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# REGI News

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*Newsletter from the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development*

*VII Legislature N. 30 - 12 March 2012*



***Meeting on***

***Monday 19 March 2012***  
***15.00 - 18.30***

***Tuesday 20 March 2012***  
***9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30***

***Room JAN 4 Q 2***

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9.00 - 12.30  
15.00 to 18.30  
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**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](#)

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## ***PART I***

*Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI Committee meeting on 19-20 March 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 3 of the draft agenda)**

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 has been proposed, namely that of urban dimension. In addition the Rapporteurs will propose to discuss some of the elements of simplification (such as e-cohesion) and a few other issues such as joint use of funds, etc.

The Rapporteur of the Committee of the Regions, Ms Catuscia Marini has been invited to participate in the debate, and to present the key messages adopted by the COTER Commission of the Committee of the Regions.

Co-rapporteurs: Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE); Constanze Angela Krehl (S&D)	Exchange of views: 22/11/2011; 19/12/2011
Responsible administrators: Diana Haase, Franck Ricaud	Consideration of working doc.: 25/01/12, 27/02/12, 19/03/12
Procedure: 2011/0276(COD)	Consideration of draft report: 08/05/2012 (tbc)
	Deadline for amendments: May 2012 (tbc)
	Adoption REGI: 11 July 2012 (tbc)
	Adoption in plenary: September 2012 (tbc)

### **2. European Social Fund and repeal of Regulation (EC) N° 1081/2006 (Point 4 of the draft agenda)**

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.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Maria Irigoyen Pérez	Exchanges of views: 22/11/11, 25/01/12, 28/02/12
Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez Recarte	Consideration of working doc.: 19/03/12
Procedure: 2011/0268(COD)	Consideration of draft opinion: April 2012 (tbc)
Main committee: EMPL	Deadline for amendments: May 2012 (tbc)
	Adoption REGI: May 2012 (tbc)
	Adoption in plenary: 10/07/2012 (tbc)

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

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.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Nuno Teixeira	Consideration of draft opinion: 19 March 2012
Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez Recarte	Deadline for amendments: 26/03/2012 (tbc)
Procedure: 2011/2290(INI)	Adoption REGI: 26 April 2012 (tbc)
	Adoption PECH: 30/05/2012 (tbc)
	Adoption in plenary: July 2012 (tbc)

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

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.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Ana Miranda	Consideration of draft opinion: 20 March 2012
Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez Recarte	Deadline for amendments: 26/03/2012 (tbc)
Procedure: 2011/2292(INI)	Adoption REGI: 26 April 2012 (tbc)
	Adoption PECH: 30/05/2012 (tbc)
	Adoption in plenary: July 2012 (tbc)

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

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.



<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Oldrich Vlasak	Consideration of draft opinion: 19/03/2012
Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez Recarte	Deadline for amendments: 23/03/2012 (tbc)
Procedure: 2011/2288(INI)	Adoption REGI: 26 April 2012 (tbc)
	Adoption ECON: 30/05/2012 (tbc)
	Adoption in plenary: July 2012 (tbc)

## **6. Exchange of views with Connie Hedegaard, Climate Action Commissioner on Climate Change and Cohesion Policy (Point 9 of the draft agenda)**

The exchange of views with Commissioner Hedegaard addresses the issue of climate mainstreaming in the future architecture of Cohesion Policy. It is proposed in the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 to establish clear benchmarks, monitoring and reporting rules for all relevant EU policy instruments, and accordingly, there are several provisions in the Cohesion package (CPR, but also ERDF and CF) that are designed to meet the ambitions of mainstreaming.

A separate note will be circulated to all REGI Members to provide a brief overview of the topic, before the REGI meeting.

## **7. 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 (Point 10 of the draft agenda)**

In her Draft Report presented on 28 February the Rapporteur welcomes the proposal and notes that the aim is to ensure the continuation of the implementation of the programmes co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF) in the context of economic recovery of the Member States under financial assistance, particularly Greece. The Rapporteur considers that some elements of the proposal should be clarified and tables amendments aiming at clarifying the text and procedure.

Concerning the scope of the projects eligible for the risk-sharing instrument, the Rapporteur tables amendments that should give preferential access to the revenue-generating and state aid projects already included in the operational programmes of the Member States concerned but it would not exclude other projects which contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the national strategic reference framework of the requesting Member State and the Community strategic guidelines on Cohesion and which can contribute to economic recovery of the Member States concerned. The geographical scope of the mechanism stays as it was proposed. i.e. those Member States which are under Union or International Monetary Fund assistance at the moment the modification enters into force. Furthermore, the Rapporteur proposes amendments that specify a budget ceiling for the risk-sharing instrument (the global ceiling for the risk sharing instrument would be 10 percent of the national envelope for ERDF and CF for 2007-2013) and reiterates that there are no contingent liabilities for the Union budget or the Member State concerned beyond the financial allocations dedicated to the risk-sharing instrument.

19 amendments have been tabled and two opinions by CONT and ECON shall be adopted. The Rapporteur, following committee's position and in contact with the shadow Rapporteurs, is in the process of negotiating compromise amendments with a view to adopt this amending regulation in plenary in April reaching a first-reading agreement with the Council.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Danuta Maria Hübner (PPE)	Exchange of views: 22/11/2011; 20/12/2011; 25/01/2012
Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring	Consideration of draft report: 28/02/2012
Procedure: 2011/0283(COD)	Deadline for amendments: 01/03/2012
	Adoption REGI: 20/03/2012
	Adoption in plenary: April 2012 (tbc)

## **8. Specific provisions concerning the European Regional Development Fund and the "Investment for growth and jobs' goal and repeal of Regulation (EC) N° 1080/2006" (Point 11 of the draft agenda)**

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 should provide a basis for a debate during the March meeting. During this meeting an exchange of view with the rapporteur on the ERDF of the Committee of the Regions, Mr Michael Schneider is envisaged.

In his Working Paper the Rapporteur stresses that a major part of the ERDF regulation depends on the provision of the Common Provisions Regulation. Therefore, the work on the ERDF regulation must start with several clarifications both in the Common Provisions Regulation and then the ERDF regulation.

The Rapporteur outlines the most important issues to be discussed:

- The legal status of the Common Strategic Framework requires clarification. Its content, and especially the relation between the notions of "key actions", "thematic objectives" and "investment priorities", as well as their number, hierarchy and interrelations are in need of comprehensive explanation.
- The number, the exact identification and the scope of ERDF financing of the 11 thematic objectives .
- The exact content of the partnership contracts and operational programmes.
- The exact definition - as perceived by the European Commission - of the new proposed instruments for territorial development, i.e. the Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI), the Joint Action Plan (JAP) and the Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) and their contribution to the improved implementation and better results of the future cohesion policy.
- The types of projects that are to be supported by the ERDF should be looked at closely, together with the categories of types of projects excluded from ERDF.
- The rationale and number of thematic objectives to which the ERDF is to give priority, as well as to which extent and in what proportion ought its financing be directed towards thus selected objectives.
- The widely varying level of specificity of the proposal in defining investment priorities for all the thematic objectives needs to be explained and, if possible, resolved.
- The part of the regulation concerning the common indicators for ERDF support requires a thorough review in order to ensure their effectiveness towards the desired result-orientation of the cohesion policy.
- Finally, for sustainable urban development the Rapporteur is putting forward three questions:

1. The so-called "ring-fencing" of 5% of the national ERDF allocation for cities where integrated actions for sustainable urban development are prepared.
2. "List of cities" to be drawn up by each Member State, including their number and method of selection.
3. Establishment of the Urban Development Platform for the cities where the ring-fencing applies, and where 0.2% of the total ERDF expenditure is implemented under the supervision of the European Commission.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Jan Olbrycht	Exchange of views: 22/11/2011, 25/01/2012, 20/03/2012
Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring	Consideration of working doc.: 26/04/2012 (tbc)
Procedure: 2011/0275(COD)	Consideration of draft report: 29/05/2012 (tbc)
	Deadline for amendments: tbc
	Adoption REGI: 11/07/2012 (tbc)
	Adoption in plenary: tbc

### **9. Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) N° 1084/2006 (Point 12 of the draft agenda)**

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.

The Rapporteur of the Committee of the Regions, Mr. Romeo STAVARACHE, 2026796 will participate in this debate, in order to present the issues and the key messages as identified and adopted by the Committee of the Regions.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Victor Boştinaru (S&D)	Exchange of views: 22/11/2011, 25/01/2012
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Consideration of working doc.: 28/02/12, 20/03/12
Procedure: 2011/0274(COD)	Consideration of draft report: 29/05/2012 (tbc)
	Deadline for amendments: June 2012 (tbc)
	Adoption REGI: July 2012 (tbc)
	Adoption in plenary: September 2012 (tbc)

### **10. Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the "European Territorial Cooperation' goal" (Point 13 of the draft agenda)**

The Rapporteur, Ms Rikka Manner (FI, ALDE) will hold a new exchange of views on her refined working document, that will raise the main issues at stake for European Territorial Cooperation : Better law making oriented and based on a detailed assessment and consultation with main stakeholders, the Rapporteur wants to ensure the correct drafting of the proposal corresponding to the EPs position, adopted accoring 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 simplfy the framework.



The goal of economic, social and territorial cohesion is promoted through three EU funds. As stipulated in Article 176 of the TFEU, the aim of the ERDF is promote the development and structural adjustment of lagging regions and of declining industrial regions.

A separate regulation is proposed for European Territorial Cooperation to take better account of multi-country context of the programmes and make more specific provisions for cooperation programmes and operations, as has been requested by the European Parliament. The aim of a separate regulation for ETC is to allow clearer presentation of the specificities of ETC to facilitate implementation , since terminology can be directly adapted to the multi-country context of cooperation programmes. The proposal thus makes references to third country participation where necessary to better reflect the reality of cooperation. It also contains more systematic references to the role that European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) can play in a cooperation context.

The proposal establishes the scope of the European Regional Development Fund with regard to the European Territorial Cooperation goal. It defines the priority objectives and organisation of the ERDF, as well as eligibility criteria. The proposal sets out the financial resources available for each strand and the criteria for their allocation to Member States. This also includes the continuation of the mechanism for the transfer of resources for cooperation activities at the external borders of the Union, to be supported under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument and the instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. Synergies and complementarity between programmes under the European Territorial Cooperation goal and programmes financed under external instruments shall be promoted.

It also sets the implementation arrangements, including provisions for financial management and control. The Common Provisions Regulation and the ERDF regulation both apply subject to the specific provisions contained in this regulation.

A new element in the proposal are the provisions on **thematic concentration and investment priorities**. This is to be seen in the overall context of improving the strategic focus of programmes and their results orientation. Programmes can choose a limited number of priorities from a thematic menu with corresponding investment priorities, thus ensuring the focus on European priorities and interventions where cooperation will yield most added value. In addition, selection criteria have been defined more strictly to ensure that funding is given to genuinely joint operations. Programmes will also contain a performance framework defining programme-specific milestones against which progress in implementation can be assessed.

The 2007-2013 programming period has seen the emergence of new forms of territorial cooperation, tailor-made responses to address macro-regional challenges, such as macro-regional strategies and Integrated Maritime Policy. Given the possible overlap between existing and future macro-regions, sea-basins and transnational programme areas, the proposed regulation explicitly foresees that transnational cooperation can also support the development and implementation of macro-regional strategies and sea-basin programmes (including the ones established on the external borders of the EU).

The implementation modalities have been streamlined for cooperation programmes. The number of authorities involved in programme implementation has been reduced and roles and responsibilities further clarified. Content requirements for cooperation programmes and implementation reports have been made more precise in order to reduce administrative burden for programme authorities. Common indicators have been defined to better capture the outputs of and increase the overall orientation on results.

The proposal foresees a greater harmonisation of rules. Eligibility rules will be either fixed at EU level or by the Monitoring Committee for the programme as a whole. National rules will only apply in the absence such rules. This will also facilitate a joint approach in carrying out the management verifications and audits by the audit authority and thus contribute to

greater harmonisation in this field.

Finally, an extension of the deadline for the de-commitment rule and specific provisions for the application of the rules on state aid and the conversion of foreign currencies into Euro will further facilitate programme implementation.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Riikka Manner (ALDE)	Exchange of views: 22/11/2011, 25/01/2012
Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud	Consideration of working doc.: 28/02/2012, 20/03/2012
Procedure: 2011/0273(COD)	Consideration of draft report: tbc
	Deadline for amendments: tbc
	Adoption REGI: July 2012 (tbc)
	Adoption in plenary: tbc

### **11. Study on "The Creative Motor for Regional Development - Arts and Culture Projects and the EU Structural Funding in Austria" (Point 14 of the draft agenda)**

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

The study includes a survey and analysis of EU cofunded arts, culture and creative industries projects in the framework of regional support in Austria (in the period from 2007 to 2010).

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

The public hearing on the legislative package focuses on how to increase the effectiveness of cohesion policy through simplification and result orientation. Six speakers have been invited, with the first intervention being in fact the presentation of the update of a study requested by REGI earlier. The speakers will have 10-15 minutes each and after the interventions the floor will be open for debate between Members and the experts.

The guests and their respective topics are the following:

- **Professor John Bachtler and Mr Carlos Mendez** (European Policies Research Centre (EPRC)): Key conclusions of the updated "Comparative study on the visions and options for cohesion policy after 2013"
- **Dr. Fabian Zuleeg** (Chief Economist, European Policy Centre): 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?
- **Mr Markus Trilling** (EU funds campaign coordinator, CEE Bankwatch Network): Monitoring and evaluation for result orientation: Tracking results and impacts of cohesion policy - indicators for sustainable regional development
- **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): Towards a simplified, more effective and result oriented policy architecture: what does the legislative package bring to managing authorities and beneficiaries?
- **Dr. Johannes Loheide** (Head of division, General Affairs, Wirtschafts- und Infrastrukturbank Hessen, Germany): Do the provisions in the legislative package deliver on simplification and enhanced effectiveness?

**13. 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 (Point 16 of the draft agenda)**

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.

These changes concern the Membership, the content of the Convention and Statutes of an EGTC, its purpose, the process of approval by national authorities, applicable law for employment and for procurement, approach for EGTCs whose members have different liability for their actions and more transparent procedures for communication.

In the February REGI meeting the Rapporteur presented his working document, in which he takes the view that no additional financial support is necessary for EGTCs, as the added value of EGTCs should mean sufficient motivation for their setting up. Concerning the authorisation of EGTCs he raises the idea of a one-stop shop solution. This option would have many advantages, but it should be further examined how it could work in the practice. He welcomes the simplified procedure for joining an EGTC and amending the convention and statute as well as the possible involvement of public undertakings as members and the modifications concerning members from third countries. He is further of the opinion that EGTCs should be better incorporated in the legislative proposals concerning cohesion policy post 2013 and in the sector specific EU policies.

This month's REGI meeting is continuation of the debate which started last month. The rapporteur would like to draw the attention on few elements that may rise some controversy: one-stop-shop for authorisation by national authorities; tacit approval; criteria for rejection; enforcement of contractual obligations; cooperation with third countries; employment of staff of EGTCs; inclusion of EGTCs in sector specific legal instruments.

The session would also include an exchange of views and debate with Mr Michel Delebarre, rapporteur on the opinion of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) on the EGTC regulation. Mr Delebarre will present 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.

The CoR has been very active in promoting and supporting the EGTC: It adopts political

opinions, monitors the implementation of the EGTC legislation in Member States, informs about the EGTC and its evolution, organizes events , gives advice and support to the EGTC in constitution, produces studies, and acts as meeting point for politicians, officials, experts and civil society.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Joachim Zeller (PPE)	Exchange of views: 22/11/2011, 25/01/2012
Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev	Consideration of working doc.: 28/02/12, 20/03/12
Procedure: 2011/0272(COD)	Consideration of draft report: Spring 2012 (tbc)
	Deadline for amendments: tbc
	Adoption REGI: tbc
	Adoption in plenary: tbc

#### **14. EU Cohesion Policy strategy for the Atlantic area (Point 17 of the draft agenda)**

In the framework of the initiative report on EU Cohesion Policy Strategy for the Atlantic Area for which Mr Alain Cadec is draftsman, REGI Committee is pleased to have an exchange of views on the essential aspects of the report under preparation.

In its conclusions of 14 June 2010, the Council called on the Commission to define a European Strategy for the Atlantic area. The Commission held a public consultation and subsequently published a Communication on the Strategy for the Atlantic on 21 November 2011. On 9 March 2011 Parliament adopted, by a very large majority, a resolution calling for an integrated strategy to support the aim of territorial cohesion in the Atlantic regions.

Based on this preliminary steps, the Rapporteur will present his working document : it raises the need for a European political strategy for the Atlantic area: an exchange of views will follow.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Alain Cadec	Consideration of working document: 20/03/2012
Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud	Consideration of draft report: 26/04/2012 or 28/05/2012 (tbc)
Procedure: 2011/2310(INI)	Adoption REGI: 18/06/2012 or 11/07/2012 (tbc)
	Adoption in plenary: 22/10/2012 (tbc)



## **PART II**

*Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meetings held on 27-28 February 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. External Study on "Moving towards a more result/performance-based delivery system in cohesion policy"**

Ms Julie Pellegrin presented this study, which was followed by a debate.

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

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

The deadline for amendments was set on the 1st of March at 15.00.

- **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 deadline for amendments was set on the 1st of March at 15.00.

### **3. Exchanges of views**

- **Multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020**

Mr Böge and Mr Kalfin, co-rapporteurs of this dossier in the leading committee, were invited to explain their views. It was followed by a debate with shadow-rapporteurs in which the need to have a good communication with national parliaments was highlighted. It was also stressed the necessity to respect the different legislative procedure and not to allow the EP negotiators to be dragged into the Council's dynamic: the OLP must be respected and the MFF negotiators should limit themselves to the amounts.



- **Opinion of the Court of Auditors on Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006**  
**Presentation by Mr Szabolcs Fazakas, rapporteur**  
 Both general and more technical issues were debated. Mentions were made to EU added value, R+D, Delegated acts and capping. The Rapporteur highlighted that the CoA has drafted a complementary text to the one that the REGI Committee will draft in order not to step on the latter competences.
- **Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006**  
 Exchange of views on the working document in progress.
- **European Social Fund and repeal of Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006**  
 Exchange of views on a working document.  
 A working document was presented. The rapporteur included in it the points she finds more outstanding regarding this regulation. Large consensus was reached among the shadows on these issues.
- **Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006**  
 Consideration of a working document
- **Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the 'European territorial cooperation' goal**  
 Exchange of views on a working document
- **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**  
 Consideration of a working document  
 The Rapporteur mentioned that other Committees should be heard given that EGTCs are likely to affect EU regions in a wide range of matters. Furthermore, he pointed out the possibility of extending EGTCs to neighbouring countries which would link Regional Policy to Foreign Affairs policy.

#### **4. Voting time**

- **Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020**  
 The draft opinion was adopted with 38 votes in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention
- **2010 discharge: EU general budget, Section III, Commission**  
 The draft opinion was adopted with 38 votes in favour, 2 against and no abstention
- **Review of the 6th Environment Action Programme and the setting of priorities for the 7th Environment Action Programme**  
 The draft opinion was adopted with 38 votes in favour, 0 against and 3 abstentions.

## **PART III - 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, representing the committee, has accepted so far an invitation to participate (during the coming weeks) in the following events:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Event</b>
23 March	Prague	Czech Ministry of Regional Development	Meetings at working level on Activities in the course of the CZ Presidency of the Visegrád Group in the field of Cohesion Policy
27 March	Beirut	The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.	Workshop Meeting on Integrated Spatial Strategy for Gulf Cooperation Council Countries - Experience of the EU

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

## Interinstitutional Conference on the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation



***'The EGTC – Ready to use'***  
**Thursday 29 March 2012**  
**Committee of the Regions of the EU**  
**Brussels (Room JDE 52)**

The European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions of the EU are holding an interinstitutional conference on the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation in the framework of the future cohesion policy, with the support of the European Commission and the Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU.

This conference which will be held on 29 March 2012 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at the CoR building in Brussels (Rue Belliard 99-101, Room JDE 52) is open to the participation of the Members of the European Parliament, the EU Member States and the Members of the Committee of the Regions as well as the European Commission. It will be followed by a meeting of the ECTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions.

The conference will reaffirm the will of dialogue and cooperation between the institutions at a most crucial moment with respect to the development of the future territorial cooperation.

The agenda is available at

<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/Pages/InterinstitutionalconferenceontheEGTC.aspx>

## Library News

### Library Briefings



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[EU macro-regional strategies: state of play](#) / by Ivana Katsarova, posted on 28 February 2012. 6 p.

The first EU macro-regional strategies are 'pioneer' experiments in fostering greater territorial cohesion. They do not address Cohesion Policy and its instruments alone, but aim to improve synergies with other EU policies – such as environmental policy, the integrated maritime policy and transport policy, to name just a few – in search of potential leverage effects.

### Latest analysis



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[Simplifying Cohesion Policy for 2014-2020](#) / DG Regional Policy, February 2012, 19 p.

The European Commission adopted on 8 February a [Communication dedicated to simplification in all policy areas](#) to draw stakeholders' attention to the key aspects of simplification included in the regulatory proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020. In view of the preparations of the next programming period, the brochure 'Simplifying Cohesion Policy for 2014-2020' explains to the beneficiaries and managing authorities in the European Union the main practical improvements proposed in terms of simplification as regards Cohesion Policy.



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[Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 - "Integrated Sustainable Urban Development"](#) / European Commission, 2012, 5 p.

This factsheet focuses on "Integrated Sustainable Urban Development". The policies pursued in relation to urban areas have a wider significance for the EU as a whole. The various dimensions of urban life - environmental, economic, social and cultural - are interwoven and success in urban development can only be achieved through an integrated approach. Such an approach is especially important at this time, given the seriousness of the challenges European cities currently face. The response to these challenges will be critical for achieving the smart, sustainable, inclusive society envisaged in the Europe 2020 Strategy. (Source: DG Regional Policy)



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[A New Regional Competitiveness Index: Theory, Methods and Findings](#) / by Lewis Dijkstra, Paola Annoni and Kornelia Kozovska, DG Regional Policy, Working papers, no 2/2011, February 2012, 28 p.

The regional indicator 'EU Regional Competitiveness Index (RCI)' is the first composite indicator which provides a synthetic picture of territorial competitiveness for each of the NUTS 2 regions of the 27 EU Member States. It builds on and modifies the approach of the Global Competitiveness Index of the World Economic Forum (WEF) and consists of eleven pillars grouped in three groups: Basic, Efficiency and Innovation. It takes into account the level of development of the region by emphasising basic issues in less developed regions, and innovative capacity in more developed regions. The pillars measure not only issues relevant to firms but also those relevant to residents of the regions in question and their quality of life. (Source: the Working paper)

See also: 1. Maps: [Basic Pillars](#); [Efficiency Pillars](#); and [Innovation Pillars](#). 2. Annex: [Regional Competitiveness Index Data](#)



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[Measuring performance: country factsheets](#) / DG Regional Policy, March 2012

The European Commission has published country factsheets outlining the progress of individual Member States in meeting their agreed targets under the Europe 2020 Strategy. The factsheets give the state of play in various themes under the three headline targets of the Strategy: Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth. The factsheets will be an invaluable support in the negotiations on the next period of EU cohesion funding (2014-2020). They place each country in a European perspective by measuring performance and comparing to the EU average, as well as the best and the worst performers in the Union.



© CEE Bankwatch Network

[A system of indicators to measure progress towards respective objectives and targets in EU Cohesion Policy \[...\] An assessment of European Commission's proposal for common indicators in ERDF and CF](#) / by CEE Bankwatch Network, February 2012, 22 p.

The current EU commitment to a low carbon and resource efficient economy has significantly influenced the proposed Cohesion Policy objectives for the 2014-2020 period. Besides the mobilisation of financial resources for the achievement of the Europe 2020 strategy targets, it is important that a strong focus is kept on the results of EU support. Bankwatch has therefore taken a critical look at the proposed common indicators for the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund. (Source: CEE Bankwatch Network).