

reginews

newsletter of the committee on regional development



NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 11 July 2012
9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30

Thursday 12 July 2012
9.00 - 12.30

Room Paul-Henri Spaak 3C050

in focus

➤ **Votes on**

- *the Establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)*
- *European statistics on demography*
- *the EU Cohesion Legislative Package (5 reports)*

➤ **Exchanges of views with**

- *Mr Andreas Maroyiannis, Cyprus Deputy Minister for European Affairs , President in office of the Council*

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

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Info from the Library

Next Publication

Committee meeting on
Monday 17 September 2012
15.00 - 18.30
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9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30

Useful Internet links

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



part 1 meeting of 11-12 July 2012

Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI committee meeting on 20 and 21 June 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. Support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (Point 4 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Elisabeth Schroedter (Verts/ALE)
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho
Procedure: 2011/0282(COD)

The Commission has presented a set of regulations laying down the legislative framework for the CAP for 2014-2020, keeping the current two pillar structure of the CAP: pillar I covering direct payments and income support to EU farmers, and pillar II covering rural development.

The rural development proposal for a regulation builds upon the CPR proposal, as pillar II will also be placed under the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) in order to ensure synergies and better coordination and complementarity with the other EU funds under shared management, while ensuring a better alignment with the Europe 2020 Strategy and putting in place a number of improvements and simplification measures. In this framework, coordination between all the rules applicable to all funds under the CSF, is required more than ever in order to ensure that synergies are indeed created in the context of implementation.

The Rapporteur, Ms. Schroedter, will submit her draft opinion containing 86 amendments on the committee meeting of 11-12 July, insisting among others on the urban-rural links and on cross-regional cooperation, as well as on the coherence and consistency of the EAFRD regulation with the CPR.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 11/07/2012
Deadline for amendments: 17/07/2012 (tbc)
Adoption REGI: 18/09/2012 (tbc)
Adoption in lead committee: 10/2012 (tbc)
Adoption in plenary: (tbc)

2. Connecting Europe Facility (Point 5 of the draft agenda)

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

In October 2011, the European Commission proposed a Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), which aims at supporting infrastructures with a European added value and single market dimension, targeting EU support on priority networks to be implemented by 2020, where European action is most warranted.

Mr Markus Pieper (EPP; Germany) will present his draft opinion, which incorporates the elements already presented in a working paper during last REGI meeting.

The updated draft opinion outlines some of the most important issues of the debate regarding the new instrument, with particular accent to the territorial and regional dimension.

The drafts person puts an accent on the following items:

- 1) **The €10 billion transferred from the Cohesion Fund and earmarked within CEF to transport infrastructure projects exclusively for Cohesion Member States;**
- 2) **Strengthening the financing of infrastructure in cross-border regions;**
- 3) **Possible financing of the comprehensive network with a capping;**
- 4) **Opening of the ERDF fund to funding infrastructure in developed regions;**
- 5) **The possibility to set a "Deeper connecting facility" - the possibility to provide extra support for key infrastructure projects in countries under financial and macro-economic difficulties as a mean of targeted investment for growth & jobs.**

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 20/06/2012

Consideration of draft opinion: 11/07/2012

Deadline for amendments: 18/07/2012 at 12.00 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 18/09/2012 (tbc)

Adoption TRAN: 05/11/2012

Adoption in plenary: January 2013 (tbc)

3. Special Report n° 2/2012: Financial instruments for SMEs co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (Point 6 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 addresses the findings of the ECA and inter alia recognizes that such a situation has been identified also by the European Commission through Chapter IV on Financial instruments in the proposal for Common Provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and Commission's Communication on Equity and Debt Platforms. She recalls 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. Furthermore the Rapporteur welcomes the Court's findings and recommendations regarding financing gap assessment and notices that in the legislative proposal for the next programming period such assessment is made obligatory in the form of an ex ante assessment. The opinion acknowledges that the Court's audit reviewed a sample of projects involving FI measures co-financed by the ERDF during the 2000-2006 and the 2007-2013 programming periods and points out that the limited number of projects analysed and Member States concerned might fail to represent a complete picture of the use of ERDF funds throughout the EU and therefore notices that such an audit report would be of great value also at the end of the legislative period 2007 - 2013.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 11/07/2012

Deadline for amendments: July 2012 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 17-18/09/2012

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

Adoption in plenary: October 2012

4. Establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) (Point 7 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Patrice Tirolien (S&D)

Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev

Procedure: 2011/0428(COD)

The LIFE programme is the EU's main financial instrument aimed at financing actions in order to facilitate the implementation of the EU environmental *aquis*. The new proposal by the Commission includes a new climate change sub-programme and increases slightly the overall budget.

One of the main aims and new programme is the reinforced focus on developing **synergies between LIFE and other EU funding**, such as through cohesion policy. **LIFE can have a real positive impact on regional development**, in particular LIFE can foster projects that provide the ideas, capacities and innovative approaches for projects co-funded by cohesion policy. This is the underlying idea of one of the new elements - the "**integrated projects**" will look to provide support for projects that will integrate parts supported by various EU funding sources. The idea is to provide leverage for bigger scale and achieve more comprehensive results.

Some 46 amendments were presented on the draft opinion by Mr Tirolien which was presented during June's REGI session.

Most of the amendments are pertaining to the financing rates of the programme, the inclusion of OTCs, the implementation and design of the new integrated projects and other issues.

The rapporteur is working on compromises which will be presented to the vote.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 20/06/2012

Deadline for amendments: 22/06/2012 at 12 am

Adoption REGI: 11/07/2012

Adoption in lead committee: 19/09/2012

Adoption in plenary: October 2012 (tbc)

5. European statistics on demography (Point 8 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Kerstin Westphal (S&D)
Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev
Procedure: 2011/0440(COD)

The suggested regulation is supposed to regulate the providing and harmonization of data on population in the member states. This includes a common frame for systematic creation of European statistics on demography, in which creation, evaluation and transmission of population statistics as well as statistical data on life-events (birth, death etc) are regulated.

Only 9 amendments were presented to the opinion by Mrs. Kerstin Westphal (S&D; Germany). Most of these are of technical character aiming at bringing more clarity and detail to some elements in the proposed Regulation.

TIMETABLE
Consideration of draft opinion: 20/06/2012
Deadline for amendments: 22/06/2012 at 12 am
Adoption REGI: 11/07/2012
Adoption in lead committee: 19/09/2012
Adoption in plenary: October 2012 (tbc)

6. Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (Point 9 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)

Members have tabled 2026 amendments to the CPR, out of which 148 to the new CSF Annex.

The amendments to the CPR address the following key issues:

- Enhancing the principle of partnership and multi-level governance;
- Content of the Code of conduct;
- Content of the Partnership Contract;
- Feasibility of the performance reserve as presented in the proposal;
- Concerns about macroeconomic conditionality and its implication on policy implementation;
- Clarifications of ex-ante conditionality provisions;
- Enhancing the role of local authorities in the framework of community led local development and local development strategies;
- Enhancing the role of evaluation and monitoring in policy design;
- Concerns about the new transition regions category;
- Clarifications regarding the provisions on financial instruments;
- Focusing on funding for different types of territories throughout Europe: regions with severe geographical and demographic handicaps, outermost regions;
- Ensuring resources for the European territorial cooperation amounting to 7 % of the global resources available.

The amendments to the CSF raise the following key issues:

- Reinforcing the role of partnership at all stages of the implementation of the Funds
- Enhancing the role of sustainable development and climate related expenditure
- Supporting an integrated approach to promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth needs while focussing on territorial specificities
- reinforcing the reference to investing in innovation and on social protection
- Adding the Programme for Social Chance and Innovation in the chapter on synergies and coordination between EU policies and instruments
- Adding new parts on evaluation of cohesion investments and implementation

Further to the above, REGI is receiving 11 opinions to the CPR, containing a few hundred AMs, with the opinion of EMPL falling under Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure of the EP being voted only the 5 July.

Amendments tabled in REGI were considered in the June REGI meeting, and will be voted in July. The Committee will at this stage only vote a text for mandate with a view to start negotiations with the Council and the Commission in September. Issues related to the ongoing reform of the Financial Regulation will not yet be fully tackled in the mandate, for obvious reasons. A final vote in Committee on the outcome of the negotiations and referral to Plenary (for first reading position) is foreseen for late autumn.

Ongoing negotiations on compromises proposed by the Rapporteurs concern Articles 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 58, 59, 60, 61, 82, 83, 84, 85, 87, 91, 92, 93, 95, 99, 100, 101, 105, 107, 110, 124, 127, as well as the newly created CSF Annex.

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):
October/November 2012 (tbc)
Adoption in plenary: (tbc)

7. Specific provisions concerning the European Regional Development Fund and the 'Investment for growth and jobs' goal and repeal of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (Point 10 of the draft agenda)

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

This Regulation sets out the provisions governing the European Regional Development Fund, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006. In his draft report presented on the 29th of May the Rapporteur emphasised that a major part of the ERDF regulation depends on the provisions of the CPR (common Provisions Regulation) and put forward the amendments aimed at enlarging the scope of support through i.a. highlighting the mutual interdependence between Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and their bigger counterparts and thus proposing not to exclude the latter from funding; adding "accessible" to the descriptions of infrastructures to be supported and extending it to the spheres of culture, sport and tourism. The Rapporteur put a particular stress on the role of revolving instruments and proposes adding development of financial instruments to the scope of

support from the ERDF. On the other hand, the Rapporteur put forward some adjustments of exclusions from the scope of support i.a. concerning the investments into infrastructure providing basic services in the areas of environment, transport and ICT in the more developed and a wholesale exclusion from the scope of support of the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. As far as thematic concentration is concerned, the Rapporteur proposed to introduce more flexibility in this respect, through modification of the obligatory minimum levels of funds to be concentrated on the limited number of legally-binding objectives as well as an addition of one thematic objective into the concentration. He also pursues the idea of an equal treatment in thematic concentration for the phasing-out and the less-developed regions. In the proposed amendments the Rapporteur is completing the list of thematic priorities, ensuring more flexibility for the thematic concentration through i.a. underlining synergies with the Horizon 2020, broader inclusion of culture as well as enterprises (irrespective of their size), expansion of the energy efficiency and urban renewal themes, and appropriate consideration of Europe's waterways.

The Rapporteur proposed modification of the concept of sustainable urban development starting with proposing to replace "cities" by "functional urban areas". Definition of these areas should be decided by the Member States in the respective Partnership Contract. Another amendment concerning sustainable urban development is the Rapporteur's proposal to allow the undertaking of sustainable urban development also through a specific operational programme or a specific priority axis. In spite of his support to networking, capacity-building and exchange of experience in the sustainable urban development context, the Rapporteur proposed the deletion of the provision on the Urban Development Platform.

The Rapporteur presented 56 amendments in his draft report, 774 amendments have been tabled by the Members and 4 opinions were delivered by BUDG, ENVI, ITRE, TRAN committees containing over 200 AMs. The largest amount of amendments concern Article 5: "Investment priorities", then Article 4: "Thematic concentration", and afterwards Article 3: "Scope of support from the ERDF". Amendments tabled in REGI were considered in the June REGI meeting, and will be voted in July. The Committee will at this stage only vote a text for mandate with a view to start negotiations with the Council and the Commission in September. A final vote in Committee on the outcome of the negotiations and referral to Plenary (for first reading position) is foreseen for late autumn. The negotiations on compromises proposed by the Rapporteur concerning all articles are ongoing.

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: 12 July 2012 (mandate)

Updated draft report with outcome of the negotiations (tbc): October/November 2012 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: (tbc)

8. Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 (Point 18 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Victor Boștinăru (S&D)

Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho

Procedure: 2011/0274(COD)

The amendments to the Regulation (121 amendments, 13 of which are contained in the draft Report of Mr. Bostinaru) will be put to the vote. The amendments are mostly focusing on the scope of support of the Cohesion Fund, and most significantly on the investment priorities. The Rapporteur has also tabled amendments to the effect that indicators should be defined through implementing acts, therefore proposing to delete the Annex to the regulation. Moreover, an amendment was put forward proposing that macroeconomic conditionality is included in the Cohesion Fund regulation, essentially by transferring Article 21 of the CPR proposal to the Cohesion Fund

regulation, thus proposing to limit the application of such conditionality to the Cohesion Fund assistance only. In this context, it should be noted that the amendments to the text of the thematic objectives will fall, as the final vote and the final text on Article 9(4) CPR will prevail and will necessarily have to be reflected in all fund specific rules.

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): October/November 2012 (tbc)
Adoption in plenary: TBC

9. Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the 'European territorial cooperation' goal (Point 12 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Riikka Manner (ALDE)
Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud
Procedure: 2011/0273(COD)

The Rapporteur, Ms Rikka Manner (FI, ALDE) has presented the main political issues that were within the set of 327 amendments tabled by REGI members to her Draft Report. She has put forward around 30 compromise amendments that are still under negotiation before the vote.

The Rapporteur has already presented the First Version of her Draft Report in last REGI meeting, mainly concentrating on three topics: the financing provision (the Rapporteur defends the position already agreed by the Parliament for the levels of financing and flexibility required by the cooperation programmes); the thematic concentration and investments priorities (the Rapporteur proposes more flexibility with 6 objectives to choose instead of 4); new concepts and tools to improve the management of programmes (the Rapporteur welcomes the provisions of the proposal on these topics, but will propose amendments on some points that are not completely clear).

The second Version of ther Draft Report is mainly adding new issues to be discussed such as the list of Investment priorities, the content of cooperation programmes and indicators.

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

10. Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC) as regards the clarification, simplification and improvement of the establishment and implementation of such groupings (Point 13 of the draft agenda)

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.

Only some 29 amendments were tabled to the report and were fully assessed by the rapporteur during the June meeting. Most importantly the amendments address the legal personality and the mutual recognition by MS of the statute of the EGTCs; the extent to which MS can control the activities of these entities; their membership base, as well as the authorisation procedure and its timing. The rapporteur will propose a number of compromises and oral amendments in order to improve the quality of the text.

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)

11. Establishment of Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) (Point 14 of the draft agenda)

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

This 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.

Horizon 2020 will play a central role in the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth by providing a common strategic framework for the Union's research and innovation funding, thus acting as a vehicle for leveraging private investment, creating new job opportunities and ensuring Europe's long-term sustainable growth and competitiveness. Horizon 2020 will contribute directly to tackling the major societal challenges identified in Europe 2020 and its flagship initiatives. It will contribute equally to creating industrial leadership in Europe. It will also increase excellence in the science base, essential for the sustainability and long term prosperity and wellbeing of Europe. To achieve these aims, the proposals include a full range of support that is integrated across the research and innovation cycle.

The Draftsman, Mr. Oldřich Vlasák, will present his draft opinion on the Commission proposal to Members in which he proposes 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 stresses 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 are proposed in the context of ensuring participation of SMEs in Horizon 2020.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 11/07/2012

Deadline for amendments: 13/07/2012 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 17/09/2012 (tbc)

Adoption ITRE: 09/10/2012 (tbc)

Plenary: November 2012 (tbc)

12. Development of the Trans-European Transport Network (Point 15 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)

Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev

Procedure: 2011/0294(COD)

Main committee: TRAN - Ismail Ertug

The new TEN-T guidelines, which will replace Decision 661/2010/EU, seek to establish a **complete and integrated trans-European transport network**, covering all Member States and regions and providing the basis for the balanced development of all transport modes in order to facilitate their respective advantages, thereby maximising the value added for Europe of the network.

The Commission proposal for a Regulation on the TEN-Ts aims to establish and develop a complete TEN-T, consisting of infrastructure for railways, inland waterways, roads, maritime and air transport, thereby ensuring the smooth functioning of the internal market and strengthening economic and social cohesion.

The rapporteur is of the opinion that the TEN-T network still has many needs that must be addressed and fulfilled. The proposal for a regulation therefore represents a good basis for the future financing of the TEN-T network in the EU, but should be amended.

The amendments proposed by Mr Oldřich Vlasák (ECR) focus mainly on ensuring that Member States enjoy sufficient flexibility when applying the new policy guidelines. For instance, the list of pre-defined projects should not be considered definitive or unchangeable if it is to reflect traffic flows in the EU in a flexible manner. Given the time-consuming nature of preparing projects, a list formulated in such a way does not reflect all of the traffic corridors that will be required in the long term in order to support economic growth in Europe. It should therefore be possible to put forward further proposals and to allow them to compete with each other.

In his opinion to TRAN committee, Mr Vasak thinks that it is also vital that Member States enjoy a certain degree of flexibility and that they are able – by way of exemptions – to take the territorial disparities that exist in the EU into account. The rigid imposition of uniform conditions concerning maximum length of vehicle combinations, permitted speeds or traffic density on corridors throughout the EU, without regard for territorial specificities, is not necessarily the most effective solution¹.

Lastly, local and regional bodies cannot be responsible for projects that go beyond their competencies. Local and regional bodies do not propose projects at Member State level, nor do they negotiate them with the Commission, and they are only able to influence them to a limited extent. In view of this, the rules and obligations set out in the regulation cannot be binding upon them.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 11/07/2012

Deadline for amendments: 18/07/2012 at 12.00 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 18/09/2012 (tbc)

Adoption TRAN: 05/11/2012

Adoption in plenary: January 2013 (tbc)

13. General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2013 - All sections (Point 16 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

The Commission has adopted the 2013 Draft Budget (COM(2012)0300, of 15 June 2012), establishing five priorities, namely investments for job-friendly growth, a responsible and realistic budget, scrutinising performance, implementing administrative restraint and integrating Croatia. Mr. Stavrakakis, REGI Rapporteur for the EU Budget 2013 will present his draft opinion, where, bearing in mind that the Commission has assessed budgetary needs taking into account the provisions and envelopes of the financial perspective 2007-2013 and the Interinstitutional Agreement, 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, he proposes that any reductions proposed by the Council be cancelled and that the sums initially proposed by the Commission in the Draft budget, be reinstated.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 11/07/2012

Deadline for amendments:

Adoption REGI:

Adoption BUDG:

Plenary:

¹ For instance, while it may generally be assumed that a freight train set of 750 m in length would be the most efficient configuration, this may not be the best option in mountainous or rugged areas. In such places, specifying the length of a train set in such a way could result in excessively high construction costs for stations and transfer terminals.

14. 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 (Point 17 of the draft agenda)

The Cyprus presidency represented by Andreas Mavroyiannis, Deputy Minister for European Affairs, will present, as it has become customary, the presidency's programme on the EU's cohesion and regional policy. 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.

15. Interim report in the interests of achieving a positive outcome of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 approval procedure (2011/0177(APP)) (Point 18 of the draft agenda)

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

The Committee on Budgets has decided to present an interim report to Parliament, according to Rule 81(3) of the Rules of Procedure, on the proposal for a Council regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020, proposal which is under the consent procedure, according to Article 312(2) TFEU.

The Rapporteur for opinion in REGI, Mr. Kovatchev, is now presenting his draft opinion in this framework, where, reminding the resolution of 13 June 2012, which states that Cohesion policy expenditure represents a strong tool to increase strategic investment with European added value, and defending also that EU Cohesion policy should remain the main pillar of European solidarity, he supports the amount of EUR 376 billion for Cohesion policy, as proposed by the Commission, considering that this amount should be the minimum sound level of funding and should, therefore, constitute a red line in the future negotiation position of the Parliament.

TIMETABLE
Consideration of draft opinion: 12/07/2012
Deadline for amendments: 17/07/2012 (tbc)
Adoption REGI: 10/10//2012 (tbc)
Adoption BUDG: 18/10/2012 (tbc)
Plenary: November 2012 (tbc)

16. Public procurement (Point 19 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: 16/07/2012 (tbc)
Adoption REGI: 18/09/2012 (tbc)
Adoption IMCO: 10/10/2012 (tbc)
Plenary: December 2012 (tbc)

and:

17. Procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors (Point 20 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: 16/07/2012 (tbc)
Adoption REGI: 18/09/2012 (tbc)
Adoption IMCO: 10/10/2012 (tbc)
Plenary: December 2012 (tbc)

A revised and modernised public procurement legislative framework constituted one of the priorities for the Commission for 2012. The directives currently in force will be replaced by two new directives, which are "core elements of the European Union public procurement", namely the proposal for a directive on public procurement and the proposal for a new utilities directive.

The Rapporteur, Ms. Manescu is now submitting her draft opinion on these important proposals from the point of view of regional policy. Indeed, transparent and credible public procurement plays a crucial role in the efficiency of public spending and also in the impact of public investment, which is being progressively decentralised, with two thirds being carried out by sub-national governments.

In her draft opinions, containing 56 and 42 amendments respectively, the Rapporteur makes the case for further and 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.

Moreover, as the Rapporteur, with the support of the Committee, had already made clear in her opinion on the modernisation of public procurement, public procurement should not follow the lowest price principle but should take into account the sustainable and economically most advantageous tender, including life-cycle cost.



part 2 meeting of 20-21 June 2012

Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meeting held on 20 and 21 June 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. Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) N° 1083/2006

Following the draft legislative report presented in May, the Rapporteurs, Lambert van Nistelrooij and Constanze Angela Krehl, have expressed their considerations on the amendments put forward to the draft CPR. Members of REGI had the possibility to table their amendments to the CPR until the 31 May 2012 and until the 7th of June to the new CSF Annex. Members have tabled 2026 amendments to the CPR, out of which 148 to the new CSF Annex.

The amendments to the CPR address the following key issues:

- Enhancing the principle of partnership and multi-level governance;
- Content of the Code of conduct;
- Content of the Partnership Contract;
- Feasibility of the performance reserve as presented in the proposal;
- Concerns about macroeconomic conditionality and its implication on policy implementation;
- Clarifications of ex-ante conditionality provisions;
- Enhancing the role of local authorities in the framework of community led local development and local development strategies;
- Enhancing the role of evaluation and monitoring in policy design;
- Concerns about the new transition regions category;
- Clarifications regarding the provisions on financial instruments;
- Focusing on funding for different types of territories throughout Europe: regions with severe geographical and demographic handicaps, outermost regions;
- Ensuring resources for the European territorial cooperation amounting to 7 % of the global resources available.

The amendments to the CSF raise the following key issues:

- Reinforcing the role of partnership at all stages of the implementation of the Funds
- Enhancing the role of sustainable development and climate related expenditure
- Supporting an integrated approach to promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth needs while focussing on territorial specificities
- reinforcing the reference to investing in innovation and on social protection
- Adding the Programme for Social Chance and Innovation in the chapter on synergies and coordination between EU policies and instruments
- Adding new parts on evaluation of cohesion investments and implementation

In addition, the meeting has been held with the participation of Mr Marek Woźniak, Rapporteur of the Committee

of the Regions on the Common Strategic Framework, that presented his draft opinion to REGI Members praising the document being prepared in REGI, and stressing the importance of territorial dimension of cohesion policy, the putting in place of appropriate coordination mechanisms. He underlined the need of also mentioning ITIs, involvement of local communities and demographic issues in the CSF text. In the following debate, the Rapporteurs announced their willingness to prepare compromises and take on board a broad range of AMs. They reminded of the still not closed negotiations on the Financial Regulation and the MFF that will have an impact on the policy. Members stressed issues of interest such as the role of the CEF, the configuration of partnership, categories of regions, enhancing the urban dimension, reflecting the crisis and co-financing rate for the Territorial Cooperation objective. The Rapporteurs agreed with the other Rapporteurs of the Fund specific regulations that it is important to harmonise approaches across the individual reports, not to end up voting controversial approaches in the package. The Commission agreed to the CSF being an annex to the CPR, with some details and revision of the annex in a delegated act, insisted on the maintenance of the performance framework and the consequences of ex-ante conditionalities.

2. Connecting Europe Facility

The draftsman, Mr Markus Pieper (EPP, DE) presented his working document welcoming the Commission Proposal, but putting forward ideas such as, that the €10bn transferred from the Cohesion Fund should not be counted in the 2.5% GDP capping methodology; that bottlenecks and missing links should be removed both within transport infrastructures and at the connecting points between them in the border crossing points and thereby quotas and higher co-funding rates should be used accordingly; and that Member States falling under the provisions of articles 22 and 110(3) of the CPR Proposal, should use the resources flowing from corrected or recovered cash flows within their national envelopes for infrastructure projects. The respective amounts should be managed in a centralised way by the Commission. In the debate Members stressed that rail connections are important for new Member States, condemned the creation of a new agency and questioned the feasibility of the CEF, stressed the need to upgrade cross-border infrastructure.

3. Establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

Mr Tirolien presented his draft opinion, fully supporting the new LIFE programme. He asked for some further clarifications and improvements, especially with regards to the synergies with other EU programmes. He emphasised the inclusion of OTCs in the scope of the programme and stronger EU co-financing rates for regions showing major permanent geophysical handicaps; stronger emphasis on the geographical balance especially with regards to integrated projects and higher co-financing rate for these projects, revision of admissible costs. Members stressed the importance of the instrument as the major tool to support implementation of EU environmental acquis in Member States and stated that the programme was a clear success, especially in its support for biodiversity. The Commission highlighted the strong integrated nature of the proposal that is a way to foster environmental protection in all policies. However, the EC expressed some reserves towards the inclusion of OTCs (no EU legislation, no funding) as well as the establishment of specific financing rates for certain regions.

4. European statistics on demography

The Rapporteur, Ms Westphal presented her draft opinion, agreeing to the idea of establishing comparable Europe-wide system for statistics on demography. The proposed amendments deal with the

role of the regions, including the proposition to deliver regional statistical data on demography in order to comprehend and compare regional disparities within Member States. Members agreed on the mounting importance of demographic issues for the future of the EU, also in the light of the debate on the future legislative package and the attempt to incorporate demographic issues into the investment priorities of the funds covered by the CPR regulation.

5. Urban re-development as contribution to economic growth in the framework of the EU Cohesion Policy

Mr Cozzolino presented his draft report highlighting the importance of local development, and the direct linkage to citizens, also through investing into intangible assets such as cultural and historical heritage. Urban redevelopment covers a broad range of issues from renovation of buildings to migration and waste management. The draft report intends to foster a new and more integrated approach on the development of urban areas. During the debate Members pointed to the need to also focus aid on deprived areas in cities, to the need to reinforce urban

6. Exchange of views with Alexandros Tsolakis, Policy coordinator at European Commission, DG REGIO, on implementation of housing issues in the ERDF

Mr Tsolakis from the European Commission, DG REGIO, presented to the Members a detailed report on the implementation of the ERDF on which relates housing issues.

He highlighted the importance of housing needs for vulnerable groups, especially the roma, presenting a few examples of integrated programmes of new Member States, such as Czech Republic and Romania. He explained that in order to tackle the challenge to integrate vulnerable groups, housing is one of the major issues, but to tailor programmes, the involvement of civil society is of utmost importance. Local administration, in many cases, needs technical assistance, in the management and implementation of programmes. On the EU level, the incompatibility of different financial instruments creates the biggest challenge to integrated programmes or projects to be implemented. During the debate Members stressed the need to tailor CPR funds better to the need of vulnerable groups, to monitor better the implementation of ERDF on housing issues, the role of housing in transition to low carbon economy. Others stressed that housing is only one element in tackling problems of the roma minority, also because sustainability of social housing needs to be ensured (maintenance, etc.). Projects implemented by local authorities without EU funds should also be examined and best practices need to be exchanged.

7. Voting time

- **Adoption of draft opinion: European Social Fund and repeal of Regulation (EC) 1081/2006**
The opinion was adopted by 36 votes in favour, 1 against and 6 abstention.
- **Adoption of draft report: Evolution of EU Macro-Regional Strategies: Present Practice and Future Prospects, especially in the Mediterranean**
The opinion was adopted by 40 votes in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention.
- **Adoption of draft report: EU Cohesion Policy Strategy for the Atlantic Area**
The opinion was adopted by 39 votes in favour, 2 against and 4 abstentions.
- **Adoption of draft opinion: Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs): competitiveness and business opportunities**

The opinion was adopted by 39 votes in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions.

▪ **Adoption of draft opinion: European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014 - 2020)**

The opinion was adopted by 38 votes in favour, 6 against and 1 abstentions.

▪ **Adoption of draft opinion: Innovative financial instruments in the context of the next Multiannual Financial Framework"**

The opinion was adopted by 41 votes in favour, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

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

The Rapporteur made a brief summary of the amendments announcing that there is room for compromises, as the majority of Members seems to support thematic concentration, and many reoccurring issues seem to have been tabled, such as demographic challenges, regional disparities, tourism and culture. The Rapporteur stressed that issues that belong to the CPR will not be tackled in the ERDF text, and the Committee will agree on those in the negotiations on the CPR; moreover he also warned against tackling too many details in the regulation. During the debate Members stressed the need to provide for more flexibility in the regulation, to allow for investment in infrastructure in more developed regions, and the revision of VAT regime.

9. Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) N° 1084/2006

The Rapporteur welcomed the amendments tabled and welcomed the openness to use the Cohesion Fund for energy efficiency measures. Members stressed that Cohesion Fund should also have a stronger focus on the TEN-T networks, on ETS, sustainable transport and water management. Some Members pointed out that the macroeconomic conditionality can continue to apply to the Cohesion Fund. On the other hand it was also mentioned that the very nature of the CF is enshrined in the Treaty, and REGI should not attempt to dilute it. Finally, the relation between CF and CEF was analysed, with some Members wondering whether the €10billion amount is subject to change in case a smaller budget is allocated to cohesion policy as a result of the MFF negotiations. The Commission expressed its view that macroconditionality is to apply to all funds, and confirmed that indeed the amount transferred from CF to CEF will lose its "Cohesion Fund characteristics".

10. Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the "European Territorial Cooperation" goal

The Rapporteur briefly reflected on the amendments tabled in Committee highlighting key issues at stake, such as the increased budget for ETC (7 %), the revision of the 150 km border limit and more flexibility for outermost regions. During the debate Members supported the Rapporteur in many of her ideas, showed scepticism about some aspects of provisions for technical assistance measures. The Commission reminded that the proposed budget for ETC is already an increase compared to the current period, and warned against overlapping measures between ERDF and ETC.

11. Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC) as regards the clarification, simplification and improvement of the establishment and implementation of such groupings

The Rapporteur reflected on the relatively few amendments tabled to the EGTC amending regulation, highlighting issues such as the use of EGTC in sectoral approaches or in other policy areas. EGTC could be active in the field of services of general economic interest. The added value of increased involvement of civil society was stressed. Members mentioned that even though the EGTC is a legal instrument it should still be part of the legislative package, and its possible role beyond territorial cooperation should be reflected upon. Concerns were also raised about amendments trying to create additional resources for EGTCs or changing the status of employees.



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:

26 June	Brussels	Assembly of European Regions (AER)	Conference on "Why regions are best positioned to tackle youth unemployment?" (Promoting Youth Employment Project launched in 2011 by AER with some regions)
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Ms Hübner, representing the committee, has accepted so far an invitation to participate (during the coming weeks) in the following event:

Beginning of September	Barcelona	Spanish Mayors Roundtable organised by the Diputació Barcelona	Panel debate with Spanish Mayors on the topic of the cohesion 2014-2020
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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 Briefings



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[The EU commitment to sustainable cities](#) / Ivana Katsarova, posted on 13 June 2012

Most current environmental challenges have their origins in urban areas, but it is also these same urban areas that bring together the commitment and innovation needed to resolve them. In recent years, the EU has sought to explore ways in which urban and environmental policies can be integrated in order to promote and develop sustainable cities.



[Europe 2020 Project Bonds initiative](#) / Franziska Zibold, posted on 29 June 2012

Large, long-term infrastructure projects face financing difficulties, particularly in the current crisis. In response, the EU plans to back privately issued Project Bonds with guarantees and loans, to stimulate private investment in transport, energy and information technology networks.

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Books



Le statut des régions ultrapériphériques de l'Union européenne / Isabelle Vestris and Jacques Ziller. Bruxelles: Bruylant, 2012

Théorie générale de l'ultrapériphéricité au travers d'une analyse détaillée du droit positif. Quel est le statut juridique d'une organisation d'intégration régionale? (Available in the Library - make a reservation [here](#))

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La politique méditerranéenne de l'Union européenne / Philippe Icard. Bruxelles: Bruylant, 2012. 285 p.

L'ouvrage mêle à la fois le droit et la science politique afin de mieux cerner les enjeux d'une politique méditerranéenne de l'Union européenne notamment sur les aspects environnementaux et migratoires. (Available in the Library - make a reservation [here](#))

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Latest analysis



[The impact of the economic crisis on local and regional authorities in Europe](#) / Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Resolution 1886 (2012) 1, 26 June 2012

This resolution addresses the issue of the impact of the economic crisis on local and regional authorities. It tackles the reduction of the resources coming from the national budgets and recalls the role that local and regional authorities can play in stimulating economical recovery. Some objectives are suggested in order to ensure sustainability of local and regional finances.

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[Best Practices in Local Development](#) / OECD, 22 June 2012, 128 p.

"The book identifies the strong potential of the local development approach to help regenerate the economies and societies of less developed regions and to bring greater local participation in the decision making and actions that underpin restructuring. It is important that the local development policies put into place respond to emerging challenges and take into account innovations and lessons from elsewhere. This book reviews some of these challenges, innovations and lessons and provides some practical examples that will help local actors to make informed decisions on the policy strategies, structures and actions to apply in their own areas."(Source: OECD)

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[Regions and cities in the global economy](#) / ESPON, Territorial Observation No. 6, May 2012, 24 p.

This sixth volume of ESPON Territorial Observations focuses on Regions and cities in the global economy. With this publication, ESPON offers evidence and points for policy consideration related to regions and cities in the global economy.

Maps and figures are available [here](#).

Library Infosession

The Library is organising an InfoSession on Regional Development, focusing on the related sources, products and services available via the Library. The session will take place in English on Monday, 9th July 2012 from 10:00 to 11:30 in the room ASP06D127 (access via Library, ASP05D).

[Register online](#) or contact [Sorina Ionescu](#) with queries or suggestions for particular issues you would like the session to cover

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