

# regi news

newsletter of the committee on regional development



## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 26 April 2012

9.00 - 12.30

15.00 - 18.30

Room

József Antall 4 Q 1

### ***IN FOCUS***

➤ **Votes on**

- **The reform of the Common Fisheries Policy - Overarching Communication (Mr Teixeira's opinion)**
- **The small scale and artisanal fisheries and the CFP reform (Ms Miranda's opinion)**
- **Attractiveness of investing in Europe (Mr Vlasák's opinion)**

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

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Tuesday 8 May 2012  
9.00 - 12.30  
15.00 to 18.30  
Brussels

### Useful Internet links

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



# part 1 meeting of 26 April 2012

*Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI committee meeting on 26 April 2012. The following items will be discussed as foreseen in the draft agenda. Please note that most committee documents (working documents, draft reports, etc.) are available at our website REGI.*

## 1. Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) N° 1083/2006 (Point 4 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)**

After having debated in several Committee meetings the Working Document on the Common Provisions Regulation, in April, the Rapporteurs, Constanze Angela Krehl and Lambert van Nistelrooij, will present a draft legislative report putting forward their amendments to the draft CPR. This draft report will be debated in English in April, and a second consideration is foreseen the 8 May. A third debate will take place end of May, and it is only then that a deadline of amendments is to be opened, with a view to consider these in June and vote in REGI in July.

The Amendments presented in the legislative draft report elaborate key issues already identified by Rapporteurs in the Working Document, among others the following:

- The legislative nature of the CSF and its scope;
- Enhancing the principle of partnership;
- Ensuring a more place-based approach while maintaining concentration of resources;
- Fine-tuning the timeline foreseen for adoption of PC and OPs;
- Content of the PC;
- Feasibility of the performance reserve as presented in the proposal;
- Concerns about macroeconomic conditionality and its implication on policy implementation;
- Clarifications regarding the provisions on financial instruments (ex-ante assessment and re-use of legacy resources);
- Clarifications of ex-ante conditionality provisions;
- Simplifying the provisions on the audit authority.

### **TIMETABLE**

**Exchange of views: 22/11/2011; 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,  
29-30/05/2012 (tbc)**

**Deadline for amendments: June 2012 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: 11 July 2012 (tbc)**

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

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## 2. EU Programme for Social Change and Innovation (Point 5 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: Tomasz Piotr Poręba (ECR)**  
**Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring**  
**Procedure: 2011/0270(COD)**

The Commission is proposing to combine three existing instruments – the Progress programme, the EURES programme and the Progress Microfinance Facility for employment and social inclusion – into a single EU Programme for Social Change and Innovation. The new programme will be used to help tackle some of the EU's most pressing issues, such as high unemployment rates, poverty and social exclusion, and the ageing population. The Programme is intended to play a part in implementing the Europe 2020 strategy and meeting its smart, sustainable growth and social inclusion objectives by supporting a range of measures, including analytical activities, mutual learning activities, the provision of support to the main actors responsible for meeting the Programme's objectives, the promotion of worker mobility within the Union and the provision of support to micro-enterprises, aimed at fostering a high level of employment, guaranteeing adequate social protection, fighting against social exclusion and poverty and improving working conditions.

The Commission is proposing that the financial appropriations for implementing the Programme during the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020 should be set at EUR 958.19 million.

In his draft opinion the rapporteur stresses that the Commission provides no indication of the added value of combining the three programmes that are already in place and that it fails to show the demarcation between the activities provided for under the new Programme and the support available under cohesion policy funds (ESF, ERDF). Therefore the rapporteur indicates the need to clearly establish how the new instrument will be integrated with the complementary instruments in place in the cohesion policy field. The rapporteur believes that the fixed percentage set by the Commission for social experimentation under the Progress access should be made more flexible, and stresses that the social innovation objectives should be pursued only in support of national social systems, and must not take their place. In the current economic climate, of the three instruments, microfinance is the most likely to produce tangible results and accordingly, microfinance's percentage share of the budget for the new Programme should be increased and the essential role it plays in the fight against exclusion should be emphasised. In view of the current economic crisis and the severe budget restrictions introduced in the Member States, the rapporteur is opposed to an increase in administrative costs (Article 5.3) and to the 5% budget reserve, whose use is not clearly specified by the Commission. The rapporteur draws attention to the need for involvement of regional and local authorities in all the operational stages of the programme implementation and he tables amendments that should give priority to the young people for the EURES activities.

### **TIMETABLE**

**Consideration of draft opinion: 26/04/2012**  
**Deadline for amendments: 03/05/2012 (tbc)**  
**Adoption REGI: 29/05/2012**  
**Adoption in plenary: tbc**

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## 3. Establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (Point 6 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: Joachim Zeller (PPE)**  
**Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez**  
**Procedure: 2011/0405(COD)**  
**Main committee: AFET**

The Committee will discuss on the establishment of a new European Neighbourhood Instrument 2014-2020 in the framework of the reform of the EU external action financial instruments and following on from the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument 2007-2013.

As a matter of fact, what happens outside the borders of the EU can influence the economy and the future of Europe. In this regard, the Lisbon Treaty marks a new departure in the EU's relations with the rest of the world, stating that it is in the interest of the EU to be actively engaged in influencing the world outside the borders.

The overall objective for external action for the period 2014-2020 may be summarised as follows:

- long-term commitment to establishing an area of stability, prosperity and democracy in its own neighbourhood;
- facilitating the EU's engagement with third countries on issues that are of global concern, such as climate change, environmental protection, irregular migration and regional instabilities, and
- allowing the EU to respond rapidly and effectively to natural and manmade disasters around the world.

**TIMETABLE**

**Consideration of draft opinion: 26/04/2012**

**Deadline for amendments: 08/05/2012 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: 29/05/2012 (tbc)**

**Adoption AFET: 10/07/2012 (tbc)**

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#### **4. Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) (Point 7 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska (PPE)**

**Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez**

**Procedure: 2011/0404(COD)**

**Main committee: AFET**

The debate will focus on the establishment of a new instrument for pre-accession (IPA II) 2014-2020 in the framework of the reform of the EU external action financial instruments and following on from the unified Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) for the potential candidate countries to accession, financial perspective from 2007 to 2013.

This instrument has proved its usefulness during the current budgetary period to help candidate countries to improve their administration, market system, and infrastructures. These reforms can be considered as a must for pre-accession countries to approach and align their overall economic, political and social frameworks to those of the European Union.

**TIMETABLE**

**Consideration of draft opinion: 26/04/2012**

**Deadline for amendments: 08/05/2012 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: 29/05/2012 (tbc)**

**Adoption AFET: 10/07/2012 (tbc)**

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## 5. The reform of the Common Fisheries Policy - Overarching Communication (Point 8 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: Nuno Teiweira (PPE)**  
**Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez**  
**Procedure: 2011/2290(INI)**  
**Main committee: PECH - Nikolaos Salavrakos**

In the new CPR proposal, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), currently named European Fisheries Fund, belongs to the Common Strategic Framework Funds, together with the European Regional Development Fund, (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund (CF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

These funds pursue complementary policy objectives. Therefore, coordination between the funds is a must to achieve the economic and social development goals set by the Commission.

Currently, the Common Fisheries Policy is being reformed in order to lay the foundations of an environmentally sustainable and socio-economically viable European fishing industry. Hence, the financing by the EU is of the outmost importance for the sector and its environmental, social, cultural and economic linkages.

### ***TIMETABLE***

**Consideration of draft opinion: 19/03/2012**

**Deadline for amendments: 29/03/2012**

**Adoption REGI: 26/04/2012**

**Adoption PECH: 30/05/2012 (tbc)**

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

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## 6. The small scale and artisanal fisheries and the CFP reform (Point 9 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: Ana Miranda (Verts/ALE)**  
**Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez**  
**Procedure: 2011/2292(INI)**  
**Main committee: PECH - João Ferreira**

In the new CPR proposal, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), currently named European Fisheries Fund, belongs to the Common Strategic Framework Funds, together with the European Regional Development Fund, (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund (CF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

These funds pursue complementary policy objectives. Therefore, coordination between the funds is a must to achieve the economic and social development goals set by the Commission.

Small scale and artisanal fisheries are widespread in all EU territories and regions. Furthermore, because of the dimensions of economic units, the social impact in local coastal communities cannot be denied. As a consequence, environmental and sustainability factors affect dramatically traditional fishermen areas.

**TIMETABLE****Consideration of draft opinion: 20/03/2012****Deadline for amendments: 29/03/2012****Adoption REGI: 26/04/2012****Adoption PECH: 30/05/2012 (tbc)****Plenary: July 2012 (tbc)**

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**7. Attractiveness of investing in Europe (Point 10 of the draft agenda)**

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**Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)****Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez****Procedure: 2011/2288(INI)****Main committee: ECON - Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou**

The Europe 2020 Strategy aims to generate smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU. One of the mainstays of this strategy is the flagship "Innovation Union". Regional policy remains a core element to unlock the growth potential of the European Union.

Innovation must be promoted in all regions at all levels. Nevertheless, the different governance levels (EU, national and regional) should maintain complementarity in their support for innovation, R&D, entrepreneurship and ICT. Thus, Regional Policy is a key means of turning the priorities of the Innovation Union into practical action on the ground.

**TIMETABLE****Consideration of draft opinion: 19/03/2012****Deadline for amendments: 29/03/2012****Adoption REGI: 26/04/2012****Adoption ECON: 30/05/2012 (tbc)****Plenary: July 2012 (tbc)**

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**8. Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) N° 1084/2006 (Point 11 of the draft agenda)**

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

After all the debates in the REGI committee on the cohesion policy legislative package in the course of which the Rapporteur, Mr. Bostinaru, has submitted his Working Document (February), the Rapporteur will now proceed the discussion in the context of the Cohesion Fund, by submitting to the Committee his first draft report in English.

The draft report contains for the moment 9 amendments to be debated, which are essentially aiming at modifying the scope of support of the Cohesion Fund through the provision of the eligibility of district heating and cogeneration plants, as well as the support to energy efficiency in the housing sector.

The Rapporteur also highlights the need to focus on promoting focus on accessibility in the context of the development of interoperable railway systems.

The discussion is intended at putting all relevant issues on the table in view of producing a final draft report to be presented later on in committee in all languages.

**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 (tbc)**

**Deadline for amendments: June 2012 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: July 2012 (tbc)**

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

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## 9. European Social Fund and repeal of Regulation (EC) N° 1081/2006 (Point 12 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: María Irigoyen Pérez (S&D)**

**Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez**

**Procedure: 2011/0268(COD)**

**Main committee: EMPL**

The European Social Fund (ESF) is established by Article 262 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). The timing of the review of the EU funding to promote cohesion is linked to the proposal for a new Multiannual Financial Framework.

In terms of scope, the draft ESF Regulation for 2014-2020 proposes to target the ESF on four "thematic objectives" throughout the European Union: i) Promoting employment and labour mobility; ii) investing in education, skills and lifelong learning; iii) promoting social inclusion and combating poverty; iv) enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration. In addition the ESF should contribute also to other thematic objectives such as supporting the shift towards low-carbon, climate resilient and resource efficient economy, enhancing the use on information and communication technologies, strengthening research, technological development and innovation and enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Furthermore, the draft Regulation aims to reinforce social innovation and transnational cooperation under the ESF and clarifies its contribution to the Union's commitment to eliminate inequalities between women and men and prevent discrimination. Social partners and non-governmental organizations are attached great importance to the programming and implementation of ESF priorities and operations.

Finally, specific provisions are introduced for financial instruments to encourage Member States and regions to leverage the ESF and thus increase its capacity to finance actions supporting employment, education and social inclusion.

**TIMETABLE**

**Exchange of views: 22/11/2011, 25/01/2012, 28/02/2012**

**Consideration of working doc.: 19/03/2012**

**Consideration of draft opinion: 26/04/2012**

**Deadline for amendments: May 2012 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: June 2012 (tbc)**

**Adoption EMPL: 10/07/2012 (tbc)**

**Plenary: September 2012 (tbc)**



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## 10. 2013 Budget - Mandate for Trilogue (Point 13 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: Georgios Stavrakakis (S&D)**  
**Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho**  
**Procedure: 2012/2016 (BUD)**  
**Main committee: BUDG - Giovanni La Via**

The Budgetary procedure 2013 has already started and in view of the trilogue negotiations on the draft budget (to be presented by the Commission in April), the specialised committees should transmit to the Committee on Budgets their main priorities and concerns in this context.

Within this framework, Mr. Stavrakakis, REGI Rapporteur for the budgetary procedure 2013, is submitting his draft opinion on the mandate for the trilogue, where he intends to draw the attention of Members to certain major issues concerning the budgetary implementation in the field of Cohesion Policy.

Indeed, the Rapporteur warns of the need to address sufficiently in time the issue of the availability of payment appropriations in order to fully satisfy the acceleration of the implementation in heading 1b at the end of the programming period. He furthermore proposes to make clear that any cuts or decreases operated by the Council in the level of payments which will be proposed by the Commission in its draft budget will be refused.

### **TIMETABLE**

**Consideration of draft opinion: 26/04/2012**  
**Deadline for amendments: 30/04/2012 (tbc)**  
**Adoption REGI: 29/05/2012 (tbc)**  
**Adoption BUDG: 19/06/2012 (tbc)**

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## 11. Trans-European energy infrastructure and repeal of Decision N° 1364/2006/EC (Point 14 of the draft agenda)

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**Rapporteur: Wojciech Michał Olejniczak (S&D)**  
**Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud**  
**Procedure: 2011/0300(COD)**  
**Main committee: ITRE - António Fernando Correia De Campos**

The Rapporteur will present in his Draft Report the amendments he proposes to put forward to the lead committee. He generally welcomes Commission's proposal and appreciates its comprehensive character in providing regulation for Trans-European energy infrastructure projects, especially with reference to projects of common interest. Most notably, Rapporteur welcomes the measures aimed at streamlining and speeding up the process of permit granting and encourages its adoption whenever applicable also for the purpose of development of non cross-border energy infrastructure projects.

His report places emphasis on the regional dimension of energy infrastructure, bearing in mind especially their direct impact on citizens which is often not properly offset by project's anticipated positive outcomes in terms of energy security, sustainability, or efficiency of the infrastructure. Therefore, the role of regional authorities should be acknowledged at specific stages of permit granting procedure, so that those most concerned would have a chance to influence decision making process. Moreover, the process of relevant public consultations should be unified at the EU level.

Also, the proposal should strike a proper balance between the criteria of cost-efficiency, crucial from the point of

view of private entrepreneurs who will ultimately finance, develop and manage the energy infrastructure, and prerequisites for provision of financial support from Connecting Europe Facility. In the latter case, appropriate amendments have been put forward in order to define the circumstances where public interest and customers' benefit justify additional funding without detriment to the principle of competitiveness.

Additionally, the Rapporteur proposes a wider treatment of gas infrastructure projects in a sense of inclusion of all their necessary elements into the eligibility list in order to achieve technical consistency and facilitate smooth operation of vital gas corridors throughout Europe.

In the opinion of the Rapporteur, procedural simplicity merged with stakeholders' inclusiveness should be general guiding principles of development of Trans-European energy infrastructure.

#### **TIMETABLE**

**Consideration of draft opinion: 26/04/2012**

**Deadline for amendments: 02/05/2012 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: 29/05/2012 (tbc)**

**Adoption ITRE: 31/05/2012 (tbc)**

**Plenary: July 2012 (tbc)**

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## **12. European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020) (Point 15 of the draft agenda)**

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

**Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez**

**Procedure: 2011/0269(COD)**

**Main committee: EMPL - Marian Harkin**

The debate will be on how to establish the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) for the period of the Multiannual Financial Framework from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020 and to extend the scope of the EGF to provide transitory support to farmers.

In its Communication 'A Budget for Europe 2020' the EC recognized the need to provide, for the duration of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014 - 2020, specific, one-off support to workers made redundant as a result of major structural changes triggered by the increasing globalization of production and trade patterns.

As in the 2007-2013 programming period, this specific support should be provided through the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF), one of the existing special instruments whose mobilisation does not affect the expenditure ceilings of the MFF. Through the EGF the Union should also be able to provide support in the event of large-scale redundancies resulting from a serious disruption of the local, regional or national economy caused by an unexpected crisis.

In this regard, the prime objective of the Commission proposal is to ensure that the EGF continues to operate in the next programming period in line with the basic principles laid down for the MFF 2014 - 2020, which also extended its scope.

#### **TIMETABLE**

**Consideration of draft opinion: 26/04/2012**

**Deadline for amendments: 07/05/2012 (tbc)**

**Adoption REGI: 29/05/2012 (tbc)**

**Adoption EMPL: 21/06/2012 (tbc)**

**Adoption in plenary:**



## part 2 meeting of 19-20 March 2012

*Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meeting held on 19 and 20 March 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.*

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### 1. Study on "The Creative Motor for Regional Development - Arts and Culture Projects and the EU Structural Funding in Austria"

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This study was commissioned by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture and was presented by Dr. Claudia Schmied, Federal Minister for Education, Arts and Culture. It was followed by debate.

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### 2. Consideration and set of a deadline for amendments on the following draft opinions

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- **The small scale and artisanal fisheries and the CFP reform**  
The deadline for amendments was set for 29 March 2012, 12:00
- **Attractiveness of investing in Europe**  
The deadline for amendments was set for 29 March 2012, 12:00
- **The reform of the Common Fisheries Policy - Overarching Communication**  
The deadline for amendments was set for 29 March 2012, 12:00

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### 3. Exchanges of views

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- **Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) N° 1083/2006**

Mrs Bresso, President of the Committee of the Regions, was invited to present the draft opinion on this EC proposal. It was followed by a debate with the Parliament's Rapporteurs, as well as the shadows for all the proposals of the legislative package. The European Commission could give its position on the issues raised in the debate.

This debate is the continuation of the discussion that started in January and continued in February 2012 in the REGI meeting, where the Rapporteurs, Constanze Angela Krehl and Lambert van Nistelrooij presented their Working Document on the Common Provisions Regulation. In each meeting some chapters of the Working Document were put forward by the Rapporteurs to steer the debate in Committee. This time the last remaining chapter was discussed, namely that of urban dimension. In addition the Rapporteurs discussed some of the elements of simplification (such as e-cohesion) and a few other issues such as joint use of funds, etc.

- **European Social Fund and repeal of Regulation (EC) N° 1081/2006**

A working document was presented. The Rapporteur included in it the points which ones she found most outstanding regarding this regulation. A debate followed with the shadow rapporteurs.

The European Social Fund (ESF) is established by Article 262 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). The timing of the review of the EU funding to promote cohesion is linked to the proposal for a new Multiannual Financial Framework.

In terms of scope, the draft ESF Regulation for 2014-2020 proposes to target the ESF on four "thematic objectives" throughout the European Union: i) Promoting employment and labour mobility; ii) investing in education, skills and lifelong learning; iii) promoting social inclusion and combating poverty; iv) enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration. In addition the ESF should contribute also to other thematic objectives such as supporting the shift towards low-carbon, climate resilient and resource efficient economy, enhancing the use on information and communication technologies, strengthening research, technological development and innovation and enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Furthermore, the draft Regulation aims to reinforce social innovation and transnational cooperation under the ESF and clarifies its contribution to the Union's commitment to eliminate inequalities between women and men and prevent discrimination. Social partners and non-governmental organizations are attached great importance to the programming and implementation of ESF priorities and operations.

Finally, specific provisions are introduced for financial instruments to encourage Member States and regions to leverage the ESF and thus increase its capacity to finance actions supporting employment, education and social inclusion.

- **Exchange of views with Connie Hedegaard, Climate Action Commissioner on Climate Change and Cohesion Policy**

In her speech Mrs. Hedegaard listed the challenges of the climate change in link with Cohesion Policy and especially the content of the legislative package.

Some members made comments and expressed their view on the way Climate change has to be taken into account in a horizontal way within the cohesion policy legal framework.

- **Specific provisions concerning the European Regional Development Fund and the "Investment for growth and jobs' goal and repeal of Regulation (EC) N° 1080/2006"**

Mr Schneider was invited to present the draft opinion on this EC proposal. It was followed by a debate with the Parliament's Rapporteurs, as well as the shadows. The European Commission gave its position on the issues raised in the debate.

This Regulation sets out the provisions governing the European Regional Development Fund, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006. The common rules governing the ERDF are included in an overarching regulation proposed in COM(2011)0614 (referred to as General Regulation). The ERDF Regulation sets out the scope of support and investment priorities for the regional development programmes.

The Rapporteur, Mr Olbrycht already in January distributed a Working Paper which provided a basis for a debate.

- **Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) N° 1084/2006**

Mr Stavarache was invited to present the draft opinion on this EC proposal. It was followed by a debate with the Parliament's Rapporteurs, as well as the shadows.

This debate is the continuation of the previous debates started in January in the REGI meeting. The Rapporteur has already submitted his Working Document in February, and will now proceed with the discussion of some issues of significance in the context of the Cohesion Fund, as already referred to and flagged during the presentation of the Working Document.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EC) N° 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**

Mr Michel Delebarre, rapporteur on the opinion of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) on the EGTC regulation, presented the essential elements of his opinion adopted by a large majority during the CoR's plenary session of 15-16 February 2012. The CoR has been one of the main political promoters of Territorial Cooperation and of the EGTC. The Committee has a specific consultative role in the Territorial Cooperation (Article 306 of the Treaty) and can support effectively the EGTC on the basis of inter-institutional cooperation and constructive and forward-looking approach.

- **Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the "European Territorial Cooperation' goal"**

The Rapporteur, Ms Riikka Manner (FI, ALDE) presented an enriched version of the working document, which was followed by a debate with the shadows and the European Commission. During exchange of views the main issues at stake for European Territorial Cooperation were raised: better law making oriented and based on a detailed assessment and consultation with main stakeholders. The Rapporteur wants to ensure the adequate drafting of the proposal corresponding to the EPs position, adopted according the final beneficiaries and then citizen's needs: this entails both keeping the current period effective aspects of the legislation and adding correctly the new inputs desired to improve and simplify the framework.

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#### 4. Voting time

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- **Amendment of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 as regards certain provisions relating to risk sharing instruments for Member States experiencing or threatened with serious difficulties with respect to their financial stability**

The legislative report was adopted with 36 votes in favour, 2 against and 5 abstentions.

- **The role of Cohesion Policy in the outermost regions of the European Union in the context of EU 2020**

The legislative report was adopted with 36 votes in favour, 2 against and 4 abstentions.

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#### 5. Public hearing on the "Legislative Package on Cohesion Policy" (Point 15 of the draft agenda)

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The public hearing on the legislative package focused on how to increase the effectiveness of cohesion policy through simplification and result orientation. Six speakers invited gave an overview of the key issues at stake the Legislative package on Cohesion Policy. Their presentations were followed by the debate by the REGI Members and European Commission officials.

The topics discussed were as follows:

- Key conclusions of the updated "**Comparative study on the visions and options for cohesion policy after 2013**" (Professor John Bachtler and Mr Carlos Mendez (European Policies Research Centre (EPRC)));
- **Will the proposed innovations and reforms, such as Europe 2020 alignment, thematic concentration, improve effectiveness and efficiency of Cohesion Policy from the perspective of Local and Regional Authorities?** (Dr. Fabian Zuleeg (Chief Economist, European Policy Centre));
- **Monitoring and evaluation for result orientation: Tracking results and impacts of cohesion policy - indicators for sustainable regional development** (Mr Markus Trilling (EU funds campaign coordinator, CEE Bankwatch Network));
- **Towards a simplified, more effective and result oriented policy architecture: what does the legislative package bring to managing authorities and beneficiaries?** (Dr. Dario Gargiulo (Director, Campania region, Italy));
- **Towards a simplified, more effective and result oriented policy architecture: what does the legislative package bring to managing authorities and beneficiaries?** (Mr Belin Mollov (Consultant/project manager, Velder Consult Ltd., Bulgaria));
- **Do the provisions in the legislative package deliver on simplification and enhanced effectiveness?** (Dr. Johannes Loheide (Head of division, General Affairs, Wirtschafts- und Infrastrukturbank Hessen, Germany)).



## 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 events since the last meeting:

22 March	Brussels EP	High Level Conference on "the EU Multiannual Financial Framework and own resources"	Conference organised by the Council, the Commission and the EP with MEPs and national parliamentarians
23 March	Prague	Czech Ministry of Regional Development	Meeting of Ministers of the "Visegrád Group" on 22 March + Meetings at working level on 21 and 23 March
27 March	Brussels	Business Europe	Regional Policy Working Group meeting (EC proposals on Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 with a particular focus on the impact of the proposals for large enterprises)
11 April	EP Brussels	SME Intergroup of the EP	Meeting on "Does the next generation of EU programmes meet the needs of SMEs?"

\* \* \*

Ms Hübner, representing the committee, has accepted so far an invitation to participate (during the coming weeks) in the following events:

07 May	Brussels Solvay Library	Polish Ministry on Regional Development	High-Level Conference on 'Searching for growth and jobs in the time of austerity measures in the EU'
8 May	Brussels EP	European Disability Forum	Workshop organised by Ms Hübner in the EP on request of EDF on the topic "Disability in the Structural Funds framework 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 Navigators



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[The legislative package 2014-2020](#) / by Alicia Richert and Sorina Ionescu, posted on 12 April 2012

The new legislative package for 2014-2020 prepares the European regional policy for the next 7 years. In order to maximize the impact of the EU policy, this package claims more simplicity, an overarching regulation setting out common rules for most of the funds, clear targets and the establishment of partnership contracts between the Member states and the Union. Following the EU 2020 objectives, this policy will increase the coherence of the European action. Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth will be at the heart of the new regional policy and will help reinforce social, economical and territorial cohesion.

#### Library Briefings



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[EU Competitiveness and Innovation Programme](#) / by Kalin Ivanov, posted on 03 April 2012, 6 p.

The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) seeks to help European enterprises, especially small and medium-sized ones (SMEs), to become more competitive and innovative. It does so by improving access to finance and support services at regional level, and by encouraging better use of information and communications technologies (ICT). In addition, CIP fosters energy efficiency and renewable energy. With an overall budget of €3.6 billion from 2007 to 2013, the programme aims to act as a catalyst for further investment.

#### Latest analysis



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[Le « Pacte de cohésion » à l'épreuve de la crise](#) / Marjorie Jouen, Notre Europe, Policy Paper no 52, Avril 2012, 66 p.

Ce Policy Paper de Marjorie Jouen analyse la politique de cohésion 2014-2020 et invite à réviser les composantes du Paquet récemment proposé par la Commission, à la lumière des leçons du passé. (Source: Notre Europe)



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[DRAFT statement on the COSME proposal \(programme for the competitiveness of enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises\)](#) /Eurocities, April 2012, 3 p.

EUROCITIES just published its position on the proposed COSME (competitiveness of enterprises and SMEs) programme for 2014-2020. COSME aims at improving the business environment and the competitiveness of European enterprises through four objectives: Improve the framework conditions for the competitiveness and sustainability of Union enterprises; Promote entrepreneurship; Improve access to finance for SMEs; Improve access to markets inside the Union and globally.



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**Financial instruments for SMEs co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund** / European Court of Auditors, Special Report No 2, 2012, 66 p.

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) concludes in its special report (No. 2/2012) that the effectiveness and efficiency of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) spending on financial instruments for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were hampered by the regulatory framework being inappropriate for the different types of financial instruments used. There were widespread delays in the funds reaching the recipient SMEs and the supported actions were ineffective in leveraging in private investment. SME financing gap assessments, when prepared, suffered from significant shortcomings. In addition, some recipient SMEs were charged unjustified management fees by the financial intermediaries used. (Source: [European Court of Auditors](#))