trilogue meeting on the ERDF, which took place on the 31st of January. During the last trilogue the co-legislators have reached some preliminary agreements concerning Art. 3 (Scope of support). Furthermore, another round of discussion on articles related to sustainable urban development (Art, 7, 8, and 9) has taken place and two major issues to be resolved during the next meetings have emerged: the delegation provision as referred to in Article 113(7) of the CPR regulation and the issue of the "urban development platform". Finally, the institutions have continued presenting their positions on Investment priorities (Art. 5). Some of the EP's proposals for the investment priorities are supported by the Council and the Commission regarding the content, however, differences regarding the structure of the text remain. The biggest change proposed by the EP with the agreement of the Council and the Commission is to transfer sustainable urban mobility from Thematic Objective 7 to Thematic Objective 4, however, this amendment is dependent on negotiations on percentages in thematic concentration (Art. 4). The discussion on Art. 5 shall continue during the next trilogue meeting scheduled for the 21st of February and the institutions intend to move to the second round of the discussion on thematic concentration (Art. 4). During the next trilogue meeting the first exchange of views on Art. 6 (Indicators for the Investment for growth and jobs goal) will also be on Agenda. On this specific issue the Rapporteur expressed his opinion that the indicators should not be part of this legislative act, but they should be rather included in an implementing act, as stated in the Mandate.

6.3. Exchange of views on Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006

The Rapporteur informed the Members that two more trilogues are scheduled for 27 February and 18 March, which he expects to be the last one. However, he expressed his concerns as regards MFF, as the Connecting Europe Facility can be the biggest victim of it. Concerning indicators he shared the views of the ERDF rapporteur, i.e. the indicators should not be included in the legislative package, but they should be detailed in an implementing act.

6.4. Exchange of views on the Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the 'European territorial cooperation' goal

The Chair informed the Members that since the last REGI meeting only one trilogue has taken place, on 28 January. It was mainly dedicated to going on negotiating on the programming block and rules of eligibility and to taking a look at the thematic concentration. As regards investment priorities no agreement was reached, but it was agreed to analyse the situation as soon as ERDF investment priorities have been thoroughly discussed. Concerning thematic concentration REGI expressed its wish to have more flexibility to the ETC programmes than for the mainstream programmes. The Council proposed a different structure, while the Commission expressed their support to the EP proposal. As regards the Programming block a few remaining political issues have been tackled since the last REGI meeting. The forthcoming trilogues will follow the pace of negotiations on CPR and ERDF. The next trilogue will take place on 26 February, starting with a discussion on the articles concentrating on monitoring and evaluation, on management and control as well as on financial management.

7. Regional strategies for industrial areas in the European Union

Rapporteur: Jens Geier (S&D)
Responsible administrator: Ana Dobre
Procedure: 2012/2100(INI)
Main committee: REGI

The Rapporteur, Mr Jens Geier, presented the Working Document on Regional strategies for industrial areas in the European Union. The Working Document emphasises three main research questions, which seek to raise awareness in the European arena about the current and future developments of regional strategies for industrial areas in Europe:

- Where is regional funding most needed in (old) industrialised regions?
- Which successful regional strategies for undertaking structural change exist?
- Which role does the EU funding play in this?

The Rapporteur suggested focusing on old industrialised regions, which were particularly exposed to the radical decline in traditional industries in the last decades. While the Rapporteur intends to analyse the needs of old industrial areas in different regions of the European Union, he, additionally, aims to present case studies of different regions in the European Union in order to learn from good-practice-examples, where EU-funded industrial policy approaches encouraged the ongoing transformation process. Finally, the Rapporteur intends to illustrate these developments by focussing on cities like Manchester, Essen, Lille and Bilbao, all cities with an old industrial legacy, and by showing how EU funding can tackle structural change in industrial areas and what can be concluded from these examples.

Reacting on questions he outlined that the report does not aim at defining what type of industry shall be chosen. It should rather focus on the problems and possible solutions. He also mentioned some problems, e.g. missing middle class, polluted soil. It was underlined that solutions should be found based on the local workers, their needs and skills.

TIMETABLE

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

Working document: 19/02/2013 (tbc)

Consideration of draft report: 18/03/2013 (tbc)

Deadline for amendments: 21/03/2013 tbc)

Adoption REGI: 23/04/2013 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: May 2013 (tbc)



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 last and next meeting

Ms Hübner has participated as a chairperson of the Committee in the following events:

05-Mar	Brussels	Conference "EU Science: Global Challenges, Global Collaboration"	Organised by Mr Sean Kelly, MEP and ISC Intelligence in Science in association with the Irish Presidency
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Ms Hübner, representing the committee, has accepted so far an invitation to participate (during the coming weeks) in the following events:

15 March	Brussels, EC	DG REGIO	Conference "From pilots to outcomes" Evidence based lessons on Roma communities socio-economic inclusion"
25 March at 17,30	Brussels, EP	Michael THEURER and Silvia Adriana TICĂU, MEPs	Exhibition "Danube- European River" The Danube River in all member states (Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia) and the establishment of the European Danube Commission founded on 30 March 1856
28 March	Ankara (Turkey)	Turkish Ministry of Development	Conference on "Growing together: International Conference on Cohesion Policy"

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

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

21 February	Jürgen GREN, Head of Unit of the DG Communication Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission	to discuss the ERDF negotiations
26 February	Dimitris DIMITRIADIS, EESC Rapporteur on Mediterranean macro regional strategy and Michael Smyth, President of the section for Economic and Monetary Union and Cohesion policy at the EESC	to discuss on a possible Mediterranean macro-regional strategy
27 February	ESPON representatives (Andreu Ulied, Peter Mehlbye and Jacek Szlachta)	to present their next European Territory 2050 report and to discuss about a possible REGI hearing on this project
04 March	Nellie Kroes, Commissioner	to discuss MFF and CEF

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EESC asks REGI to support civil society reconstruction in Maghreb and Mashrek regions

On the 26th of February the Chair of the Committee on regional development Professor Danuta Hubner met with representatives of the European Economic and Social Council in order to discuss issues relating to the establishment of a macro-regional strategy in the Mediterranean basin.

Mr Michael Smyth, President of the section for Economic and Monetary Union and Cohesion policy at the EESC, and Mr Dimitris Dimitriadis, Chairman of the Euromed Follow-up Committee of the EESC, presented to the Chair of the REGI committee their vision on the need of a stronger involvement of the EU in the region of the Mediterranean region. In their opinion, organised civil society, trade unions and labour and employees organisations, the social partners, are today quasi non-existent and suffer the consequences of the Arab Spring wave of revolutions in the Southern Mediterranean region. Mr Dimitriadis underlined the crucial need to proceed with direct contacts and implement projects, for which funding is already available through EU instruments and recreate the civil society tissue.

REGI committee Chair, Mrs Danuta Hübner, explained the strong support and importance that the committee is giving to the establishment of macro-regional strategies in Europe, especially in the context of the legislative package. The Chair explained that more practical cooperation was needed and that the parties could rely on the strong support from REGI committee.





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REGI Library News

Recent publications in the field of Regional Development

Latest analysis

 <p>© EPRC, 2013</p>	<p><u>Cohesion policy 2014-20: national allocations. Who are the winners and losers from the 7-8 February European Council?</u> / by Fiona Wishlade, European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Policy Briefing, 25 February 2013, 4 p.</p> <p>"The European Council on 7-8 February 2013 agreed a Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) containing a new methodology for allocating Cohesion policy funding. Although the MFF may be revised by the European Parliament, a key question is what the Council conclusions might mean for the allocation of Structural and Cohesion Funds to the Member States. Based on EPRC calculations, this EPRC Policy Briefing provides a preliminary assessment of how Cohesion policy might be allocated." (Source: the Policy briefing)</p>
 <p>© EPRC, 2013</p>	<p><u>Negotiation boxes and blocks: Crafting a deal on the EU Budget and Cohesion Policy</u> / Carlos Mendez, Fiona Wishlade and John Bachtler, EoRPA Paper 12/4, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, January 2013, 63 p.</p> <p>This paper has been published in the European Policy Research Paper series reviewing the negotiations on the 2014-2020 EU budget and Cohesion policy. It explores the development of the negotiation boxes on the MFF and the thematic blocks of the Cohesion policy regulations, identifying the main points of contention and changes proposed by the Council under the Polish, Danish and Cypriot Presidencies of the EU.(Source: EPRC)</p>
 <p>© FINTP, 2013</p>	<p><u>Budget perspective in Croatia after accession to the European Union</u> / by Petar Sopek. In Financial Theory and Practice, vol. 37, issue 1, 2013, pp. 31-71.</p> <p>The aim of this paper is to estimate the possible effects of Croatian membership in the EU on changes in the structure and size of budget revenues and expenditures upon the country's accession to the EU in the second half of 2013, as well as to indicate the possibilities for utilization of EU funds in the new financial perspective up to 2020. [...] Total amount of all funds that Croatia might receive in the new EU financial perspective covering the period from 2014 to 2020 amounts to EUR 6.34 bn, whereby annual amounts increase from EUR 0.7 bn in 2014 up to EUR 1.2 bn in 2020. By using exponential regression analysis it is estimated that in 2020 Croatia should be a net recipient of funds from the EU budget in total amount of 1.72% of GDP, i.e. EUR 1.13 bn.</p>
 <p>© European Union, 2012</p>	<p><u>The European Union Solidarity Fund's response to the 2009 Abruzzi earthquake: the relevance and cost of operations</u> / European Court of Auditors, Special report 24/2012, published February 2013, 52 p.</p> <p>The Court of Auditors has published a special report on the EU contribution from the EUSF - European Solidarity Fund to the Abruzzi region in Italy following the earthquake in November 2009.</p> <p>Following a report from ECA, the European Commission is to clarify rules on financing "temporary accomodation" following natural disasters. (ECA press release)</p>



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[Making the best of Europe's Sparsely Populated Areas: on making geographic specificity a driver for territorial development in Europe](#) / by Alexandre Dubois and Johanna Roto, Nordregio Working Paper 2012; 15, 2012, 84 p.

This report argues that regional policies should more proactively promote the more efficient use of Sparsely Populated Areas' assets to grasp new development opportunities, for instance via reinforced Territorial Cooperation and expanded Business Networks, instead of excessively focusing on 'overcoming' their permanent locational disadvantage through 'hard' infrastructure. (Source: Nordregio)



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[The impact of the recession in 2008-2009 on EU regional convergence](#) / by Atanas Kolev, Economic Studies Division, European Investment Bank, 14 December 2012, 12 p.

This note on regional convergence provides a first assessment of the impact of the crisis on convergence in Europe. It concludes that convergence slowed down substantially in 2008-2009 after nearly a decade of rapid convergence. EIB lending to convergence regions rose significantly during the recession in 2008-2009, helping to leverage more European structural funds. This inflow of capital substituted the withdrawing of private capital to some degree and likely provided a buffer against the severe economic shock. For the regional convergence to resume its pre-recession pace, it is of utmost importance for convergence regions to re-invent the economic model that brought about the higher productivity growth rates before 2007.

Library Key sources



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[Social housing in Europe](#) /by Verena Kern, posted on 8 March 2013

In its Europe 2020 targets, the European Commission has defined improved access to housing as one of the key actions. Housing support is also included in the EC's Social Investment Package that was presented in February 2013. The European Parliament's EMPL committee urges Member States in its 2012/2293 (INI) report for social housing investments.

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