

# regi news

newsletter of the committee on regional development



## Next Committee meeting

**Monday 26 November 2012**  
15.00 - 18.30

**Tuesday 27 November 2012**  
9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30

Room József Antall 4 Q 1

### *in focus*

- **Votes on**
  - **Common provisions on European Funds**
  - **Connecting Europe Facility**
  - **The European Solidarity Fund - implementation and application**
  - **The Energy roadmap 2050, a future with energy**
  - **Urban re-development as contribution to economic growth in the framework of EU Cohesion Policy**
  - **Improving access to finance for SMEs**
  - **Award of concession contracts**
  - **Optimising the role of territorial development in Cohesion Policy**
- **Public Hearing on 'Cohesion Policy and Europe 2020 strategy targets'**

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

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### Next Publication

Committee Meeting of  
Monday 17 December 2012  
15.00 - 18.30  
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Tuesday 18 December 2012  
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 26-27 November 2012

*Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI committee meeting on 26 and 27 November 2012. 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. Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) N° 1083/2006 (Points 4, 5 and 15 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)**

At the REGI meeting on 26th of November, a completion and updates of the Mandate for opening inter-institutional negotiations adopted by the Committee on Regional Development at its meeting on 11 July 2012 will be voted.

REGI has received 11 opinions from other committee which contain a few hundred amendments.

Ongoing negotiation on compromises proposed by the Rapporteurs concern articles linked to Financial Regulation, amendments linked to Financial Instruments modifications of mandate of 11th July 2012, and recitals. The articles concerned are: 2, 20 (4), 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 64, 65, 75, 76, 84.4, 114, 116, 117, 136, 128, 129, 131, 132, 133 and two new articles 129 a and 130 a. The recitals concerned are: 1, 5, 9, 11, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23, 28, 31, 32, 34, 35, 41, 43, 44, 48, 49, 54, 56, 57, 59, 63, 64, 65, 70, 72, 73, 76, 77, 78, 80, 81, 83, 84, 88, 90, 91 and three new recitals: 18 a, 41 a, 48 a.

#### **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: 12 July 2012 (mandate)  
Updated draft report with outcome of the negotiations: (tbc)  
Adoption in plenary: (tbc)**

### 2. Connecting Europe Facility (Point 6 of the draft agenda)

**Rapporteur: Markus Pieper (PPE)  
Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev  
Procedure: 2011/0302(COD)  
Main Committee: ITRE**

During last month's meeting, the Rapporteur has urged for a more innovative way in the design of the future CEF, proposing to introduce two stages in the identification of projects. He also announced that there is a compromise in the making between the Committees on Transport and Regional Development.

Now that the three compromises are a fact and are aligned with the proposal for update of the CPR Mandate, the Connecting Europe Facility opinion can be put to the vote.

On 26<sup>th</sup> November REGI committee will put on the vote the remaining CAMs 2, 5 and 9 and the final vote on the opinion.

***TIMETABLE***

**Exchange of views: 20/06/2012**

**Consideration of draft opinion: 11/07/2012**

**Deadline for amendments: 19/09/2012**

**Adoption REGI: 26/11/2012**

**Adoption TRAN: 27/11/2012 (tbc)**

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

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### **3. The European Solidarity Fund, implementation and application (Point 7 of the draft agenda)**

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

**Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev**

**Procedure: 2012/2075(INI)**

**Main committee: REGI**

The EUSF is the main instrument of the Union implementing the principle of solidarity enshrined in the Treaties.

Since its creation in 2002, financial aid has been granted from the Solidarity Fund 49 times, amounting to some EUR 3, 159, 991,194. In all, 92 applications for financial assistance were received from 23 different countries. The requests have concerned a variety of different types of natural disaster - from earthquakes to forest fires and droughts.

Although the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) has been widely recognised as a very successful instrument, a number of shortcomings linked to the definitions, scope, application criteria responsiveness and financing have led to a revision process.

29 amendments were received to the draft report. Many of those are aiming at clarifying the recommendations, while others are attempting to bring more in depth changes. Many of these are welcomed by the rapporteur and will be supported during the votes.

***TIMETABLE***

**Consideration of draft report: 10/10/2012**

**Deadline for amendments: 17/10/2012**

**Adoption REGI: 26/11/2012**

**Adoption in plenary: December 2012 (tbc)**

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#### 4. The Energy Roadmap 2050, a future with energy (Point 8 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: Lena Kolarska-Bobińska (PPE)**  
**Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev**  
**Procedure: 2012/2103(INI)**  
**Main committee: ITRE**

21 amendments were submitted to this opinion, which seeks to recommend concrete measures for a sustainable, diversified and secure future energy supply for the EU. A particular accent is put on the links between Cohesion policy support for the future energy.

The rapporteur, Mrs Kolarska – Bobinska has proposed four compromise amendments and an oral amendment, thus incorporating a majority of her colleagues suggestions.

***TIMETABLE***

**Consideration of draft opinion: 11/10/2012**  
**Deadline for amendments: 17/10/2012**  
**Adoption REGI: 26/11/2012**  
**Adoption ITRE: 18/12/2012 (tbc)**  
**Adoption in plenary: January 2013 (tbc)**

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#### 5. Urban re-development as contribution to economic growth in the framework of the EU Cohesion Policy (Point 9 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: Andrea Cozzolino (S&D)**  
**Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez**  
**Procedure: 2011/2311(INI)**  
**Main committee: REGI**

Local development should be a must for the Cohesion Policy since it is the closest level to citizens and in which challenges are more demanding. It is to the local level that citizens feel more attached and to which intangible assets, like historical and cultural ties are linked.

The issues to tackle are wide and different, from energy efficiency in buildings to disposal management or migration and population ageing. Therefore, the ERDF by itself as well as the Cohesion Policy as a whole ought to focus in both rural and urban areas.

In summary, this rapport bolsters a new approach to urban policies. Moreover, it also asks for the reinforcement of the representativeness of majors in the European Institutions. During the previous debate, MEPs pointed out to the need of also focusing aid on deprived areas in cities.

Mr Cozzolino's rapport has been completed with 67 amendments

***TIMETABLE***

**Exchange of views: 29/05/2012**  
**Consideration of draft report: 18/09/2012**  
**Deadline for amendments: 20/09/2012**  
**Adoption REGI: 26/11/2012**  
**Adoption in plenary: (tbc)**

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## 6. Improving access to finance for SMEs (Point 10 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: Vladimír Maňka (S&D)**  
**Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez**  
**Procedure: 2011/2134(INI)**  
**Main committee: ECON**

The European Commission has published a communication which focuses on the action plan to improve access to finance for SMEs. SMEs are the key contributor to the total value added in the non-financial business and the biggest job provider in Europe. However, many obstacles in obtaining financing prevent the SMEs from growing and developing. The proposal brings together the Commission's responses to the problem such as regulatory measures, EU financial measures and working together with Member States.

The draftsman Mr. Vladimír Maňka has submitted his draft opinion for REGI Committee on access to financing by SMEs. He states that the Cohesion Policy is one of the main tools of the EU to support SMEs and that a simplification on administrative procedures at all levels is desired in order to facilitate SMEs access to this line of financing.

Mr Manka's opinion has received 29 amendments.

**TIMETABLE**  
**Consideration of draft opinion: 10/10/2012**  
**Deadline for amendments: 17/10/2012**  
**Adoption REGI: 26/11/2012**  
**Adoption ECON : 17/12/2012 (tbc)**  
**Plenary: (tbc)**

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## 7. Award of concession contracts (Point 11 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: Heide Rühle (VERTS/ALE)**  
**Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud**  
**Procedure: 2011/0437(COD)**  
**Main committee: IMCO**

The Rapporteur suggest the Committee on Regional Development to propose the lead Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO), the rejection of the proposal by the Commission.

This proposal for rejection will be put to the vote as well as the 77 amendments that were tabled to the Commission Proposal.

In the views of the Rapporteur, the European Treaties and the European Court of Justice clearly define the principles governing the award of concessions: transparency, equal treatment and non-discrimination. But leave enough flexibility for the management of these licenses. By contrast, the definition of service concessions in this draft proposal is not clear, and going beyond the jurisdiction of the ECJ, creates new uncertainties. The differentiation to other contracts as loan contracts and licenses is missing, as well as the question of the risk of transmission that is insufficiently solved, as well as the special trust relationship between the parties that is not taken into account, such as. Most service licenses will be awarded in the field of network-based services, such as in the energy, water and communications and transport. They are services of general (economic) interest that often entails the transfer of exclusive and sovereign rights. Integration of these services has also created problems of

legal coherence. In the Services Directive, for example, large areas of services of general interest were excluded. There are no sufficiently clear distinction between existing sectoral regulations, eg for regulation for public transport sector or the rules in the energy and gas sectors.

The experience of the European public procurement rules also show that a detailed legal regime does not protect against legal disputes, on the contrary.

The view of the procurement directives also shows that a detailed regulation usually does not reduce costs, but the administrative costs of a European tender amount to an average of 30,000 euros - and that cross-border deals at times just 1.5%.

The Commission rightly problematizes the issue of corruption, but their proposed solutions are not appropriate. Transparency is the best weapon against competitors. Transparency is considered as a purely instrumental basis for the equal treatment of tenderers. The public, the citizens are deprived of this transparency, the proposal for the award of concessions in this regard is even more restrictive than the award guidelines. Consequently, you should also not talk about corruption in connection with this proposal.

The rapporteur of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection has rewritten the current draft of the Commission entirely. His proposal solves some of the problems listed above. He answered but not the question of whether we need such a directive at all.

***TIMETABLE***

**Consideration of draft opinion: 11/10/2012**

**Deadline for amendments: 17/10/2012**

**Adoption REGI: 26/11/2012**

**Adoption IMCO: 10-13/12/2012 (tbc)**

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

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## **8. Optimising the role of territorial development in Cohesion Policy (Point 12 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Derek Vaughan (S&D)**

**Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring**

**Procedure: 2011/2312(INI)**

This Own Initiative Report is focused on exploring effective and efficient mechanisms to create synergies between the European funding programmes covered in the Commission's Common Strategic Framework. It includes examples of mechanisms that are currently in place or those being considered for implementation in European regions.

The Rapporteur believes that providing Member States, regional and local authorities with opportunities to use more than one European funding programme to support projects will improve the effectiveness of European funding, increase the levels of simplification and provide potential beneficiaries with easier access to funding. Therefore he welcomes new instruments introduced in the CPR to enhance the local dimension of cohesion policy, to increase the strategic focus of territorial cooperation and to introduce a more coordinated approach at all levels of government. The Rapporteur highlights examples of how similar approaches to the suggested instruments (CLLD, ITIs) have been used by regional and local authorities in the previous funding period. These examples can provide other regional and local authorities with potential ideas for the use of CLLD and ITIs.

53 amendments have been tabled to this report and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs have adopted an opinion with 24 suggestions. Several compromise amendments are under negotiations between political groups. The amendments address different issues such as the role of regions and local authorities during the preparation, implementation and monitoring of funding programmes, the importance of strengthening existing and promoting new urban-rural linkages, the need to link territorial cooperation programmes more effectively with

territorial strategies, the potential role of Joint Action Plans for integration of young people into the labour market, the enhanced role of Financial Instruments in the future funding framework, integration of CSF funds with other EU policies and instruments, such as the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (previously FP7, now Horizon 2020), LIFE + or the Connecting Europe Facility.

**TIMETABLE**

**Exchange of views: 08/05/2012**

**Consideration of draft report: 17/09/2012**

**Deadline for amendments: 24/09/2012**

**Adoption REGI: 26/11/2012**

**Adoption in plenary: (tbc)**

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## 9. The governance of the single market (Point 13 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)**

**Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud -  
Susanne Pillath**

**Procedure: 2012/2260(INI)**

**Main committee: IMCO - Andreas Schwab (EPP)**

The European Commission calls in the communication on the governance of the Single Market for a renewed commitment to make the Single Market effectively deliver for growth. The Commission proposes a particularly ambitious course of action to make swift progress in key areas with the greatest growth potential. Therefore the Commission sets out the special efforts needed to ensure that rules are properly implemented. In addition the Commission proposes concrete measures to further improve the Single market 'governance cycle', i.e. the way Single Market rules are designed, implemented, applied and enforced.

The draft report of the leading committee IMCO is a request to the Commission, pursuant to Article 225 TFEU, to submit, on the basis of Article 26(3) TFEU, a proposal for an act aimed at strengthening the governance of the Single Market.

The draftsman, Vice-President Oldřich Vlasák, has submitted his draft opinion to REGI on recommendations to the Commission and calls for incorporating into the reasoning for this request the importance of regional policy. He points out that local and regional actors perform many duties that are affected by EU legislation on the Single Market. Therefore the Commission should conduct in-depth territorial impact assessments setting out convincing arguments for the need for single Market regulation before adopting any legislative proposals. He stresses the need for the governance of the Single Market to be structurally linked with the cohesion policy and key Community priorities.

**TIMETABLE**

**Consideration of draft opinion: 26/11/2012**

**Deadline for amendments: tbc**

**Adoption REGI: 17-18/12/2012**

**Adoption IMCO : 23-24/01/2013**

**Plenary: tbc**

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## 10. 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 16 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: Jan Olbrycht (PPE)**

**Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring**

**Procedure: 2011/0275(COD)**



The Committee on Regional Development adopted its Mandate for opening inter-institutional negotiations on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Regional Development Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1008/2006 at its meeting on 11 July 2012. At this REGI meeting the Rapporteur will report back to REGI on the outcome of the first trilogue meeting on the ERDF.

The main elements of the EP mandate:

- Enlarging the scope of support i.a. by support for large enterprises; productive investments are not excluded from the scope of the ERDF support concerning services for enterprises, energy efficiency and renewable energy use.
- Completing the list of thematic priorities e.g. by investments in cultural infrastructure, opening research financing for private bodies, underlining synergies with the Horizon 2020, expansion of the energy efficiency and urban renewal themes, and appropriate consideration of Europe's waterways.
- Demand for greater flexibility for the thematic concentration: changing the % of the resources obligatory allocated, allocation to four thematic objectives (instead of three), out of which one is to be determined by a Member State.
- Deletion of an article excluding basic infrastructure in more developed regions from eligibility under the ERDF.
- The Commission shall adopt the list of common indicators by means of implementing act in accordance with the examination procedure.
- At least 5% of the ERDF shall be allocated to integrated actions in functional areas and delegated to cities,
- Deletion of the list of cities,
- Innovative actions should be implemented through ITI or through a specific operational programme, or a specific priority axis,
- Where appropriate, mechanisms for strengthening existing and promoting new urban-rural linkages shall be supported,
- Deletion of the urban platform,
- Commission shall use existing programmes and bodies to facilitate the capacity building, networking and exchange of experience,
- Broaden the scope of innovative actions to functional/rural and peri-urban areas,
- A particular support for outermost regions: "All enterprises established in the outermost regions may benefit from the specific additional allocation and from any productive investment financed under the ERDF"
- Particular rules concerning thematic concentration for northernmost regions.

#### **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: 11 July 2012 (mandate)**

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

**Adoption in plenary: (tbc)**

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## **11. Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 (Point 17 of the draft agenda)**

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

**Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho**

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

The Negotiating Team has held its first preparatory meeting on 2 October, having then established a calendar for the trilogue meetings to be proposed to the Commission and the Council.

The Commission has confirmed their availabilities, but no reply has been given by the Cyprus presidency until now, and therefore no trilogue meetings have been effectively scheduled for the time being.

The Irish presidency has meanwhile contacted the secretariat in order to define the calendar for the 2013 First semester.

**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: 11 July 2012 (mandate)**

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

**Adoption in plenary: (tbc)**

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## **12. Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the 'European territorial cooperation' goal (Point 18 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 Negotiating Team has hold his constituency meeting on 02nd October, The Council has adopted a mandate on the 15th October Council, and the First Trilogue was set up on 15th November, dealing with articles 2, 7 and 8 of the regulation.

Apart the tough positions of the European Parliament on Macro regional Strategies and Infrastructure projects to be considered within ETC programmes, a common ground is likely to be found on many of the items discussed, giving good chances to come up with an agreement between the three institutions.

The Rapporteur will also remind her follow up and good coordination with Common provisions Regulation and ERDF proposal, where many rules that apply also to ETC will be negotiated. She may then come to those respective trilogues to express her views on ETC when necessary.

With three trilogues already confirmed, negotiations will follow throughout the end of the year under Cyprus presidency, and will follow if necessary during the Irish presidency in 2013 First semester.

**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: 11 July 2012 (mandate)**

**Adoption in plenary: tbc**

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### **13. 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 19 of the draft agenda)**

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

This amending Regulation makes changes, on the one hand, to respect the terminology introduced by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and on the other hand in response to the weaknesses and areas of potential improvement identified in the Report referred to above.

The rapporteur, Mr Zeller, is supporting the Commission's amending regulation and its overall approach and objectives. However, he considers that a number of elements can be further amended in order to improve the functioning of this territorial cooperation instrument. Amongst these ideas are: widening the scope of the EGTCs; facilitating the partnerships with Third countries; simplification of procedures for authorisation; extension of the tasks that can be carried by an EGTC; enhancement of the role of the Committee of the regions as a hub for EGTCs.

The Mandate was successfully voted in July 2012 as amended by the rapporteur. However, the at the Council level work is expected to begin sometime before the end of the year. In this perspective, dialogues may begin in February or March 2013.

#### ***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: 11/07/2012**  
**Adoption in plenary: (tbc)**

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### **14. European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2013 (Point 20 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Tamás Deutsch (PPE)**  
**Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev**  
**Procedure: 2011/2256(INI)**  
**Main Committee: ECON**

The European Semester of economic governance establishes strong interactions between cohesion policy and the economic governance of the Union. The Common Provisions Regulation and the European Semester ensure that the effectiveness of expenditure under the CSF Funds is underpinned by sound economic policies and that the CSF Funds can, if necessary, be redirected to addressing the economic problems a country is facing.

Therefore, REGI committee has decided to deliver an opinion to the leading ECON committee, formulating certain recommendations addressing the growth perspectives in 2013.

The opinion, drafted by Mrs Tamás Deutsch, reiterates the strong interactions between cohesion policy and economic governance. It also reminds that cohesion policy can only have significant impact on the economic, social and territorial development if sound macro-economic policies, balanced budgets and strong fiscal consolidation measures are in place.

**TIMETABLE****Consideration of draft opinion: 27/11/2012****Deadline for amendments: 05/12/2012 (tbc)****Adoption REGI:****Adoption ECON:****Adoption in plenary:**

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**15. European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2013 (Point 21 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Mojca Kleva (S&D)****Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring****Procedure: 2012/2257(INI)****Main Committee: EMPL**

All Member states have committed to achieving Europe 2020 targets and have translated them into national targets and growth-enhancing policies. In order to coordinate the individual efforts of all the countries the European Commission has set up a yearly cycle of economic policy coordination called the European Semester. Each year the European Commission undertakes a detailed analysis of EU Member States' programmes of economic and structural reforms and provides them with recommendations for the next 12-18 months. The European semester starts when the Commission adopts its Annual Growth Survey (AGS), which sets out EU priorities for the coming year to boost growth and job creation. Although the AGS 2013 is planned to be published on the 28th of November, due to the timetable of the main committee EMPL, the Rapporteur prepared her draft opinion which will be amended accordingly after the presentation of the AGS.

In her draft opinion, Mrs Kleva expresses her disappointment that the Commission has ignored repeated calls from Parliament to establish full democratic legitimacy for the European Semester, starting with the conversion of the Annual Growth Survey (AGS) into Annual Sustainable Growth Guidelines, presented in a format that would allow Parliament to propose amendments and would ensure that a transparent process of interinstitutional decision-making results in commonly agreed policy guidance. She emphasises that the Commission should take greater account of specific regional trends, as well as potential errors in its forecast, which represents the basis for the AGS. Furthermore she stresses the key role played by cohesion policy in the development of national programmes within the framework of the European Semester, and that this policy should be a prime focus of the AGS and should contribute to the annual debate on growth and jobs in the EU.

**TIMETABLE****Consideration of draft opinion: 27/11/2012****Deadline for amendments: 04/12/2012 (tbc)****Adoption REGI: 17-18/12/2012****Adoption EMPL: January 2013****Adoption in plenary: 06/02/2013**

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**16. The role of EU Cohesion Policy and their actors in implementing the new European energy policy (Point 22 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Lena Kolarska-Bobińska (PPE)****Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev****Procedure: 2012/2099(INI)****Main committee: REGI**

Since the adoption of the Lisbon treaty, the Union has increased its role in the field of energy, especially in the areas of energy efficiency and energy infrastructure, and has set out a new energy policy. This new energy policy will have to be implemented and delivered to a certain extent at the local and regional level. This is likely to have a direct effect on how regional bodies use cohesion policy funding and is especially important in light of the current failure of regional bodies to fully use the current cohesion policy funds earmarked for energy efficiency.

This report, presented by Mrs Kolarska- Bobinska, takes a deeper look and assesses and recommends how to correctly implement Union's level energy decisions in the regions in order to ensure its full application and how to improve the use of currently available regional funding for energy projects. It shall as well assess the impact of the EU's energy policy in the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the regions and cities.

**TIMETABLE**

**Consideration of draft report: 27/11/2012**

**Deadline for amendments: 30/11/2012 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: 18/12/2012 (tbc)**

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

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## **17. Hearing on 'Cohesion Policy and Europe 2020 Strategy Targets' (Point 23 of the draft agenda)**

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The Public Hearing will start with the presentation of a study requested by the committee. This study focuses on the Europe 2020 strategy with particular reference to its seven Flagship initiatives (Innovation Union, Digital Agenda, Industrial Policy, Resource-efficient Europe, Youth on the Move, New Skills and Jobs, and the European Platform against Poverty). It explores their coherence with Cohesion Policy with a view to the 2014-20 programming period and identifies ways of integrating the Flagship initiatives into the future Common Strategic Framework. Using a number of detailed case studies, the report thoroughly examines experience in the implementation of the Lisbon strategy in the context of the Structural Funds. Detailed roadmaps are provided for each Flagship initiative, indicating what, when, how and by whom actions should be carried out over short-, medium- and long-term perspectives. Lastly, the report delivers recommendations related to the implementation of the Flagship initiatives using Cohesion Policy instruments.

Following the presentation of the study, a number of experts will present different perspectives on this subject (see draft agenda below).

**Public Hearing on  
Cohesion Policy and Europe 2020 Strategy Targets**

**27 November 2012**

**15:00 - 16:30**

**Room: JAN 4Q1**

***Programme***

**15:00 - 15:10 Key Conclusions of the REGI study on "How to Integrate the EU Flagship Initiatives into Cohesion Policy in the Current and Future Funding Periods"**

**Ms Christine Hamza - Metis GmbH and EPRC, University of Strathclyde**

- 15:10 - 15:20 **Key Conclusions of the DG REGIO Study on "Connecting Sustainable and Smart Growth through Smart Specialisation"**  
Mr Mathieu Fichter - Administrator DG REGIO
- 15:20 - 15:30 **Why the Common Strategic Framework is vital for Cohesion Policy to Reach Europe 2020 Targets**  
Mr Markus Trilling - EU funds campaign coordinator, CEE Bankwatch Network
- 15:30 - 15:40 **Regions Make the European Success Story**  
Mr Halme Esa - Region Mayor Council of Tampere Region
- 15:40 - 15:50 **EU Cohesion Policy in the Very North of Europe - Driving Growth and Achieving the EU2020 Targets**  
Mr Erik Bergkvist - Executive Committee of Region Vasterbotten
- 15:50 - 16:30 **Debate**

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## **18. Regional strategies for industrial areas in the European Union (Point 24 of the draft agenda)**

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

At this meeting the Rapporteur will present an outline of what will be his report, explaining to the committee the aim and scope of the report. Following his presentation there will be an exchange of views.

***TIMETABLE***  
**Exchange of views: 27/11/2012**  
**Consideration of draft report:**  
**Deadline for amendments:**  
**Adoption REGI:**  
**Adoption in plenary:**

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## **19. Report on the visit of a REGI delegation to Cyprus from 26 to 28 September 2012 (Point 25 of the draft agenda)**

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From the 26th of September to the 28th of September 2012, Regi Committee sent a Delegation to Cyprus. The objective was to understand the challenges that Cyprus has to address in order to be integrated in the common market and to tackle climate change and water scarcity.

The Delegation gave Members the opportunity to exchange ideas with representatives of regional and local authorities and to evaluate the efficiency and the effects of Structural Funds implementation in the country, as well as the way they were used, while taking into account its main particularities. The Delegation also evaluated the way Cohesion Policy has been implemented to foster the reunification of the island.

Furthermore, the delegates were able to discuss in depth the lines defended by the Cyprus Presidency regarding the current negotiations. They also took the opportunity to convey the Committee's worries and lines in connection with the 2014-2020 programming period.

The objectives set by the delegation are considered to be totally achieved

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## **20. Report on the visit of a REGI delegation to the border between France and Spain from 29 to 31 October 2012 (Point 26 of the draft agenda)**

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From October 29 till October 31st seven Members and substitute- Members of the REGI committee were on delegation trip to the border region between France and Spain (**France -Languedoc-Roussillon and Spain-Cataluña**).

The purpose of the delegation were two fold - to visit projects of cross- border cooperation between France and Spain, implemented by their respective border regions with the financial support from EU Structural and Cohesion funds and to meet local and regional authorities, responsible for the implementation of cross-border cooperation projects, share experiences with them and receive recommendations for the future programming period.

The delegation, led by MEP Jozef Matula (EPP; RO) was deemed to be a successful exercise At the end of the visit the members of the delegation confirmed their satisfaction from the excellent projects they have seen. The MEPs learned about the ongoing and planned projects of cross-border cooperation at the border between France and Spain. Members of the delegation could testify the excellent quality of the work done, especially in the context of the two big projects visited (cross-border hospital in Cerdanya and the theatre "Archipelago" in Perpignan). The delegation was also instrumental in the sense that the local actors could take account of the dedication of MEPs and their resignation to push for a stronger EU budget in support for territorial cooperation.

The actors on the ground are now in possession of a tool which enhances greatly the potential for developing new complex projects, encompassing a number of partners at different levels and sectors - the EGTC. This tool allows the structuring and management of complex projects of cross-border cooperation. It is remarkable that 5 out of the 28 EGTCs registered so far are situated on the border region between France and Spain.

The signal received from this picturesque border region was very positive. MEPs could witness that borderless Europe is under active construction. Partners on the regional and local level are in possession of extraordinary motivation and will to go even deeper and further in their cross border endeavours. To do that in a better and more structured way they need the financial support of the European Territorial Cooperation objective and greater simplification of procedures.

Europe can only be united in its diversity and overcome the current challenges if its regions are actively communicating and exchanging with each other through a reinforced territorial cooperation in the future programming period.



## part 2 meeting of 10-11 October 2012

*Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meeting held on 10 and 11 October 2012. The following items were discussed as foreseen in the draft agenda. No changes were introduced to the draft agenda. Please note that most committee documents (working documents, draft reports, etc.) are available at our website [REGI](#).*

### **1. Exchange of views with Kostis Hatzidakis, Greek Minister of Development, on the ongoing interinstitutional negotiations for the post 2013 EU Cohesion Policy**

Minister Kostis Hatzidakis took the floor to inform the Members on the main obstacles Greece has to face in overcoming the severe crisis. He named as main obstacles the battle for trust and confidence as well as structural reforms to improve competitiveness and as the most important problem for Greece the need for liquidity. Therefore the agreement with the Troika would urgently be needed to get a new start for the banking system which would be the prerequisite for economic recovery. He underlined that a strong Europe needs a strong cohesion policy and that he would fight for this in the Council, particularly on the informal Council meeting on 6th November 2012 in Nikosia.

Members expressed their wish for a strong European cohesion policy and supported the demand for a better financial funding for the creation of growth to overcome the crisis.

### **2. The following votes took place:**

- Adoption of a draft opinion on "European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (repeal of Council Regulations (EC) No 1198/2006, (EC) No 861/2006 and (EC) No XXX/2011 on integrated maritime policy)" 2011/0380(COD) - (PE494.699). The opinion was adopted by 40 votes in favour, 6 against and 1 abstention.
- Adoption of a draft opinion on "Trans-European telecommunications networks, and repeal of Decision No 1336/97/EC" 2011/0299(COD) - (PE494.848). The opinion was adopted by 44 votes in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention.
- Adoption of a draft opinion on "Support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)" 2011/0282(COD) - (PE492.639). ). The opinion was adopted by 40 votes in favour, 3 against and 4 abstentions.
- Adoption of a draft opinion on "Public procurement" 2011/0438(COD) - (PE492.617). The opinion was adopted by 32 votes in favour, 9 against and 3 abstentions.
- Adoption of a draft opinion on "Procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors" 2011/0439(COD) - (PE492.648). The opinion was adopted by 32 votes in favour, 7 against and 1 abstention.
- Adoption of a draft opinion on the "Union Civil Protection Mechanism" 2011/0461(COD) - (PE494.684). The opinion was adopted by 34 votes in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions.
- Adoption of a draft opinion on the "Financing, management and monitoring of the CAP" 2011/0288(COD) - (PE494.608). The opinion was adopted by 37 votes in favour, 0 against and 2 abstentions.
- Adoption of a draft opinion on "Direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the CAP" 2011/0280(COD) - (PE494.613). The opinion was adopted by 18 votes in favour, 4 against and 17 abstentions.



- Adoption of a draft opinion on "Common organisation of the markets in agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation)" 2011/0281(COD). The opinion was adopted by 36 votes in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions.
- Adoption of a draft opinion on "Development of the Trans-European Transport Network" 2011/0294(COD) - (PE492.666). The opinion was adopted by 27 votes in favour, 2 against and 5 abstentions.

The vote on the adoption of a draft opinion on "Connecting Europe Facility" 2011/0302(COD) - (PE491.329) was postponed until the REGI meeting in November 2012.

### **3. Exchange of views with Fabrizio Barca, Italian Minister of Territorial Cohesion, on the ongoing interinstitutional negotiations for the post 2013 EU Cohesion Policy**

Minister Fabrizio Barca presented his remarks on the requirements of better spending and explained the main elements of Italy's recovery plan and its achievements. In particular he pointed out to the information website on Italian regional policy: [opencoesione.gov.it](http://opencoesione.gov.it) which contributes a lot to transparency and to monitoring administration in Italy.

Members stressed the need for flexibility with regard to thematic concentration and expressed their concerns in respect to the possible practice of macroeconomic conditionality. They also referred to specific conditions in some Italian regions.

### **4. REGI-COTER Joint meeting**

In the context of the Open Days REGI committee organised a workshop in the form of a joint meeting with the COTER commission of the Committee of the Regions. The meeting focussed on the legislative package on post-2013 Cohesion Policy currently under negotiation. The discussion showed a great consensus in the approach to the concept of future cohesion policy.

Multilevel governance and the partnership principle were recognized as essential for effectiveness of cohesion policy and that they should be strengthened. Participants considered also full involvement of regions and cities in the shaping and implementing of operational programmes and partnership contracts as important. Although thematic concentration was generally appreciated, the importance for flexibility was stressed.

Furthermore the topic of territorial dimension of cohesion policy was addressed as well as the importance of the common strategic framework.

### **5. Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 REGI/7/07479**

The Rapporteurs reported back from the Interinstitutional negotiations (trilogues). The representative of the European Commission gave an overview over the modified EC proposal.

### **6. Consideration and set of a deadline for tabling amendments**

Draft report on "The European Solidarity Fund, implementation and application" 2012/2075(INI) - (PE496.502). The deadline for amendments was set on 17.10.2012.

### **7. Deadlines for tabling amendments**

- Draft opinion on the "Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the award of concession contracts" 2011/0437(COD) - (PE496.425). The deadline for amendments was set on 17.10.2012
- Draft opinion on "Improving access to finance for SMEs" 2012/2134(INI) - (PE496.483). The deadline for amendments was set on 17.10.2012.

- Draft opinion on "The Energy roadmap 2050, a future with energy" 2012/2103(INI) - (PE496.464). The deadline for amendments was set on 17.10.2012.

#### **8. 4th Interparliamentary Committee Meeting with national Parliaments**

REGI has organized the 4th annual Interparliamentary Committee Meeting "Cohesion Policy 2014 -2020: Towards a common strategic framework and partnership contracts."

The meeting was attended by Mr. Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for Regional Policy, European Commission, and by Mr Kornelios Korneliou, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the EU.

26 Members of national Parliaments from 16 Member States joined the meeting. The discussion between them and their European counterparts was focused on the programming, implementation, and the content of the future cohesion policy.

All participants outlined the importance of the partnership of national Parliaments with the European Parliament in the legislative process. Members of national Parliaments shared the view that cohesion policy has to be a crucial instrument to meet the EU 2020 goals and that it must be able to effectively react to new challenges as well as to pursue smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

During the debate it was generally appreciated that a key aim of the proposed strategic planning framework is to achieve a more integrated governance approach across EU Funds and policies centred on the Union's Europe 2020 objective.

The main concern emphasised by a number of Members of national Parliaments, however, was that a strong thematic orientation would hamper the adoption of a strategic, place-based approach to territorial development.

The underlying intention shared by everyone was to ensure that cohesion policy is able to provide a more visible, coherent and demonstrable link to EU objectives than in the past and that this vision is effectively translated into national and regional strategies.

It was agreed that the content of partnership contracts and operational programmes should be required to demonstrate a 'territorial' and 'integrated' approach. Moreover, excessive thematic concentration should be avoided and flexibility, within a prefixed framework, should be promoted. Instead of having high levels of prefixed earmarking of funds to a limited number of interventions, it was recommended that the European Parliament should seek to encourage a more simplified and flexible approach to thematic concentration that takes due account of territorial needs.



## 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**

Ms Hübner has participated as a chairperson of the Committee in the following event since the last meeting:

05 October	Brussels	Association of European Schools of Planning and the International Federation for Housing and Planning	Lecture on "Space and place as integrating factors in policy-making: new models of territorial governance in Europe"
08 October	Brussels	DG REGIO	Launching of ERASMUS for local and regional elected representatives
08 October	Brussels	Opening session of the Open Days	"Europe's regions and cities: Making a difference"
10 October	Brussels	REGI/COTER meeting	"A legislative package for Cohesion Policy after 2013"
11 October	Brussels	REGI meeting with National Parliaments	"Cohesion Policy 2014-2020: Towards a common strategic framework and partnership contracts"
06 November	Nicosia (Cyprus)	Cyprus Presidency	Informal Meeting of Ministers for Cohesion Policy

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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:

23 November	Poland	Conference on the Community Led Local Development	Presentation of the European Parliament's position on coordination and implementation of the EU funds at the local level
28 November	Brussels	Lisbon Council	Dinner debate - Forum for the Future on the Innovation at the Local Level
03 December	Brussels (EP)	Voivodship of Western Pomeranian	Conference "CETC: Alternative & Cohesion" on "Strengthening the position of regions to speed up economic growth and to create a strong economic zone in the CEEC".

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

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**10<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities**  
**Brussels**  
**8 - 11 October 2012**

**OPEN  
DAYS**

**OPENING SESSION**  
**'Europe's regions and cities: Making a difference'**

**8 October 2012**  
**16.00 - 18.00**  
**European Parliament**

As each year the Committee on Regional Development has hosted the Opening Session of the 10th European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels, this year with the theme: "Europe's regions and cities: Making a difference". The meeting was opened by the Chair, Danuta Huebner, who introduced the keynote speakers: President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, video message from

the President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barosso, and Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Cyprus, Eleni Mavrou.

The keynote speakers have emphasised the important moment for cohesion policy when the next multiannual financial framework is being decided together with the new legislative framework and at the same time Europe is going through the most severe crisis in its history. It has been repeated that cohesion policy based on the solidarity principle shall be considered as "the investment-in-growth policy". The keynotes have been followed by the panel debate on "Economic recovery, cohesion policy and the Europe 2020 strategy: the role of regions and cities" with the following panellists: Ramon Luis Valcarcel Siso, President of the Committee of the Regions, Commissioner Johannes Hahn and the Chair Danuta Huebner. During the lively debate between the Members of the European Parliament, Members of the Committee of the Regions and the panellists the main issues concerning negotiations on the cohesion policy legislative package in relation to the present economic and social crisis have been discussed.



### Recent publications in the field of Regional Development

#### Library Briefings



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**[European Union Solidarity Fund](#)** / by Alessandro D'Alfonso, 15 November 2012, 2 p.

In cases of major natural disasters, the European Union Solidarity Fund can finance part of the emergency operations. The Parliament and the Council are now deciding on aid of €670 million for the Italian region of Emilia-Romagna, hit by two severe earthquakes in May this year. A debate on the future of the Fund is also ongoing.

See also: [The European Union Solidarity Fund](#) / Library Navigators by Alexandru Folescu, Alec Vuijlsteke, Sorina Silvia Ionescu, posted on 07 May 2012



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**[La lutte contre la précarité énergétique dans l'UE](#)** / by Jean Weissenberger, 29 October 2012, 6 p.

Les personnes en situation de précarité énergétique sont confrontées à des difficultés pour satisfaire leurs besoins élémentaires en énergie domestique, du fait de revenus insuffisants, de prix élevés de l'énergie et de logements de faible qualité énergétique. Cette dimension particulière des difficultés sociales des foyers n'est pas reconnue partout. La précarité énergétique ne fait pas l'objet d'une approche spécifique de l'UE, mais le Parlement européen a souligné à plusieurs reprises l'importance qu'il attachait à la prise en compte du phénomène par les Etats membres et au niveau européen.

#### Publications



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**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 46, Issue 10, 2012: Special Issue: Intangible Assets and Regional Economic Growth:

**Catching the Local Buzz by Embedding? Empirical Insights on the Regional Embeddedness of Multinational Enterprises in Germany and the UK** / by Jan-Philipp Kramer and Javier Revilla Diez, pp. 1303-1317 ([full text](#))

**Profitability of Investments in Education: Evidence from Spanish Regions** / by Enrique López-Bazo and Rosina Moreno, pp. 1333-1346 ([full text](#))



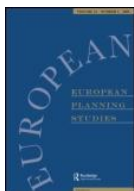
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**Journal of European Public Policy** / Routledge, 8 issues per year

Journal of European Public policy provides analytical, theoretical and methodological articles in the field of European public policy. Focusing on the dynamics of public policy in Europe, the journal encourages a wide range of social science approaches, both qualitative and quantitative.

Selected articles from vol. 19, 2012:

**The post-2013 reform of EU cohesion policy and the place-based narrative** / Carlos Mendes, pp. ([full text](#))



**European Planning Studies**, monthly

European Planning Studies focus upon specific spatial development problems, as well as emerging explanations of new urban, regional, national or supranational developmental tendencies.

Selected articles from vol. 20, issue 12, 2012:

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**Balancing Competitiveness and Cohesion in Regional Innovation Policy: The Case of Finland**/ by Mika Kautonen, pp. 1925-1943 ([abstract](#); for the full text please contact the [Library](#) )

**Early European Experience in Marine Spatial Planning: Planning the German Exclusive Economic Zone** / by Stephen Jay, Thomas Klenke, Frank Ahlhorn and Heather Ritchie, pp. 2013-2031 ([abstract](#); for the full text please contact the [Library](#) )

**Renewable Energy Innovation and Governance in Wales: A Regional Innovation System Approach** / by Carla De Laurentis, pp. 1975-1996 ([abstract](#); for the full text please contact the [Library](#) )

## Latest analyses

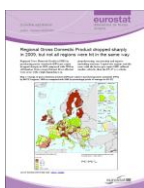
[The impact of EU Funds on Romanian finances](#) / by Laurian Lungu, June 2012, 32 p.



© Laurian Lungu, 2012

"The primary aim of this paper is to look at the potential consequences an increase in the EU budget would have onto the size of the domestic budget deficits. As the simulations in this paper show, if the EU budget for the 2014-2020 period was adopted in the current form put forward by the EC, the resulting increase in Romania's annual budget deficits would average somewhere between 0.1-0.2% of GDP during the next fiscal exercise. Another issue addressed is the impact of the EU funds on Romanian GDP and employment. After more than five years this impact appears to be modest and below initial expectations." (Source: the paper)

[Regional Gross Domestic Product dropped sharply in 2009, but not all regions were hit in the same way](#) / by Andreas Krueger, Eurostat, Statistics in focus, Issue number 41/2012, 18 October 2012, 8 p.



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This Statistics in focus analyses the structure of regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the European Union in 2009. The analysis focuses on the effects of the economic and financial crisis, i.e. the development between 2008 and 2009. Mid-term developments are illustrated by way of a comparison of the three-year averages of the years 2000-2002 with the years 2007-2009.(Source: Eurostat website)

[The 2011 Annual report on the implementation of the budget](#) / European Court of Auditors, 6 November 2012, 242 p. See the chapter 5: Regional policy; energy and transport on pp. 119-149.



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In 2011 the EU spent € 129.4 billion, with around 80% on agriculture and cohesion policies where the task of implementing the EU budget is shared by the Commission and EU Member States. The ECA found too many cases of EU money not hitting the target or being used sub-optimally. Member States and Commission control systems examined were only partially effective in ensuring the regularity of payments. Control systems are not realising their full potential to prevent or detect and correct errors. There needs to be a greater degree of commitment on the part of national authorities to the management and control of EU money.

The error rate estimated by the ECA for spending in rural development, environment, fisheries and health policy group (the most error prone spending area) was 7.7 %. The estimated error rate for policy group regional policy, energy and transport remained high at 6.0 %.

See also: the [Information note: introducing and explaining the 2011 Annual Report](#); and the [Press release](#).

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