

reginews

newsletter of the committee on regional development



NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 17 September 2012

15.00 - 18.30

Tuesday 18 September 2012

9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30

Room József Antall 6 Q 2

in focus

- **Exchanges of views with**
 - **Mr Sim Kallas, Commissioner on Transports, on Connecting Europe Facility**
 - **Mr Johannes Hahn, Commissioner on Regional Policy, on Connecting Europe Facility and on the Legislative Package on Cohesion Policy**
- **Votes on**
 - **the General Budget of the EU for 2013**
 - **the support for rural development by the EAFRD**
 - **the financial instruments for SMEs co-financed by the ERDF**
 - **public procurement**
 - **the procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal service sectors**
 - **the establishment of Horizon 2020 - Framework Programme for Research and Innovation**
 - **the Common Fisheries Policy**
 - **the interests of achieving a positive outcome of the Multiannual Financial Framework**
- **Public hearing on the support of the Cohesion Policy to SMEs**

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

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Info from the Library

Next Publication

Wednesday 10 October 2012
9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30
and
Tuesday 11 October 2012
9.00 - 12.30
(Committee meeting)

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 17-18 September 2012

Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI committee meeting on 17 and 18 September 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. Exchange of views with Mr Sim Kallas, Commissioner on Transports, on Connecting Europe Facility (Point 5 of the draft agenda)

and

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

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

During the presentation of Mr Pieper's opinion in July, the Chair has decided to hold further discussion on the subject with Commissioner Sim Kallas. This was needed in order to bring clarifications on the structure and functioning of the future instrument - the CEF.

In particular, the debate in REGI committee will focus on the EUR 10bn to be transferred from the Cohesion Fund to this new facility aimed at completing the core transport infrastructure in the EU.

In July REGI committee voted mandates to open negotiations with the Council on the legislative package. Some of the elements voted in the CPR mandate are interfering strongly with the CEF Regulation - the EUR 10 bn to be transferred from the Cohesion Funds are falling under the scope of the CPR. In its mandate, REGI committee has voted elements to support shared management to apply on the EUR 10bn from the Cohesion Fund, which is in contradiction with the general opinion of the TRAN and ITRE committees (leading on the CEF Regulation).

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 20/06/2012
Consideration of draft opinion: 11/07/2012 ; 17/09/2012
Deadline for amendments: 18/09/2012 at 18.00 (tbc)
Adoption REGI: 11/10/2012 (tbc)
Adoption TRAN: 05/11/2012 (tbc)
Adoption in plenary: January 2013 (tbc)

3. Trans-European telecommunications networks and repeal of Decision n°1336/97/EConnecting Europe Facility (Point 7 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Ramona Nicole Mănescu (ALDE)

Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud

Procedure: 2011/0294(COD)

The Commission has presented a set of regulations laying down the legislative framework for Trans European networks, amongst them the Telecommunications networks.

The purpose of this Regulation is to establish a series of guidelines covering the objectives and priorities envisaged for broadband networks and digital service infrastructures in the field of telecommunications in the context of the Connecting Europe Facility.

The guidelines identify in annex of this regulation, projects of common interest for the deployment of broadband networks and digital service infrastructures. These projects shall contribute to improving the competitiveness of the European economy including small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), promote the interconnection and interoperability of national networks as well as access to such networks and support the development of a Digital Single Market. They shall be eligible for EU financial support under the instruments available under the Regulation on Connecting Europe Facility which accompanies this Regulation.

The approach in this Regulation, is to aim for the removal of bottlenecks which hinder the completion of the Digital Single Market i.e. providing connectivity to the network and access, including across borders, to an infrastructure of public digital services

The Rapporteur, Ms. Manescu, will present in her Draft Opinion the amendments she proposes to put forward to the lead committee, in order to better take into account in this proposal the needs of the territories and the role of the regional and local authorities, in accordance with the multi level governance approach of Cohesion Policy.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 17/09/2012

Deadline for amendments: 20/09/2012 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 11/10/2012 (tbc)

Adoption ITRE: 05/11/2012 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: 14/01/2013 (tbc)

4. Union Civil Protection Mechanism (Point 8 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)

Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring

Procedure: 2011/0461(COD)

The Commission proposed to replace the Council Decisions on the Civil Protection Mechanism,¹ which facilitates reinforced cooperation between the Member States and the Union in the field of civil protection and the Civil Protection Financial Instrument,² which provides funding for the actions under the Mechanism to ensure protection against natural and man-made disasters, and to merge them in a single legal act. The financial provisions should be viewed in the context of the proposals for the financial perspective 2014-2020.

¹ OJ L 314, 1.12.2007, p. 9.

² OJ L 71, 10.3.2007, p. 9.

In his opinion the Rapporteur welcomed this merged proposal and particularly a number of the proposed changes which introduce simplifying rules and procedures for activation of the Mechanism, thereby enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of EU disaster response. The Rapporteur tabled several amendments that focus primarily on the need for closer involvement of the regions, cities and local communities into the proposed Mechanism. Emphasis is also placed on the specific needs of border regions, where particularly in the reaction phase there is great potential for implementing an enhanced joint emergency response. With reference to EU funds, an appeal is also made for more effective linking of the Civil Protection Mechanism and the Solidarity Fund, where a lack of flexibility in application is currently perceived. The Rapporteur proposes also to retain the existing module system, which enables Member States to decide on a voluntary basis when and where to contribute to the response to major emergencies outside their territory, and when the Commission supports the cooperation between the Member States or coordinates it by means of the Monitoring and Information Centre.

Another specific issue is the question of the submission of national crisis plans, where the Rapporteur is concerned at an excessive increase in red tape and in the risk of insecure handling of sensitive security data. For these reasons he proposes that the Member States, instead of communicating their crisis plans or any other kind of plans which are subject to security classification, communicate to the Commission a list of national risks and the system of measures to prevent and respond to them.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 17/09/2012

Deadline for amendments: 19/09/2012 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 10-11/10/2012 (tbc)

Adoption in lead committee (ENVI): 28-29/11/2012 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: January 2013

5. Optimising the role of territorial development in Cohesion Policy (Point 9 of the draft agenda)

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 legislative package for cohesion policy 2014-2020, presented by the European Commission on 6 October 2011, includes common provisions for all five Funds covered by the CPR (European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, Cohesion Fund, European Agricultural fund for Rural Development, European Maritime and Fisheries Fund).

With territorial cohesion now added to economic and social cohesion as a Treaty objective under Article 174, there is an increasing need for a bottom-up approach to mobilise the potential of local and regional development. The Rapporteur believes that, in order to achieve this, common rules and close coordination for all Funds covered by the CPR is essential. In addition, implementing strategies at local level should be the responsibility of local actors and authorities, with the aim of ensuring that economic and social needs are met at the level closest to the citizen. 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. The Rapporteur emphasises that, given the characteristics shared by the funds covered by the CPR and other funding programmes

(e.g. Horizon 2020, LIFE+), the effectiveness of European funding could be enhanced by exploring the potential alignment between these funds.

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 08/05/2012

Consideration of draft report: 17/09/2012

Deadline for amendments: 24/09/2012 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 26-27/11/2012 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: (tbc)

6. European Cooperation Day 2012 (Point 11 of the draft agenda)

- **Presentation by Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid**
- **Exchange of views with INTERACT and the European Commission**

On 21 September, European Cooperation will be celebrated all over Europe and in neighbouring countries! Almost 40 countries will come together to celebrate cooperation and bridge-building between local communities across borders. Public events will take place during the week of 17-23 September all over Europe. Besides the fun, this will also be an opportunity to discover all the improvements local initiatives have brought to all aspects of your daily life; from creating jobs, to improving health care services, and the protection of environment, transport or energy.

As coordinator of the European Cooperation Day campaign, INTERACT is organising a kick-off information event at the European Parliament in Brussels under the patronage of Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid, rapporteur for Objective 3: a challenge for territorial cooperation, and Rikka Manner, Rapporteur for European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) regulation proposal for 2014-2020.

MEPs will hold an exchange of views with Interact on the on going challenges on ETC, a growing strategic objective of Cohesion Policy

7. General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2013 - All sections (Point 12 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Georgios Stavrakakis (S&D)

Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho

Procedure: 2012/2092(BUD)

Main committee: BUDG - Derek Vaughan - Giovanni La Via

Mr. Stavrakakis, REGI Rapporteur for the EU Budget 2013 has submitted his draft opinion to the committee on the meeting of July 2012. In his opinion, bearing in mind that the Commission has assessed budgetary needs on the basis of the provisions and envelopes of the financial perspectives 2007-2013 and the Interinstitutional Agreement, thus bringing all figures in line with the relevant decisions and provisions, and that the Commission is in fact exclusively in possession of all the available information needed to have an overview of the real budgetary needs of all regions, the Rapporteur proposed that any reductions proposed by the Council be cancelled and that the sums initially proposed by the Commission in the Draft budget, be reinstated.

A set of budgetary amendments were tabled in these terms, which are also in line with the mandate that had been given to the Rapporteur and to the Chair on this issue.

Two amendments were tabled to this draft opinion, and one compromise amendment of the Rapporteur is under negotiation, on the subject of the Commission's initiative of reprogramming EUR 82 billion in unallocated Structural Fund appropriations in some Member States in favour of SMEs and employment measures.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 11/07/2012

Deadline for amendments: 17/07/2012

Adoption REGI: 18/09/2012

Adoption BUDG: tbc

Plenary: tbc

8. Support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (Point 13 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Elisabeth Schroedter (Verts/ALE)

Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho

Procedure: 2011/0282(COD)

In the committee meeting of 11-12 July, the Rapporteur, Ms. Schroedter, has presented a draft opinion containing 86 amendments to the rural development proposal for a regulation ("*pillar II*"), insisting among others on the urban-rural links and on cross-regional cooperation, introducing as well some mechanisms to ensure coherence and consistency between the EAFRD regulation and the CPR.

71 amendments to the proposal were further tabled, touching a very large number of issues, namely the creation of jobs in the rural development field, especially for young people, the support to regions that suffer from natural handicaps, as well as the development of rural activities in general, either through the improvement of the production and through the diversification, while taking a territorial approach to rural development.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 11/07/2012

Deadline for amendments: 17/07/2012

Adoption REGI: 18/09/2012

Adoption in lead committee: 10/2012 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: (tbc)

9. Special Report n° 2/2012: Financial instruments for SMEs co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (Point 14 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Mojca Kleva (S&D)

Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring

Procedure: 2012/2060(DEC)

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) in its special report on Financial instruments for SMEs co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) concluded that the effectiveness and efficiency of the ERDF spending on financial instruments for small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) were hampered by the regulatory framework being inappropriate for the different types of financial instruments used. In her draft opinion the Rapporteur addressed the findings of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) and inter alia recognized that the European Parliament's REGI Opinion on innovative FI in the context of the next MFF (2012/2027(INI)) called for

guaranteeing immediate clarity, simplicity and transparency of the FI legal framework and coherent legal reference to definitions of FI. The Rapporteur also acknowledged that the Court's audit reviewed only a sample of projects involving FI measures co-financed by the ERDF during the 2000-2006 and the 2007-2013 programming periods and pointed out that such an audit report would be of great value also at the end of the legislative period 2007 - 2013. The Members have tabled 6 amendments to this opinion.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 11/07/2012

Deadline for amendments: 17/11/ 2012

Adoption REGI: 18/09/2012

Adoption in lead committee (CONT): 26/09/2012 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: October 2012

10. Public procurement (Point 15 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Ramona Nicole Manescu (ALDE)

Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho

Procedure: 2011/0438(COD)

Main committee: IMCO - Marc Tarabella

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 12/07/2012

Deadline for amendments: 18/07/2012

Adoption REGI: 18/09/2012

Adoption IMCO: 10/10/2012 (tbc)

Plenary: December 2012 (tbc)

and

11. Procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors (Point 16 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Ramona Nicole Manescu (ALDE)

Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho

Procedure: 2011/0439(COD)

Main committee:IMCO (Marc Tarabella

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 12/07/2012

Deadline for amendments: 18/07/2012

Adoption REGI: 18/09/2012

Adoption IMCO: 10/10/2012 (tbc)

Plenary: December 2012 (tbc)

The Rapporteur, Ms. Manescu has presented two draft opinions on the proposal for a directive on public procurement and the proposal for a new utilities directive, containing 56 and 42 amendments respectively, defending further and more effective support for small local authorities and SMEs, and for a broader access to clear information and advice concerning EU rules on public procurement for contracting authorities, in particular at regional and local level and SMEs alike, in order to effectively reduce errors and irregularities and to develop the required expertise among the contracting authorities of local and regional authorities in the field of public procurement.

These draft opinions will be put to the vote on 18 September, with a total of 194 and of 132 amendments, respectively. The amendments are quite diverse and mostly of technical nature, but some points are politically more sensitive, such as the application of the lowest price principle, and also the national oversight body, which is totally rejected by some Members.

12. Establishment of Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) (Point 17 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase
Procedure: 2011/0401(COD)
Main committee: ITRE - Teresa Riera Madurell

This Commission proposal for a Regulation aims to establish Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) and to determine the framework governing Union support to research and innovation activities and fostering better exploitation of the industrial potential of policies of innovation, research and technological development.

The Draftsman, Mr. Oldřich Vlasák, presented his draft opinion in the REGI meeting in July. He proposed AMs, to make the link between Horizon 2020 and Funds covered by the proposed CPR regulation more clearly stated, to ensure that territorial aspects are taken on board together with the involvement of local and regional authorities. Moreover, the draftsman stressed the need for better exchanges between researchers on the European level, as well as for improving career opportunities for researchers in Europe. Finally, specific detailed provisions were proposed in the context of ensuring participation of SMEs in Horizon 2020.

Members of the committee tabled 53 amendments that aim at enhancing the role of regions and regional partnerships and local authorities, as well as that of actors of social economy, at promoting ethical legislation. Links between Horizon 2020 and the Cohesion policy funds are proposed to be strengthened. Members also ask for better involvement of civil society, for greater opportunities in researchers' careers and for taking into account the specific needs of certain territories.

TIMETABLE
Consideration of draft opinion: 11/07/2012
Deadline for amendments: 17/07/2012
Adoption REGI: 18/09/2012
Adoption ITRE: 09/10/2012 (tbc)
Plenary: November 2012 (tbc)

13. Common Fisheries Policy (Point 18 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)
Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez
Procedure: 2011/0195(COD)
Main committee: PECH - Ulrike Rodust

The rapporteur on the opinion, Mr Omarjee, presented his draft in which he takes the stance that the future CFP need a deep reform. In general, his view is that we need to rethink the lack of focus in the objectives on environmental, economic and social sustainability, the insufficient integration of environmental concerns into the policy. The rapporteur also believes that the CFP should identify better mechanisms to support fisheries workers by introducing multiannual planning for subventions, especially in outermost regions. Finally, he outlined the danger of extension of fish species - in his opinion, if the tendencies were not reversed, by 2050 there will be no fish available for commercial fishing.

Mr Omarjee presented 62 amendments which were completed by other MEPs with another 117 amendments.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 30/05/2012
Deadline for amendments: 31/05/2012
Adoption REGI: 18/09/2012
Adoption PECH: 08/10/2012 (tbc)
Plenary: (tbc)

14. Interim report in the interests of achieving a positive outcome of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 approval procedure (2011/0177(APP)) (Point 19 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Andrey Kovatchev (PPE)
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho
Procedure: 2011/0177(APP)
Main committee: BUDG - Ivailo Kalfin - Reiner Böge

In its draft opinion, the Rapoporteur reminded the Treaty and its Article 312, clarifying the procedure and the substance of the MFF, as well as the Parliament resolution of 13 June 2012 on the Multiannual Financial Framework and own resources³. The Rapporteur insisted that the MFF is to be viewed as the main instrument predetermining whether the EU2020 goals will be sufficiently met, which makes it necessary that the current negotiations escape from the crisis-based mentality and strive for a sound and rational budget that will guarantee growth and employment.

The draft interim report will not be available before 17 September, according to the latest information from the Committee on Budgets (BUDG), and the REGI committee will vote its opinion on the interim report (Rapporteur: Andrey Kovatchev) on its next meeting of 18 September.

Nineteen amendments were tabled to the draft opinion, and three compromises were later tabled by the Rapporteur, seeking essentially at underlining that Cohesion Policy funding should be maintained at least at the level of the 2007-2013 period, namely EUR 366, 8 billion in 2011 prices (excluding the Connecting Europe Facility), which is considered the absolute minimum level of sound funding.

³ P7_TA(2012)0245.

In the context of the relationship between the MFF and the ongoing legislative procedures, amendments were put forward in order to reiterate the necessity to separate the MFF and the legislative package for 2014-2020, leaving all the matters related to the design of Cohesion policy to this latter.

Finally, and in view of ensuring that the Parliament is duly involved in the entire process of negotiation on the MFF as required by the Treaty and in view of facilitating the adoption of the financial framework, it is proposed that the Council should inform the Parliament well in advance of any legal instrument it intends to submit to it for consent.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 12/07/2012

Deadline for amendments: 17/07/2012

Adoption REGI: 18/09//2012

Adoption BUDG: 18/10/2012 (tbc)

Plenary: November 2012 (tbc)

15. Exchange of views with Mr Johannes Hahn, Commissioner on Regional Policy, on Connecting Europe Facility and on the Legislative Package on Cohesion Policy following the adoption of a negotiation mandate (Point 20 of the draft agenda)

Commissioner Hahn will come to the committee meeting and exchange views with the MEPs on the result of the vote in REGI in July 2012, when the committee voted on a detailed negotiation mandate on all regulations included in the legislative package of the future Cohesion Policy, as well as views on the Connecting Europe Facility. The mandate voted in July will constitute the basis of the negotiations in the trilogue meeting to be started in September 2012, and Commissioner Hahn is invited to give a first feedback on the texts endorsed by REGI.

Some of the elements voted in July in the CPR mandate are impacting upon the Connecting Europe Facility Regulation - the EUR 10 bn to be transferred from the Cohesion Funds are falling under the scope of the CPR. In its mandate, REGI committee has voted elements to support shared management to apply on the EUR 10bn from the Cohesion Fund, which is in contradiction with the general opinion of the TRAN and ITRE committees (leading on the CEF Regulation).

After the statement, the Chair will give the floor to the Members of the committee, starting by the political group coordinators and following by the other MEPs.

16. Public hearing on the support of the Cohesion Policy to SMEs (Point 21 of the draft agenda)

In the context of its legislative works on the package of regulations on EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020, the Committee on Regional Development organises a hearing during its meeting on 18 September 2012, with the title "Support of the cohesion policy to SMEs".

Small and Medium Enterprises are the backbone of the European economy and the most important creators of new jobs and economic growth. It is therefore vital not only to improve the financial and regulatory environment for SMEs, but also to adapt the instruments of EU's Cohesion Policy to make it easier for them to do business.

Compared to large companies, overregulation and administrative burdens hits SMEs the hardest. In particular, support from the Cohesion Policy is hampered by excessive administrative burdens, lack of access to pre-financing of projects, lack of harmonised rules across funds and programmes, lack of understanding of the SMEs needs by public authorities ect.

The public hearing will address mainly the following questions:

- How have European SMEs succeeded to access European Cohesion funds and which were the main obstacles they have faced in this regard?
- What lessons can we learn from this experience?
- How can we improve the future Cohesion Policy in order to simplify the regulations and encourage SMEs to better access European funds?

This hearing was in the annual plan introduced for the Committee on Regional Development for the year 2012, and authorised by the Bureau at its meeting of 6 October 2011.

17. Direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the CAP (Point 22 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Catherine Grèze (Verts/ALE)

Responsible administrator: Diana Haase

Procedure: 2011/0280(COD)

The Commission proposal for a direct payments regulation lays down common rules for the basic payment scheme and related payments, seeking to better target support to certain actions, areas or beneficiaries as well as to pave the way for convergence of the level of support within and across Member States. The proposal also includes a section on coupled support. A single scheme across the EU, the basic payment scheme, is to replace the Single Payment Scheme and the Single Area Payment Scheme as from 2014. The use of the regional model that was optional in the current period is generalized, also effectively bringing all agricultural land into the system. An important element of the proposal is to enhance the overall environmental performance of the CAP through the greening of direct payments.

The Commission claims that in terms of simplification, the new direct payments system will be based on a single type of payment entitlements and streamline transfer rules, thereby simplifying its management; a harmonisation of provisions for coupled payments under one heading renders the legal framework more user-friendly and the scheme for small farmers with its simplified requirements and procedures will reduce the red tape on small farmers and enhance their competitiveness.

In her draft opinion, the draftsman, Ms Catherine Grèze stresses that the new rules for direct payments should ensure a fair and sustainable distribution of resources, thus she fully supports the idea of an ambitious greening of direct payments to farmers. However, the current proposals are too weak to lead to a shift to advanced sustainable farming systems and therefore the implementation of measures that would allow a better consideration of European rural territories is proposed. The draft opinion also calls for a greater share of annual national ceilings dedicated to additional support to rural development, and the draftsman opposes to any reduction of the amounts dedicated to rural development.

Further amendments are presented to clarify definitions, to establish provisions for environmental and socio-economic impact assessment and to enhance transparency of policy implementation.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 18/09/2012

Deadline for amendments: 19/09/2012 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 10-11/10/2012 (tbc)

Adoption in AGRI committee: November 2012 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: tbc

18. Common organisation of the markets in agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation) (Point 23 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)

Responsible administrator: Diana Haase

Procedure: 2011/0281(COD)

The Single CMO regulation as proposed by the Commission lays down rules for the common organisation of agricultural markets, with the aid scheme for the most deprived to be placed under a separate instrument. In the proposal certain sectoral aids are removed (e.g. skimmed milk, hops and silkworms). The milk quota system and the wine planting ban are set to expire under existing legislation while sugar quotas are to expire by 30 September 2015. A single animal disease / loss of consumer confidence provision and a general market disturbance clause are provided for in the text.

The product coverage for recognition of producer organisations and their associations as well as interbranch organisations by Member States is expanded to all sectors in the current Single CMO. Support for the setting up of producer groups in the fruit and vegetable sector is moved to rural development.

The Commission claims that from a simplification perspective, doing away with certain sectoral aids, the decoupling of the aid scheme in the silk worm sector, ending the sugar quota system and removing the requirements for registration of supply contracts and for attestation of equivalence in the hops sector will positively impact the burden on Member States and red tape for operators.

After thorough consideration of the proposal, the draftsman, Mr Younous Omarjee has decided to withdraw from presenting a draft opinion to this proposal. Given the short time frame, another draftsman cannot be appointed, thus a deadline for amendments will be open to Members of the Committee without consideration of a draft opinion. In case amendments are tabled in REGI, the Chair will present the opinion to the lead committee.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 18/09/2012

Deadline for amendments: 19/09/2012 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 10-11/10/2012 (tbc)

Adoption in AGRI committee: November 2012 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: tbc

19. Financing management and monitoring of the CAP (Point 24 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Giommara Uggias (ALDE)

Responsible administrator: Diana Haase

Procedure: 2011/0288(COD)

The present Commission proposal is part of the legislative framework of the future CAP and it is a horizontal regulation. In addition to financing provisions, the proposal brings together relevant rules for all instruments, and as a result, it is to lay down rules on financing, the farm advisory system, management and control systems, cross compliance and clearance of accounts. The proposal also provides the basis for a common monitoring and evaluation framework to measure the performance of the CAP during the next period.

The Commission aimed at simplifying the future legislative framework, and to this end all cross-compliance rules

have been regrouped in one single legislative act, thereby improving their readability. The number of paying agencies is to be reduced, and the role of the coordinating body is to be reinforced. The rules on management and controls will be aligned, as far as possible, for the two pillars of the CAP so as to bring legal clarity and harmonised procedures.

In his draft opinion, the draftsperson Mr Giommara Uggias decided to propose modifications mainly from the perspective of the main recipients of EU agricultural policy, ie farmers and rural communities, and to take an approach that focuses on the specific needs of local and regional authorities.

Amendments aim at rationalizing and streamlining the institutional side of the CAP and to reduce or eliminate burdens borne by farmers. The draftsperson also tried to better tailor provisions to the specific needs in rural areas (especially where agricultural activities are of less monetary nature, but constitute an important element of cultural heritage) with regards to rationalisation of the agricultural sector.

Mr Uggias also amended provisions regarding monitoring, trying to put a focus on economic indicators, that complement and testify more effectively the results of the common agricultural policy, in order to provide a more realistic picture of the effects of agricultural policy. In this context, supplementary monitoring indicators should be used such as access to markets, stability of prices, the rate of diffusion, production and use of energy from renewable sources in agriculture and rural communities, balanced territorial development on at least a regional, social mobility, population dynamics, depopulation, income (not necessarily derived from the agricultural sector) and poverty in rural areas.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 18/09/2012

Deadline for amendments: 19/09/2012 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 10-11/10/2012 (tbc)

Adoption in AGRI committee: November 2012 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: tbc

20. Urban re-development as contribution to economic growth in the framework of the EU Cohesion Policy (Point 25 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Andrea Cozzolino (S&D)

Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez

Procedure: 2011/2311(INI)

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.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft report: 21/06/2012, 18/09/2012

Deadline for amendments: 21/09/2012 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: (tbc)

21. European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (repeal of Council Regulations (EC) n° 1198/2006, (EC) n° 861/2006 and (EC) n° XXX/2011 on integrated maritime policy) (Point 26 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Rosa Estaràs Ferragut (PPE)
Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud
Procedure: 2011/0380(COD)

This proposal for the Regulation on European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) aims at achieving the objectives of the reformed CFP and of IMP. It is based on these objectives, re-defined in terms of funding:

- § promotion of sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture;
- § fostering the development and implementation of the Union's Integrated Maritime Policy, in a complementary manner to cohesion policy and to CFP;
- § promotion of balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries areas (including aquaculture and inland fishing);
- § contribution to the implementation of the CFP.

The Commission proposes that most of the current CFP and IMP financial instruments be integrated into one fund, with the exception of Sustainable Fisheries Agreements (SFAs) and the compulsory contribution to RFMOs.

EMFF focuses on CFP and IMP long-term strategic objectives including sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture, consistent policy framework for the further development of IMP and balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries areas.

The EMFF is structured around 4 pillars:

- 1) Smart, green Fisheries (shared management) to foster the transition to sustainable fishing which is more selective, produces no discards, does less damage to marine ecosystems and thus contributes to the sustainable management of marine ecosystems; and to provide support focused on innovation and value added, making the fisheries sector economically viable and resilient to external shocks and to competition from third countries.
- 2) Smart, green Aquaculture (shared management) - to achieve economically viable, competitive and green aquaculture, capable of facing global competition and providing EU consumers with healthy and high nutrition value products.
- 3) Sustainable and inclusive territorial development (shared management) - to reverse the decline of many coastal and inland communities dependent on fishing, through adding more value to fishing and fishing related activities and through diversification to other sectors of the maritime economy.
- 4) Integrated Maritime Policy (direct centralised management) to support those cross cutting priorities which generate savings and growth but which the Member States will not take forward on their own – such as marine knowledge, maritime spatial planning, integrated coastal zone management and integrated maritime surveillance, the protection of the marine environment, in particular its biodiversity, and adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change on coastal areas.

In addition to the four pillars, the EMFF will include accompanying measures: data collection and scientific advice, control, governance, fisheries markets (including outermost regions), voluntary payments to RFMOs and technical assistance.

The Rapporteur, Ms. Ferragut, will present in her Draft Opinion the amendments she proposes to put forward to the lead committee, in order to maintain, in times of economic crisis and climate change, an adequate level of funding for the Fisheries sector, that is crucial for the territorial development of many of coastal regions of the EU.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 18/09/2012

Deadline for amendments: 20/09/2012 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 11/10/2012 (tbc)

Adoption in PECH committee: 28/11/2012 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: 14/01/2013 (tbc)



part 2 meeting of 11-12 July 2012

Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meeting held on 11 and 12 July 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. Establishment of Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)

The draftsman, Mr Vlasak (ECR, CR) presented his document stressing that taking into account the geographical diversity of the EU is a must so his work aims at reinforcing the territorial and transnational dimension. In the debate Members highlighted the need to count on SMEs and concentrate the criterion of excellence including ethics on it. The EC remarked that both specialization and intensity are outstanding in order to reach the targets.

2. Development of the Trans-European Transport Network

Mr Vlasak presented his draft opinion, emphasizing that the pre-defined projects must not be fixed but flexible to some extent. In this sense, both local and regional authorities should be co-responsible of the projects. Members agreed on the need of improving border connections so to create a transeuropean network including islands and peripheral regions. Some concerns regarding different sorts of pollution were raised. The Commission remarked that the project represents a multimodal European transport network core-periphery which offers added value to EU citizens and firms.

3. General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2013 - All sections

Ms Stavrakakis, the rapporteur, presented his draft opinion, stressing the need of supporting social cohesion. Members showed their concerns on the lack of financial agreements with the Council that could lead to stop financing for ongoing projects.

4. Support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

The Draftsman, Ms Schoredt, presented his draft opinion indicating the lines of her amendments. First of all, she remarked that the percentage of co-financing does not depend on the development level of the region but on the activity and that there is a need to define what a rural area is. During the debate Members highlighted that differences between member states should be taken into account whereas flexibility is kept and implementation is made easier and local groups should be allowed to manage projects. There is an agreement on the fact that it is very difficult to give concrete definitions. The Commission agreed on devoting some funds to fight climate change but not on having a binding percentage of funds. The draftsman ended up indicating that new projects must be examined before being financed and that in the environmental issues she will follow the ENVI committee.

5. Connecting Europe Facility

The draftperson, Mr Pieper (EPP, DE), stressed that this instrument must not be managed at a central level by the European Commission but by Member States. Moreover he stated that the capping should not be applied to this instrument. Regarding its implementation he considers that cross-border measures as well as "financial recycling" tools should be developed so to foster the instrument in all MS including those more affected by the international financial crisis. During the debate Members showed their concerns given the lack of clarity regarding the Commission proposal, so the Commission was requested to participate in the next debate (both the Transport and the Regional Development Commissioners). Also, the need to include energy networks and not to have a pre-assignment of 30% to cross-border connexions were mentioned

6. Special Report n° 2/2012: Financial instruments for SMEs co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Mr Kirilov highlighted the need for this instrument on the less developed regions. Members agreed that for SMEs this instrument could be very useful and that new experiences, like circular funding, should be supported given the current financial strains. The European Commission will send in written its comments to the draftperson.

7. Interim report in the interests of achieving a positive outcome of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 approval procedure (2011/0177(APP))

Mr Kovatched showed his concerns regarding the lack of an adequate amount of funding in the current economic situation since he believes that now is when budgets should be increased and not decreased. About the targets, he finds that the budget should be used to made adequate investments and development of the single market. He finds that the amount of 360 billion € proposed must be the red line for the negotiations. During the debate Members showed their agreement to the fact that the only way to go out of the crisis is a budget which will support economic growth and the creation of jobs. The vote has been set for September.

8. Public procurement

and

9. Procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors

The debates on these two topics were postponed to the September meeting due to the fact that the lead Committee (IMCO) will vote in December.

10. Exchange of views with Mr Andreas Mavroyiannis, Deputy Minister for European Affairs, President in office of the Council, on the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council

Mr Mavroyiannis presented the core priorities of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council regarding Regional Development policy. He highlighted that the European Commission proposal is a good basis to put an end to the economic and financial crisis. Hence, the main target would be to improve the implementation and make it more efficient. About the MFF, it is a basic tool to bolster the sustainable development in consonance with the sectorial policies. He stated that the Cyprus presidency has the territorial approach as a priority so the Cohesion Policy will be in the General Affairs Council meetings of October and December.

During the debate Members stressed the need to count on the EP for the negotiations. Moreover, they highlighted that the crisis is not only financial but also social and environmental so concrete territorial answers and a focus on research and development would be needed; some questions on the MFF were raised.

The Cyprus representatives made clear the Presidency commitment with the Mediterranean policy and its target of improving and make more efficient the budget expenditures for 2013. However he remarked that there is no common approach on the VAT issue in the council.

11. Voting time

- **Adoption of draft opinion Establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE). The opinion was adopted by 39 votes in favour, 7 against, 0 abstentions.**
- **Adoption o draft opinion European statistics on demography. The opinion was adopted by 42 votes in favour, 0 against, and 4 abstentions.**

12. The committee adopted as a mandate to negotiate the Amendments presented to the following legal texts:

- **Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006**
- **Specific provisions concerning the European Regional Development Fund and the Investment for growth and jobs' goal and repeal of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006**
- **Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006**
- **Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the 'European territorial cooperation' goal**
- **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**



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 September	Brussels	Polish Minister in charge of MFF, Mr Piotr Serafin	Working dinner on the MFF and especially the upcoming Interim Report of the EP
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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:

11 September	Strasbourg (during the session)	Chair of TRAN, Mr Brian Simpson and the Rail Forum Europe	Discussion with members of the Rail Forum and MEPs on the topic of future cohesion policy, MFF, TEN-T, CEF with a focus on the CEEC countries
18 September at 12.30	Brussels, EP	Ms Sanchez-Schmidt with INTERACT	Launching Cocktail of the 1st European Territorial Cooperation Day
18-19 September	Lillestrom - Norway	Baltic Sea Region Programme	BSSSC Annual Conference and Baltic Sea Region Conference 2012 + Meeting with Norwegian Minister Ms Navarsete + Press conference

20 September	Warsaw	Polish Association of Regions	General assembly on "Current state of preparation of the MFF 2014-2020"
24 September	Budapest	Hungarian Minister of Public Administration and Justice	Pálfi István Award
1st October	Barcelona	Diputació Barcelona	Spanish Mayors Roundtable
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"
10th October 11.15-13.00	Brussels	Business Europe	BUSINESSEUROPE seminar during the Open Days - Cohesion policy after 2014: enabling companies to stimulate growth?

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



Recent publications in the field of Regional Development

Library Statistical Spotlight



[Economy of the EU regions](#) / by Giulio Sabbati, 10 September 2012, 6 p.

This Statistical spotlight provides an overview of the economy of the EU regions based on some indicators: regional GDP; regional unemployment rate; and regional employment for selected economic activities.

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This paper takes into consideration the regions at NUTS 2 level from the EU Member States.

Library Navigators



[Financing Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency within the Future Cohesion Policy](#) / Alicia Richert, Sorina Ionescu, posted on 23 August 2012

The Library Navigator focuses on the financing of the renewable energy infrastructures and the energy efficiency projects within the future Cohesion Policy. Renewable energy and energy efficiency are part of the Europe 2020 target "Climate change and energy" which corresponds to the flagship initiative "Resource Efficient Europe".

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See also: [EU Energy Roadmap 2050](#) / by Karin Finer, Library Keysource, posted on 14 August 2012

Latest analyses



[LIFE and coastal management](#) / DG Environment, 2012, 98 p.

This LIFE Focus brochure provides an overview of various projects that contribute to the knowledge, protection, and sustainable use of the coastline environment. It provides excellent examples of how policy has fed into practice for the benefit of Europe's coastal regions.

The LIFE programme (the EU's financial instrument for the Environment) is one of the main EU funding instruments supporting the adoption and implementation of concrete ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) projects and the development of best practices in managing coastal zones.

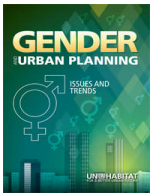
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[OECD Reviews of Regional Innovation: Central and Southern Denmark 2012](#) / OECD, 10 August 2012, 236 p.



This book examines regional innovation in central and southern Denmark, looking at its role in the economy, its governance and policy context and regional strategies for innovation driven growth. (Source: OECD)

© OECD, 2012



[Gender and Urban Planning: issues and trends](#) / UN Habitat, 2012, 74 p

The aim of this report is to raise awareness about the way the planning of urban settlements affects gender equality, and women's empowerment. A secondary aim is to ensure that urban planners and those involved with planning understand that urban planning has a role to play in assisting women to achieve their rights in the political, economic, social and educational fields. (Source: the report)

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Habitat,
2012



[The Europe 2020 Strategy: Can it maintain the EU's competitiveness in the world?](#) / Daniel Gros and Felix Roth, CEPS Paperbacks, September 2012, 111 p.

This CEPS report takes an in-depth look at the Europe 2020 strategy and the goals it sets for the EU, with the aim of shedding light on the question of whether the strategy will succeed in fostering the global competitiveness of the European Union. While finding that the Europe 2020 strategy identifies the right key indicators for its targets, the authors advise that it should be revised in several important respects and conclude with relevant policy steps to foster the future capability of European economies and their prosperity. (Source: CEPS - Centre for European Policy Studies)

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[Online Infosession on Regional Development Information sources](#)

This Online Infosession is an interactive, audiovisual tutorial introducing the most useful Library sources in the field of Regional Development - short modules one can watch at any time in any order.

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