
REGI News

Newsletter from the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development

VII Legislature N. 29 - 20 February 2012



Meeting on

**Monday 27 February 2012
15.00 - 18.30**

**Tuesday 28 February 2012
9.00 - 12.30**

Room ASP 3 G 2

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15.00 - 18.00

Tuesday 20 March 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 Inforegio](#)
[EUR-Lex](#)

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PART I

Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI Committee meeting on 27-28 February 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. Election of the 4th Vice-Chair (Point 1 of the draft agenda)

This election will take place on Monday 27 February at 15.00 (in camera).

ORDINARY MEETING

2. Presentation of the external study on 'Moving towards a more result/performance-based delivery system in cohesion policy' (provisional version) (Point 5 of the draft agenda)

Driven by considerations of accountability and policy effectiveness the issue of performance management in the context of cohesion policy has been constantly climbing up the policy agenda peaking in a performance framework laid down in the October 2011 Commission reform proposals.

Against this background the Policy Department B commissioned a study on "Moving towards a more result/performance-based delivery system in cohesion policy" whose provisional version is up for presentation during the REGI meeting of 27 February 2012.

Carried out by the experts of CSIL (Centre for Industrial Studies - Italy), the study analyses the rational, features and the conditions under which a more result/performance-oriented delivery system based on the use of performance indicators, and, potentially, of incentive mechanisms, can be designed and implemented along the different phases of the cohesion policy management cycle.

It does so by relying on a wide-ranging literature review, semi-structured interviews with more than 100 stakeholders mainly at regional level, two focus groups and case studies on performance management and measurement in the World Bank, Italy (2007-2013), Poland

(2007-2013) and the Rural Development Policy.

The study argues in favour of a deep change in administrative culture and puts forward concrete recommendations on how to simplify and gear the logical framework underlying cohesion policy's interventions towards results with a view to inform the current cohesion policy reform debate.

3. The role of Cohesion Policy in the outermost regions of the European Union in the context of EU 2020 (Point 6 of the draft agenda)

Following the exchange of views held in the November 2011 meeting, with the presentation of his Working Document, the Rapporteur, Mr. Nuno Teixeira, will now present his draft report.

The Rapporteur makes the case and particularly focus on the specificity of the Outermost Regions (ORs) of the EU, which stems from their specific structural, social and economic situation, and their remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography and climate, as well as their economic dependence on a few products.

In this context, the Rapporteur defends that a differentiated treatment towards the Outermost Regions should be put in place, while insisting that they should be treated as a whole. The draft report insists on the need for a better governance system allowing the Outermost Regions to benefit from a special regime, especially as regards their eligibility to the allocation of Union's funds. In this respect a special framework for the Union's policies on the Outermost Regions is crucial, one that duly takes into account their special status as established by the Treaty, and at the same time their special geographical insertion.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Nuno Teixeira (PPE)	Exchange of views:
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Consideration of working doc.: 23/11/2011
Procedure: 2011/2195 (INI)	Consideration of draft report: 27/02/2012
	Deadline for amendments: 02/03/2012
	Adoption REGI: 20/03/2012
	Adoption in plenary: 17/04/2012

4. Multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 (Point 7 of the draft agenda)

The Rapporteur will present the state of play of the analysis of the Commission's proposal for a Multiannual Financial Framework for the years 2014-2020 (MFF), clarifying some essential points regarding the relationship of the legislative procedure on the MFF with the sectoral policies' legislative packages, and in particular for Cohesion policy.

The Committee on Budgets Rapporteurs, Mr. Böge and Mr. Kalfin, are expected to participate in this exchange of views, in order to give the REGI Committee Members an overview of the evolution of this procedure in the lead committee.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Andrey Kovatchev (PPE)	Exchange of views: 23/11/2011, 27/02/2012
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Consideration of working doc.: 26/01/2012
Procedure: 2011/0177(APP)	Consideration of draft opinion: tbc
Main committee: BUDG - Reimer Böge - Ivailo Kalfin	Deadline for amendments: tbc
	Adoption REGI: tbc
	Adoption BUDG: tbc
	Adoption in plenary: tbc

5. Opinion of the Court of Auditors on common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) N° 1083/2006 (Point 8 of the draft agenda)

The European Court of Auditors presented its opinion on the Common Provisions Regulation 15 December 2011. The opinion addresses both strategic issues and common management and control arrangements, giving detailed comments on elements such as national accreditation; management declaration of assurance, financial instruments, eligibility rules, EU added value, etc. Members will have the opportunity to debate issues crucial to the future architecture of cohesion policy with Mr Szabolcs Fazakas, Rapporteur of the ECA.

6. Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) N° 1083/2006 (Point 9 of the draft agenda)

This debate is the continuation of the discussion that started in January 2012 in the REGI meeting, where the Rapporteurs, Constanze Angela Krehl and Lambert van Nistelrooij presented their Working Document on the Common Provisions Regulation. Key themes elaborated in the Working Document:

- the Common Strategic Framework and options for its adoption;
- Partnership Contract, partnership principle and views on the involvement of local and regional authorities and other stakeholders;
- alignment to EU2020, thematic concentration and flexibility in the proposal, the need for clarifications in Article 16 of the proposal regarding "regional needs" and possibilities to allow for more flexibility in concentration and ring-fencing of funds;
- simplification, the Rapporteurs give a first analysis on the elements the Commission claims would simplify policy implementation;
- macroeconomic conditionalities and their implication on policy implementation;
- ex-ante conditionalities and the provisions and the list as presented in Annexe IV of the draft CPR regulation;
- concerns about feasibility of the performance reserve as presented in the proposal;
- the cross-cutting nature of urban dimension;
- capping and its consequences;
- Connecting Europe facility and its relation to instruments of cohesion policy.

This time the Rapporteurs propose to concentrate the debate on the following issues: performance reserve, capping, Connecting Europe Facility.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Co-rapporteurs: Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE); Constanze Angela Krehl (S&D)	Exchange of views: 22/11/2011; 19/12/2011
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase, Franck Ricaud	Consideration of working doc.: 25/01/2012
Procedure: 2011/0276(COD)	Consideration of draft report: 29/05/2012
	Deadline for amendments: June 2012
	Adoption REGI: July 2012
	Adoption in plenary: September 2012

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)

Upon reception of the proposal, the Committee on Regional Development has appointed its Chair as Rapporteur and given mandate to rapid conclusion of the negotiations through a “first reading agreement”, having the view that the proposed amendment is an urgency measure. Accordingly, the Rapporteur has extensively debated the proposal organising technical briefing with the shadows and rapporteurs of the opinions and during two REGI meetings. Unfortunately, the Council has taken more time to prepare the general approach. The Rapporteur has already received the draft opinions from ECON and CONT and is going to present her draft report on 28 February.

The Rapporteur welcomes the proposal of the European Commission (COM(2011)0655) amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (General Regulation), and notes that the aim is to use a part of the allocations still available under programmes co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF) to set up a risk sharing instrument with a view to ensure the continuation of the implementation of the programmes. The Rapporteur considers that some elements of the proposal should be clarified and expanded and will propose some technical amendments to the text of the proposal.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
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: tbc
	Adoption REGI: tbc
	Adoption in plenary: tbc

8. Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (Point 11 of the draft agenda)

The Commission's Communication on EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 aims at reversing biodiversity loss and speeding up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy. It is an integral part of the Europe 2020 Strategy and in particular the resource efficient Europe flagship initiative.

The draftswoman presented her draft opinion in January, to which 31 amendments have been tabled with a view to be voted in the REGI meeting in February. The amendments address issues such as the role of outermost regions in preserving biodiversity, the relevance of involving actors at the subnational level in implementation, urban development and biodiversity, synergies between policy areas in this field. Negotiations on 6 compromise amendments re currently under way.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Catherine Bearder (ALDE)	Consideration of draft opinion: 26/01/2012
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Deadline for amendments: 02/02/2012
Procedure: 2011/2307(INI)	Adoption REGI: 28/02/2012
Main committee: ENVI - Gerben-Jan GERBRANDY	Adoption ENVI: 29/02/2012 (tbc)
	Adoption in plenary: tbc

9. 2010 discharge: EU General Budget, section III, Commission (Point 12 of the draft agenda)

The draft opinion on the discharge, presented in the REGI meeting of January 2012, will be put to the vote in the February meeting. The draftsman has based his draft opinion fundamentally on the 2010 Annual Report of the Court of Auditors, drawing the attention of Members to the error rates, which appear to be due mainly to non-compliance with public procurement rules and eligibility rules, as well as to deficiencies in the financial engineering instruments' implementation.

A total of 15 amendments were tabled to this draft opinion, and no compromise amendments have been tabled so far.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Tamás Deutsch (PPE)	Consideration of draft opinion: 26/01/2012
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Deadline for amendments: 02/02/2012
Procedure: 2011/2201(DEC)	Adoption REGI: 28/02/2012 (tbc)
Main committee: CONT - Christofer Fjellner	Adoption CONT: 26/03/2012 (tbc)
	Adoption in plenary: 09/05/2012 (tbc)

10. Review of the 6th Environment Action Programme and the setting of priorities for the 7th Environment Action Programme (Point 13 of the draft agenda)

The current 6th Environment Action Programme (6EAP), which was the first one to be adopted by co-decision, will expire in July 2012. Its final assessment, published on 31 August 2011, concluded that on balance, the 6th EAP has provided an overarching framework for environment policy, during which environmental legislation has been consolidated and substantially completed, and that its adoption by co-decision has increased its legitimacy and has helped create a sense of ownership for subsequent policy proposals.

However, we are still far from a satisfying situation regarding the state of the environment. It is therefore essential to adopt as soon as possible a 7th EAP in order to enable this

transition towards a sustainable future, to ensure continuity and avoid any gaps. In addition, the future 7th EAP should provide for a clear ambitious vision for 2050, in order to give a long-term perspective for all stakeholders.

The European Parliament proposes that the future 7th EAP focuses on the 3 following "I"s:

- Implementation and Strengthening of environmental legislation
- Integration of environmental objectives into all sectoral policies
- International dimension of environment protection

We therefore call on the Commission to present as soon as possible its proposal for a 7th EAP, and to take into account our suggestions as described in the present own-initiative report.

34 amendments have been tabled to this draft opinion.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)	Consideration of draft opinion: 26/01/2012
Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud	Deadline for AM : 02/02/2012
Procedure: 2011/2194(INI)	Adoption REGI: 28/02/2012 (tbc)
Main Committee: ENVI - Jo Leinen	Adoption in ENVI Committee : 29/02/2012 (tbc)
	Adoption in plenary: 17/04/2012 (tbc)

11. European Social Fund and repeal of Regulation (EC) N° 1081/2006 (Point 14 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.

Regarding the timetable, the lead Committee has postponed the adoption of the Report until

June 2012. Hence, the vote in Plenary must be cast after July's session.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: María Irigoyen Pérez (S&D)	Exchange of views: 22/11/2011, 25/01/2012 (tbc)
Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez Recarte	Consideration of draft opinion: April 2012 (tbc)
Procedure: 2011/0268(COD)	Deadline for amendments: 2/05/2012 (tbc)
Main committee: EMPL - Elisabeth Morin-Chartier	Adoption REGI: May 2012 (tbc)
	Adoption in EMPL Committee: tbc
	Adoption in plenary: Autumn 2012 (tbc)

12. Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) N° 1084/2006 (Point 15 of the draft agenda)

This is now the third debate on the proposed regulation, which is part of the legislative package for cohesion policy, and regulates the Cohesion Fund (CF) to support investments in the environment, in trans-European networks and in technical assistance.

This time the Rapporteur will continue presenting and debating his views on the proposed measures, by submitting to the REGI Committee a Working Document containing information on the Cohesion Fund design and implementation since its inception as such in 1994, as well as some proposals to address the most controversial points of the new rules as proposed by the Commission, and in particular on the relationship between the Cohesion Fund and the Connecting Europe Facility, on the priorities as provided for in the proposal for a regulation, among others.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Victor Boştinaru (S&D)	Exchange of views: 22/11/2011, 25/01/2012
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Consideration of working doc.: 27-28 February 2012
Procedure: 2011/0274(COD)	Consideration of draft report: tbc
	Deadline for amendments: tbc
	Adoption REGI: tbc
	Adoption in plenary: tbc

13. Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the 'European Territorial Cooperation' goal (Point 16 of the draft agenda)

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.

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

14. 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 17 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.

On Membership, new legal bases are employed to permit regions and bodies in non-Member States to be members of an EGTC, while the other members are from one or many Member States. The eligibility of membership of bodies under private law is also clarified.

The convention and statutes of an EGTC are re-defined and the distinction in approval procedure underlined. The criteria for approval or rejection by national authorities are specified, and a limited time for examination proposed.

Solutions, in line with the *acquis* of the Union, are proposed for tax and social security regimes for employees of an EGTC, who may be employed in any of the Member States whose territories comprise the EGTC. A similar approach is proposed for procurement rules. For liability, where some local or regional bodies are required by their national laws to have limited liability and others, in different Member States, are required to have unlimited liability, an insurance-based solution is proposed.

Finally, Member States will be required to inform the Commission of any provisions adopted to implement the EGTC Regulation, as amended, and each newly established EGTC should inform the Commission of its purpose and membership, for publication in the Official Journal (C Series).

In the February REGI meeting the Rapporteur will present 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. In general he takes the view that the Commission presented a good and adequate proposal.

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



PART II

Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meetings held on 25-26 January 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. Constituent meeting of the REGI committee (Points 1, 2, 3 of the draft agenda)

The purpose of this meeting was the constitution of the committee Bureau by the election of the chair and up to four vice-chairs. It took place from 9.00 to 9.30 on 25 January (in camera). During the meeting, Prof Danuta HÜBNER (EPP-PL) was re-elected as chair, Mr Georgios STAVRAKAKIS (S&D-EL), Mr Markus PIEPER (EPP-DE), Ms Filiz Hakaeva HYUSMENOVA (ALDE-BG), and Mr Michail TREMOPOULOS (VERTS-EL) were re-elected as vice-chairs.

2. Quality management for European Statistics (Points 7 and 20 of the draft agenda)

The aim of this Communication is to set out a strategy that would give the European Union a quality management framework for statistics related to enhanced economic policy coordination which includes mechanisms to ensure the high quality of statistical indicators. Recent developments, in particular, the inaccuracy of the Greek government deficit and debt statistics have demonstrated that the system for fiscal statistics did not sufficiently mitigate the risk of substandard quality data being notified to Eurostat. To address this issue, the Commission expressed the need to grant Eurostat extended powers in the field of fiscal statistics. In order to develop and implement a quality management framework, the Commission will pursue the following two lines of action: it intends to improve implementation of the governance framework for statistics, by proposing amendments to Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European Statistics, a revised European Statistics Code of Practice and a new process for the implementation of this Code by National Statistical Institutes and other relevant National Authorities. Second action line is preventive approach to verifying government finance (EDP) statistics.

In her draft opinion the rapporteur, Ms. Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, emphasises that the provision of accurate, relevant and high-quality statistics is of key importance to sustainable and balanced regional development. She supports Eurostat's intention to establish a legal framework for 'Commitments on Confidence in Statistics'; stresses that compliance with the data confidentiality rule within the ESS (European Statistical System), as well as with the principle of subsidiarity, will help to increase trust in statistical agencies. The rapporteur also stresses the need to develop a coherent system for research into socio-economic processes in cross-border areas, together with statistics for macro-regions, in order to obtain a reliable picture of the economy in terms of regional and macro-regional development. Finally, the rapporteur notes that regional and national accounts should be closely monitored as part of a robust system of quality management for European statistics.

The members of REGI welcomed the opinion and suggested no amendments with exception of one by Verts. A request for an oral amendment on adding the regions located on the external borders of the European Union to the cross-boarder areas.

The main committee ECON tabled adoption of its report on this Communication in the beginning of February. Due to the tight schedule the REGI Committee adopted the draft opinion in an urgent procedure implying the presentation of the draft opinion and vote during the same meeting.

3. Exchange of views with Mr Nicolai Wammen, Minister for European Affairs, on the priorities of the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (Point 8 of the draft agenda)

The Danish presidency represented by Nicolai Wammen, Minister for European Affairs, presented as it has become customary, the presidency's programme on the EU's cohesion and regional policy and the MFF in which concerns this policy. Minister Wammen outlined the four priorities of the Presidency - responsible, dynamic, green, and safe Europe. He underlined the importance of the Cohesion policy for delivery of a more competitive and environmentally responsible Europe that is prepared to meet the challenges of the economic crisis and climate change. Minister Wammen insisted on the need for a policy that provides value for money and showed preparedness for close cooperation with the Parliament as co-legislator on the cohesion policy package for 2014-2020.

After the statement, the Chair gave the floor to the Members of the committee, starting by the political group coordinators and following by the other MEPs. The members outlined their main concerns about the legislative proposals on the cohesion policy as also outlined in the Working Document. The Members have expressed their hope for good and fruitful cooperation with the Danish presidency, similar to the one they had with the Polish presidency. The Danish presidency welcomed the planned Committee delegation to Denmark in May.

4. 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 9 of the draft agenda)

Following the two previous proposals for amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 in response to the current financial crisis the Commission proposes the third Amendment

that lays down provisions for creation of a risk sharing instrument.

The objective of the proposal is to help countries particularly hit by the financial crisis to provide additional financial resources to these countries in order to secure continuation of implementation of the programmes.

According to the proposal in order to implement the risk sharing instrument the transfer of part of the financial allocations available to these Member States back to the Commission would be allowed. The objective would be to provide capital contributions to cover expected and unexpected losses of loans and guarantees to be extended under a risk-sharing partnership with the European Investment Bank and/or other financial institutions with a public policy mission who are willing to continue to lend to project sponsors and banks with a view to provide private match funding for projects implemented with Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund contributions. The overall allocation under cohesion policy for the period 2007-2013 would therefore not be modified. Article 36 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 provides that the EIB may, at the request of Member States, participate in activities relating to the preparation of projects, in particular major projects, the arrangement of finance, and public-private partnerships. It provides further that the Member State, in agreement with the EIB, may concentrate the loans granted on one or more priorities of an operational programme. The current proposal should facilitate the approval of such loans by the EIB, or by other international financial institutions as may be the case, at a moment when due to the downgrading of the public and private debt of the State and financial institutions of the Member States such loans would not be available.

The Rapporteur organized a technical briefing with the shadows and other committees' rapporteurs (ECON and CONT) on 11 January. The aim of this briefing was to receive more-in-depth explanations from the European Commission and the European Investment Bank about functioning of the risk sharing instrument. During this exchange of views in the Committee the representatives of the DG REGIO, ECFIN, Task Force for Greece, and EIB also expressed their views on the issue. They emphasized the point that such instruments are not new and this mechanism will help finalizing projects that are already in the implementation stage. The Members confirmed the Committee support for urgent adoption and implementation of this measure.

5. Exchange of views with Mr Johannes Hahn, Commissioner on Regional Policy, on the Post 2013 EU Cohesion Package (Point 11 of the draft agenda)

Commissioner Hahn came to the committee in a very important moment, when the work of the co-legislators on the legislative package is advancing. Mr Hahn started with emphasising that 2011 was a record year for DG REGIO both in terms of commitments and payments. At over EUR 40 billion, commitments were in line with the financial perspective and increased by EUR 1.1 billion over 2010. Payments passed EUR 32 billion for the first time, passing the previous high of EUR 30 billion in 2010. Afterwards Mr Hahn presented his view on how the Commission sees the advancement of the works at the Council, the main obstacles the Member States have encountered and a clear positioning of the EC on the more advanced chapters of the reform. Mr Hahn informed that the Polish presidency made a great progress on legislative package with the draft text on thematic concentration. The Commission should publish main points of the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) and the code of conduct for the Partnership Contracts as Commission staff document in the end of February and according to Mr Hahn it is the content of the CSF document and not its legal basis that is the most important issue.

6. Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) N° 1083/2006 (Point 12 of the draft agenda)

The five reports and one opinion considering the draft regulations presented by the EC for the EU's post 2013 cohesion policy were debated this time jointly by the committee. The debate was already initiated by the above described presentation by the Commissioner Hahn and continued with a presentation of the two rapporteurs on the General Regulation based on the working document in progress they have been preparing. Following their interventions, the other rapporteurs took the floor to look into the relationship of the General Regulation and the specific funds regulations but also to advance perhaps more particular considerations on the regulations they are responsible for. Answering the questions raised by the Members the representative of the Commission inter alia explained the method of selection of indicators for the proposal, the simplification that should be brought by new policy with introduction of e-cohesion as the main advantage, and the common opinion on macroeconomic conditionality in the Commission. On the questions concerning Connecting Europe Facility the answer was that the focus should be on what we want to achieve with the money available and improvement of cross-boarder connections in the TEN-T networks is one of the main aims. The facility should be based on calls of proposals and the Member States should have a pipeline of projects. There is also a special attention on transport in thematic concentration for ETC. Generally on thematic concentration the Commission explained that there is a need for funds concentration and the method has to be adjusted to the needs and for the ERDF it is percentage points. Complete flexibility based on case-by-case would be misleading, thus they decided to choose fixed parameters but they are open for discussions with co-legislators. The minimum quotas for ESF are at national level and it is linked to the greater integration of funds they want to achieve. The support from structural funds should be focused on SMEs and only research and innovation in big companies.

In the context of a global debate on the legislative package, the Rapporteurs, Constanze Angela Krehl and Lambert van Nistelrooij have presented a Working Document on the Common Provisions Regulation. The Working Document tackles key issues identified already in an Informal Working Paper, among others the following:

- the Common Strategic Framework and options for its adoption;
- Partnership Contract, partnership principle and views on the involvement of local and regional authorities and other stakeholders;
- alignment to EU2020, thematic concentration and flexibility in the proposal, the need for clarifications in Article 16 of the proposal regarding "regional needs" and possibilities to allow for more flexibility in concentration and ring-fencing of funds;
- simplification, the Rapporteurs give a first analysis on the elements the Commission claims would simplify policy implementation;
- macroeconomic conditionalities and their implication on policy implementation;
- ex-ante conditionalities and the provisions and the list as presented in Annexe IV of the draft CPR regulation;
- concerns about feasibility of the performance reserve as presented in the proposal;
- the cross-cutting nature of urban dimension.

7. 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 13 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 has prepared a Working Paper in which he stresses that a major part of the ERDF regulation depends on the provision of the Common Provisions Regulation (so called General 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.

8. Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) N° 1084/2006 (Point 14 of the draft agenda)

In the second debate on the proposed regulation, which is part of the legislative package for cohesion policy, and regulates the Cohesion Fund (CF) to support investments in the environment, in trans-European networks and in technical assistance, where environment appears to be the one deserving the greatest number of investment priorities, the Rapporteur will continue to debate his views on the proposed measures.

One of the major issues the Rapporteur sees regarding the above proposal for a regulation is indeed the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). While in favour of this new instrument, he is nevertheless very concerned about the proposed mechanism of transferring money from the CF to the CEF, as the system proposed (foreseeing the ring-fencing of 10 billion EUR) leads to a proportional reduction of the highest allocations under the CF.

Moreover, under the proposed regulation, projects respecting the national allocations under the Cohesion Fund should be given the greatest possible priority, and selection is due to be done on a "first come, first served basis".

The Rapporteur is therefore concerned that these new features will in fact encroach on the benefits of the countries that need most the support from the Cohesion Fund, given that their administrative capacity is less developed.

9. Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the 'European Territorial Cooperation' goal (Point 15 of the draft agenda)

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.

10. 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.

On Membership, new legal bases are employed to permit regions and bodies in non-Member States to be members of an EGTC, while the other members are from one or many Member States. The eligibility of membership of bodies under private law is also clarified.

The convention and statutes of an EGTC are re-defined and the distinction in approval procedure underlined. The criteria for approval or rejection by national authorities are specified, and a limited time for examination proposed.

Solutions, in line with the *acquis* of the Union, are proposed for tax and social security regimes for employees of an EGTC, who may be employed in any of the Member States whose territories comprise the EGTC. A similar approach is proposed for procurement rules. For liability, where some local or regional bodies are required by their national laws to have limited liability and others, in different Member States, are required to have unlimited liability, an insurance-based solution is proposed.

Finally, Member States will be required to inform the Commission of any provisions adopted to implement the EGTC Regulation, as amended, and each newly established EGTC should inform the Commission of its purpose and membership, for publication in the Official Journal (C Series).

11. European Social Fund and repeal of Regulation (EC) N° 1081/2006 (Point 17 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.

12. Multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 (Point 18 of the draft agenda)

During the second exchange of views on this file the Rapporteur has presented a working document.

Since the last debate in November, there were not any major developments on this issue. The Committee on Budgets has not yet established an operational calendar for this procedure and no decision was taken either regarding the issuing of an interim report. However, this committee has made clear that a "mandate" for negotiations will have to be established for

this Spring.

Meanwhile, the General Affairs Council organised a meeting on 5 December, where the Polish presidency presented a Report on the progress on the MFF within the Council in the second semester of 2011, summarising the discussions held up until then, concluding that the negotiations as such have not really started.

The Danish presidency is aiming at presenting a *negotiation box* by June 2012, where the principles but not the numbers will be submitted to the European Council of July 2012.

Ms. Flo Clucas, Rapporteur for the Committee of the Regions' opinion on the new multiannual financial framework post-2013 was also present at this debate and has emphasised main elements of their opinion: the strong protest against macro-economic conditionality, the strong support for introduction of the original legislative procedure (previously called co-decision) for MFF, the level proposed for the MFF should be seen as an absolute minimum, the support for ex-ante conditionalities but opposition to the performance reserve.

This debate in REGI constituted an opportunity to fine-tune the position to be adopted soon by this committee in order to be able to contribute in due time for the establishment of the above-mentioned "mandate". Discussion was focused on the concern for the overall level of funds proposed for the cohesion policy and the various ceilings and quotas within it.

13. Votes:

- **Future of regional airports and air services in the EU (Point 19 of the draft agenda)**

Rapporteur for the opinion: Giommaria Uggias (ALDE)

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

- **Quality management for European Statistics (Point 20 of the draft agenda)**

Rapporteur for the report: Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska (PPE)

The draft opinion was adopted by 44 votes in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.

14. Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (Point 21 of the draft agenda)

The Commission's Communication on EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 aims at reversing biodiversity loss and speeding up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy. It is an integral part of the Europe 2020 Strategy and in particular the resource efficient Europe flagship initiative.

The draftswoman in her draft opinion welcomes the Communication and highlights the importance of biodiversity, an issue of trans-regional and transnational nature, having an impact on the quality of life of EU citizens. The potentials of the green economy are highlighted in the proposed text, as well as the importance of greening investment in infrastructure. Beneficiaries of Structural Funds and local authorities should also be trained in order to be aware of the importance of biodiversity. Ms Bearder underlines the importance of using use of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), Sustainability Impact Assessments (SIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and other instruments to recognise biodiversity loss. Finally, local and regional governments should capitalise upon and involve

closely in decision making the voluntary and community sector.

During the discussion the Members emphasised the role of actions of Urban Agenda for preserving biodiversity, the necessity to talk about environmental protection also while looking for new growth accelerators, and problems of countries such as Greece and French Guyana with implementation of Natura 2000.

15. 2010 discharge: EU General Budget, section III, Commission (Point 22 of the draft agenda)

The Rapporteur, Mr. Tamás Deutsch submitted his draft opinion to the Committee, where, on the basis fundamentally of the 2010 Annual Report of the Court of Auditors, he draws the attention of Members to the fact that, although the budgetary execution was good for Regional policy, this policy was once again part of the most error prone group among all policy areas, with 49 % of the 243 payments audited by that Court affected by error.

Like in previous exercises, non-compliance with public procurement rules and eligibility rules account for a high proportion of the error rate, which are now added to deficiencies in the financial engineering instruments' implementation, namely due to deficient reporting and verification requirements.

The Rapporteur also drew the attention of the Committee to the conclusion of the Court of Auditors that in a great number of transactions affected by error Member States' authorities had sufficient information to detect and apply corrective measures prior to certification and didn't take appropriate action.

16. Review of the 6th Environment Action Programme and the setting of priorities for the 7th Environment Action Programme (Point 23 of the draft agenda)

The Rapporteur for opinion presented the Draft opinion, giving the point of view of Cohesion Policy and the role of regional and Local Authorities to implement correctly the Environment Action Programmes.

In her presentation, Ms. Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă outlined some issues connected to the environmental responses as far as urban planning is concerned, use of arable land, waste management, among others. She emphasized the need to give local communities the chance to develop and stop the degradation of the environment. She also underlined the link between the environmental policy and the cohesion policy, especially in the view of the need for climate change adaptation.

In the debate the Members assured their support to the reference on promoting inter-sectorial policy and to waste-sector and repeated that environmental policy is very much linked to cohesion policy and on the other hand we need a good cohesion policy to be able to implement environmental policy.

17. Exchange of views with Mr Horst Reichenbach, Head of the European Commission Task Force for Greece, on the interpretation of the Cohesion Policy in Greece (Point 24 of the draft agenda)

M. Horst Reichenbach, Head of the European Commission Task Force for Greece, informed the Members on the current situation of the implementation of the cohesion policy in Greece. He has outlined the severe recession that Greece has been undergoing for the 5th successive year (it will continue at least in 2013). Mr. Reichenbach outlined that he sees two major problems in Greece - credit crunch and the business environment. He expanded upon the very difficult situation in Greece where the lack of liquidity to support businesses and the real economy worsens the existing situation. Mr. Reichenbach emphasized the need to continue implementing the existing programmes as they are increasingly important in terms of development and job growth. He reminded of the fact that the existing projects need to be completed in order to avoid paying exuberant claims in case of insolvency. The access to working capital stands still and the reduction of public spending is a serious hindrance to their programmes. The Commission proposal of creating of the risk sharing instrument is viewed as an important anti-crisis measure next to increasing co-financing rate. There is an explicit request from the Greek government to adopt this instrument in order to unlock the funds.

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 has participated as a chairperson of the Committee in the following events since the last meeting:

25 January	Brussels	EFM (European Forum for Manufacturing)	Roundtable on Horizon 2020 - European Manufacturing
07 February	Brussels EP	Polish Confederation of Private Employers Lewiatan	"Improving Polish regional competitiveness - possibilities on EU level"
09 February 9.40 to 10.30	Brussels (CoR)	Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)	Séminaire "La solidarité européenne au service du développement des territoires européens : quels enjeux pour la Politique de Cohésion 2014-2020 ?"
09 February 12.30 to 14.30	Brussels	Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)	Invitation to the presentation of the Task Force report on long term growth

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

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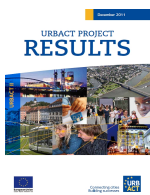
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More information is available at the Chair's website <http://danuta-huebner.pl/> or with the secretariat.

Library News

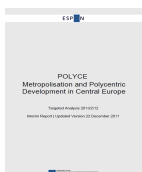
Latest analysis



© URBACT

[URBACT project results](#) / URBACT II, December 2011. 165 p.

This document represents a milestone in the life of URBACT. You will find the results and main conclusions of nineteen Thematic Networks and the Working Group LC-FACIL. They are presented by seven transverse articles, drawing common conclusions from the twenty projects and linking them to the European context and current urban challenges.



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POLYCE - Metropolisation and Polycentric Development in Central Europe: Evidence Based Strategic Options / ESPON, December 2011

POLYCE aims at identifying the importance of the mutual links between processes of metropolisation and polycentric development as well as the challenges and perspectives of future urban development in Central Europe. Theoretical and empirical research addresses structural, functional and strategic relations that are based on competition or cooperation, targeting the five metropolises of Bratislava, Budapest, Ljubljana, Praha and Wien with their territory and within the Danube region. [Interim Report Part A-B](#) and [Part C](#) are available.

Publications



© Il Mulino

Una politica influente: vicende, dinamiche e prospettive dell'intervento regionale europeo / Gian Paolo Manzella. Bologna: Il Mulino, 2011. 249 p

Il volume delinea le vicende storiche dell'intervento regionale a partire dal 1958, ne analizza le dinamiche di funzionamento e cerca di tracciarne le prospettive. Ne emerge una politica molto diversa da quella originariamente concepita. Un intervento che costituisce un rilevante avanzamento nel processo di costruzione di un sistema amministrativo europeo ed un'esperienza guardata con crescente interesse in or esterni all'Unione. (Available in the Library - make a reservation [here](#))



© Springer

The role of the regions in EU governance / Carlo Panara and Alexander de Becker. Heidelberg: Springer, 2011. 346 p

This book compares for the first time how the regions in seven different countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK) are involved in EU governance. It is also the first book which tackles this matter from two different perspectives; that of EU law and that of comparative law. It includes contributions both from well-established scholars in the field of EU law and from younger scholars. (Source: Springer) (Available in the Library - make a reservation [here](#))



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European Urban and Regional Studies / Harlow, Essex, England: Longman Group, quarterly

European Urban and Regional Studies provide an original contribution to academic and policy debate related to processes of urban and regional development in Europe. It offers a European coverage from the Atlantic to the Urals and from the Arctic Circle to the Mediterranean. Its aims are to explore the ways in which space makes a difference to the social, economic, political and cultural map of Europe; highlight the connections between theoretical analysis and policy development; and place changes in global context.

Selected articles from vol. 19, January 2012:

Framing neoliberal urbanism: Translating 'commonsense' urban policy across the OECD zone / Nik Theodore and Jamie Peck, pp. 20-41 ([full text](#))



© Routledge

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

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

Selected articles from vol. 19, issue 3, April 2012:

Cities as national champions? / by Colin Crouch and Patrick Le Galès, pages 405-419 ([full text](#))

Some more relevant studies

[Environmental Policy Integration in Cohesion Policy 2014-2020](#)

[Comments on the draft structural funds regulations / EURO CITIES, February 2012, 3 p.](#)

[Investing where it matters: An EU Budget for Long-Term Growth / Jorge Núñez Ferrer. In: Economic Policy, CEPS Task Force Reports, 9 February 2012. 55 p.](#)

[New Practical Guide to EU Funding. Opportunities for Research and Innovation. Competitive European Regions through Research and Innovation / 7th FP, CIP and Cohesion policy , October 2011. 133 p.](#)

[EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020: what will change](#)

[Has EU assistance improved Croatia's capacity to manage post-accession funding? / European Court of Auditors, Special report no 14/2011. 54 p.](#)

ECA opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund [...] and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund / ECA, no 7/2011, 33 p.

EU Funds in Central and Easter Europe: Roadmap to sustainability or dead-end investments?