
REGI News

Newsletter from the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development

VII Legislature N. 21 - 18 May 2011



Meeting on

Wednesday 25 May 2011

15.00 - 18.30

Thursday 26 May 2011

9.00 - 12.30

Room ASP 1 G 3

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Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 21 June 2011
9.00 - 12.30
15.00 - 18.30

Brussels

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

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PART I

Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI Committee meeting on 25-26 May 2011

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. Absorption of Structural and Cohesion Funds: lessons learnt for the future cohesion policy of the EU (Point 4 of the draft agenda)

Since the late 1990s, absorption of Structural and Cohesion Funds has been recognised as a main concern in relation to the implementation of the EU cohesion policy. Many Member States have faced difficulties in absorbing the structural and cohesion funds from the EU budget, especially during the early post-accession years.

In the exchange of views the rapporteur will present his draft report, in which he lists the main factors leading to absorption problems and outlines proposals to improve absorption. He reiterates the need for simplification of rules and procedures at both EU and national level without creating major difficulties for the beneficiaries. He takes the view that emphasis should be placed on payments for delivery of results rather than checking inputs. He stresses that proportionality between the volume of support and control requirements should be strengthened, and emphasises that the coordination of audit activity should be enhanced and the single audit principle followed in the next programming period. He also stresses that timely adoption of multiannual financial framework and of clear and definitive rules and guidance to the Member States is of utmost importance. Furthermore he calls on the Member States to pay more attention to project preparation, to draw up a project pipeline and make further efforts to attract and retain qualified staff to manage EU funds. Finally, he reiterates that multi-level governance and the partnership principle are key elements in the effectiveness of operational programmes and in high absorption capacity.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Michael Theurer (ALDE)	Consideration of working document: 21/03/2011
Responsible administrator: Monika Makay	Consideration of draft report: 25 May 2011
Procedure: 2010/2305(INI)	Planned deadline for Ams: 08/06/2011 (tbc)
	Planned adoption REGI: 11-12/07/2011 (tbc)
	Planned plenary: 09/2011 (tbc)

2. Modernisation of public procurement (Point 5 of the draft agenda)

In view of modernising the existing tools and methods regarding public procurement and of further developing EU public procurement law through the reflection on how to better achieve the objectives of the current package of directives, the Commission has published the 'Green paper on the modernisation of EU public procurement policy - Towards a more efficient European Procurement Market' (COM(2011)0015). In this framework, the Commission proposes to put forward legislation aimed at ensuring greater legal certainty for regional and local authorities and economic operators in general. However, the Commission draws the attention to the fact that the scope for possible modifications in the directives in force is not unlimited as they have to remain consistent with EU international commitments at the level of the WTO.

In this context, in her draft opinion, Ms. Manescu, while acknowledging the role of procurement in the efficiency of public spending and its impact in economy, growth and innovation, insists that local and regional authorities should be given the leading role in the current process of review of the legal framework. Furthermore, the Rapporteur advocates a cautious line of intervention in the current legislation in order to avoid all negative impacts on local and regional authorities, asking that all derogations and exceptions to be applied in the future by contracting authorities be reduced to the minimum. Finally, Ms. Manescu recalls that the Court of Auditor's Report for 2009 once again identified serious failures to comply with public procurement rules, which lead to a high level of errors in the implementation of projects under the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Ramona Nicole Mănescu	Consideration of draft opinion: 25/05/11
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Deadline for amendments: 30/05/2011 (tbc)
Procedure: 2011/2048(INI)	Adoption REGI: 11-12/07/2011 (tbc)
Lead committee: IMCO - Heide Rühle	Adoption in lead committee: 19/09/2011 (tbc)

3. The EC 5th Cohesion Report and the strategy for the post-2013 Cohesion Policy (Point 6 of the draft agenda)

The Commission's "Conclusions of the fifth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion: the future of cohesion policy" and the document "Investing in Europe's future: Fifth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion" constituted the basis of this draft report, in which the Rapporteur advocates for a higher emphasis on the European added value of cohesion policy interventions, is in favour of maintaining the current structure of three objectives, with a strengthening of both Objective 2 and Objective 3.

The Rapporteur rejects setting of quotas for any type of areas, such as urban areas, functional areas. Furthermore, the Rapporteur calls for a common strategic framework of ESF, ERDF, EAFRD and EFF and for more flexible cross financing rules between ERDF and ESF.

569 amendments were tabled to the report, regarding the introduction of a new category of intermediate regions, the proposed merger of funds. Furthermore, the individuation of a maximum rate for co-financing and the use of conditionalities in funds allocations were issues highly debated.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Markus Pieper	Exchange of views: 27/01/2011
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Hearing: 22/03/2011
Procedure: 2011/2035(INI)	Consideration of draft report: 12/04/2011
	Deadline for tabling Ams: 19/04/2011
	Adoption REGI: 25/05/2011
	Plenary: June II 2011 (tbc)

4. European Urban Agenda and its Future in Cohesion Policy (Point 7 of the draft agenda)

In his draft report, the Rapporteur gives an overview on the latest developments of the European Urban Agenda, outlining and evaluating its key processes. He analyses the needs of urban areas, stressing a two fold focus: basic infrastructure and smart investments in infrastructure and services based on technological advancements. The Rapporteur calls for obligatory involvement of political leaders of key urban areas and associations of local and regional authorities into all stages of Cohesion Policy decision-making, advocates for the integrated strategic planning principles, calls for more flexible cross-financing rules between ERDF and ESF. 103 amendments have been tabled to this Report, underlining the importance of urban-rural linkages, that need to be enhanced through dedicated strategies, of the involvement of cities in cooperation networks, the urban dimension of the Objective 3 (territorial cooperation), and of a deeper involvement of local authorities and key actors in urban areas in the implementation of cohesion policy, as well as the use of the sub-delegation of the management of the funds.

Furthermore, greater attention is devoted to the exploitation of synergies among different funds as well as of the potential, in terms of sustainable development, of the modernisation infrastructure and transport facilities in cities.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák	Exchange of views with "Mini-Hearing": 27/09/2010
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Consideration of working document: 27/10/2010
Procedure: 2010/2158 (INI)	Consideration of draft report: 12/04/2011
	Planned deadline for Ams: 15/04/2011
	Planned adoption REGI: 25/05/2011
	Plenary: June II 2011 (tbc)

5. Amendment of Decision 2004/162/EC as regards the products that may benefit from exemption from or a reduction in dock dues (Point 8 of the draft agenda)

No amendments have been tabled to this proposal which concerns certain exemptions or reductions in dock dues in the French overseas territories.

The vote will take place on 25 May.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Elie Hoarau	Consideration of draft report 12/04/2011
Responsible administrator Christian Chopin	Deadline for amendments: 20 April
Procedure: 2010/0359(CNS)	Adoption REGI 25/05/2011
	Plenary: July 2011 (tbc)

6. Specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union (Point 9 of the draft agenda)

The draftsman has presented a very detailed opinion to this legislative proposal, and has tabled 48 amendments to the Commission's proposals. Among his principle amendments is a proposal to modify the legal basis by including Article 349 of the TFEU which would strengthen the position of the REGI committee on any future legislation in this area. Under present rules such an amendment should be tabled by the lead committee so will have to see a) if it is adopted by REGI and b) if it is followed by AGRI. The rapporteur underlines the need for impact studies to be undertaken out by the Commission each time that international trade agreements challenge agricultural activities governed by the POSEI. He also points to the need to encourage the development of an indigenous agriculture and the reduction of imports.

A total of 112 amendments and 20 compromise amendments have been tabled to this opinion. the vote will take place on 25 May.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Elie Hoarau	Consideration of draft report 12/04/2011
Responsible administrator Christian Chopin	Deadline for amendments: 15 April 2011
Procedure: 2010/0256(COD)	Adoption REGI 25/05/2011
Lead committee AGRI - Gabriel Mato(PPE)	Adoption main committee : 20/06/2011 (tbc)
	Plenary: September 2011 (tbc)

7. Mandate for the trilogue on the 2012 Draft Budget (Point 10 of the draft agenda)

A first exchange of views on this file was held in the meeting of 12 April 2011, where the Rapporteur, Mr. Surján, presented his opinion insisting on the need for higher payment appropriations to be duly reflected in the 2012 Budget and for a thorough planning which could ensure a successful and effective implementation of cohesion policy.

Thirteen amendments were then tabled to this draft opinion, which will be voted on the meeting of 25-26 May 2011. One compromise amendment covering amendments 5-9 was meanwhile agreed upon.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: László Surján (EPP)	Consideration of draft opinion: 12/04/11
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Deadline for amendments: 14/04/2011
Procedure: 2011/2019(BUD)	Adoption REGI: 25/05/2011
Lead committee: BUDG; Rapporteur: Francesca Balzani (S&D)	Adoption in lead committee: 14/06/2011 (tbc)

8. Demographic change and its consequences for the future Cohesion Policy of the EU (Point 12 of the draft agenda)

In her report Ms Westphal points to the fact that the effects of demographic change vary according to the type and characteristics of each region and that these effects are not always negative. She stresses the need to ensure that regions suffering from a depletion of population must make themselves family attractive, and calls on the European Commission to include demographic change as one of the thematic priorities of the future cohesion policy. She Advocates the use of ERDF funds to provide loans with low interest rates which could support the adaptation of housing to the needs of the elderly; proposes that funds should be provided for sheltered housing complexes and multi-generational housing

Turning to migration, Ms Westphal calls on the Member States to agree on a common migration strategy, since Europe is reliant upon the immigration of skilled workers for demographic reasons; and proposes that more funding should be provided for the integration of immigrants in order to dispel prejudices

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Kerstin Westphal	Working document: 14/02/2011
Responsible administrator Christian Chopin	Consideration of draft report: 26 May 2011
Procedure: 2010/2157(INI)	Deadline for amendments: 30 May 2011 (tbc)
	Adoption REGI 21 June 2011 (tbc)
	Plenary: July 2011 (tbc)

9. Financial rules applicable to the annual budget of the Union (Point 13 of the draft agenda)

In his opinion the rapporteur has concentrated on the revision of Article 56 which deals in particular with rules concerning shared management and the control and discharge mechanisms managed by Member States. These questions which have their origin in the EP's insistence over many years, that Member States must supply a credible annual Declaration as to the conformity of their control methods, the state of the accounts and the exactitude of procedures, the aim being to reduce the level of error encountered in managing EU structural funds. The Commission's initial proposals have met with some opposition from Member States and consequently the rapporteur proposes a number of amendments which largely follow those proposed in the Report of the lead committee.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Jan Olbrycht	Exchange of views: 21 March 2011
Responsible administrator Christian Chopin	Consideration of draft opinion: 26 May 2011
Procedure: 2010/0395(COD)	Deadline for amendments: 30 May 2011 (tbc)
Lead committee: BUDG - Ingeborg Gräßle	Adoption REGI 21 June 2011 (tbc)
	Adoption main committee : 13 July 2011 (tbc)

10. Towards a stronger European disaster response: the role of civil protection and humanitarian assistance (Point 14 of the draft agenda)

The Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety is preparing a report in reaction to the European Commission's communication on 'Towards a stronger European disaster response: the role of civil protection and humanitarian assistance' that was published on 26.10.2010. The European Commission proposes a step towards faster and more efficient EU response to disasters, both within and outside of its borders. A legislative proposal should follow this communication.

In his draft opinion, the rapporteur points out that EU citizens and taxpayers would therefore not understand that any additional and specific EU involvement should not be planned in advance for disasters affecting them directly inside the EU. He consequently recalls using the existing EU means such as the EU Solidarity Fund and urges the Commission to present a new proposal enabling the EU's Solidarity Fund to increase its flexibility and to simplify its administrative rules. He also points out that this new proposal on the EU Solidarity Fund should restore its original objective that was to "allow a rapid decision to be taken to commit specific financial resources and mobilise them as quickly as possible".

He proposes to recall the key role the Regional and Local Authorities play both in emergency actions to be taken, being in the front line with the citizens affected by disasters and bringing EU visibility to the citizens, and in disaster prevention, by implementing, through the Cohesion Policy, Risk prevention strategies at a territorial level.

He finally advocates using past successful experience on disaster response such as the ones implemented through Interreg initiative.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Georgios Stavrakakis	Consideration of draft opinion: 26/05/11
Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud	Deadline for amendments: 30/05/2011 (tbc)
Procedure: 2011/2023(INI)	Adoption REGI: 21/06/2011 (tbc)
Lead committee: ENVI	Adoption in lead committee: 13/07/2011 (tbc)
	Plenary: 26/09/2011 (tbc)

11. Public Hearing on Moving towards a more result/performance-based delivery system in Cohesion Policy (Point 15 of the draft agenda)

The Committee on Regional Development will hold a Public Hearing entitled "Moving towards a more result/performance-based delivery system in Cohesion Policy" on 26 May.

The Commission stated in its Strategic Report 2010 on Cohesion policy of 31 March 2010, on the implementation of the programmes 2007-2013 (COM(2010)0110), that the 2012

national reports "should be more concise and more focused on outputs, results and strategic developments" and that the current exercise "is a promising basis for (...) giving an impetus to a more results oriented policy". The Council has endorsed the Commission's conclusions and indeed encourages "a more result-oriented policy" [Draft Council Conclusions of the Presidency of 28 May 2010 on the Strategic Report of 2010 by the Commission on the Implementation of the Cohesion Policy Programmes (Council Doc. No 10342/10)].

In this context, the main aim of the hearing is to explore with experts from academia and regional and national authorities different options on how to put more emphasis on performance, results and impact in the context of Cohesion Policy and of the delivery system of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund, debating the way in which Cohesion Policy has been implemented so far and how it should be implemented in the future, in view of the foreseen review of the relevant legal instruments.

The following experts have been invited to this hearing:

- Mr. Burt Perrin, independent consultant (Results Oriented Consultation in Planning, Research and Evaluation); former Vice President of the International Organisation for Cooperation in Evaluation and Secretary-General of the European Evaluation Society;
- Professor Dr. Gerhard Untiedt, Director of GEFRA (Gesellschaft für Finanz- und Regionalanalysen), Münster and Technical-University Clausthal-Zellerfeld;
- Ms. Elena Tagliani, Official (Unit Forward Studies and Cross-Sector policies, DG Territorial planning and Agreements, International and European relations, Emilia-Romagna Region);
- Mr. Aleksandrs Antonovs, Deputy State Secretary (Ministry of Finance, Riga, Latvia);
- Mr Bas van den Barg, Senior Policy Officer Province of Utrecht, the Netherlands; Spokesman Dossier the Future of Cohesion Policy Association of Netherlands Provinces (IPO)/House of the Dutch Provinces.



PART II

Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meetings held on 12 April 2011

1. Mandate for the Trilogue on the 2012 Draft Budget (Point 4 of the draft agenda)

The Rapporteur presented the opinion on the BUDG resolution on the mandate for the trilogue on the 2012 draft budget, whose drafting was decided during the Committee meeting held in March.

Mr. Surján articulated the opinion around five main points that reflect the concerns on the future of the Cohesion Policy. In particular, he drew attention on how, even if the purposes of the EU2020 Strategy are similar, the importance of Cohesion Policy has to be fully confirmed.

In the following exchange of views, Members welcomed this position, and suggested to include some references to fund reserves for new recipient regions, and an increase of pilot projects, however the Rapporteur underlined the need for more information before addressing these subjects, concluding with a specification on the timing of the procedure.

2. Exchange of views with Mr. Razvan Murgeanu, State Secretary of the Romanian Ministry of Regional Development on the implementation of EU Cohesion Policy in Romania, and on the report of the visit of a REGI delegation to Romania from 3 to 5 November 2010 (Point 5 of the draft agenda)

Minister Udrea had to cancel her participation and was replaced by Mr. Razvan Murgeanu, State Secretary of the Romanian Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism.

Mr Murgenau briefed Members about the implementation of the policy in Romania, reporting on the efforts to increase the low absorption rate. It was explained that the country put a rigorous action plan in place, and created a body to monitor its implementation. Emphasis was put on increasing the administrative capacity of public bodies and beneficiaries, and on improving control and audit activities.

Members regretted that the Minister was absent from the meeting, and expressed their

concern about the implementation in Romania, despite the efforts made so far, underlining that problems in one country can negatively affect the future of Cohesion Policy itself. The key conclusions of the REGI delegation included the need to keep the know-how in public bodies, to implement administrative reform and to seek technical assistance from the European Commission.

3. Votes

- **European broadband – Investing in digitally driven growth (Point 6 of the draft agenda)** (2010/2304(INI))
Rapporteur: Sabine Verheyen (PPE)
The opinion was adopted by 38 votes in favour, 1 against and 0 abstentions.
- **The future for social services of general interest (Point 7 of the draft agenda)** (2009/2222(INI))
Rapporteur: Luís Paulo Alves (S&D)
The opinion was adopted by 37 votes in favour, 4 against and 0 abstentions.
- **The CAP towards 2020: Meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future (Point 8 of the draft agenda)** (2011/2051(INI))
Rapporteur: Czesław Adam Siekierski (PPE)
The opinion was adopted by 40 votes in favour, 1 against and 0 abstentions.
- **Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond (Point 9 of the draft agenda)** (2011/2034(INI))
Draftsperson: Joachim Zeller (PPE)
The opinion was adopted by 40 votes in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.
- **European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union (Point 10 of the draft agenda)** (2010/0374(COD))
Draftsperson: Danuta Maria Hübner (PPE)
The opinion was adopted by 40 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

4. European Urban Agenda and its Future in Cohesion Policy (Point 11 of the draft agenda)

The Rapporteur, Mr. Vlasák, started the discussion on the draft report underlining the need of synergies between the development of urban and rural areas, and how, seeing as cities are an important platform for achieving the EU2020 strategy objectives, they need a stronger mandate. He then summarized the content of the report, which states the need for the modernization of infrastructure, particularly as regards ITC, and the importance of improving quality of life in cities, as well as addressing the increase in unemployment and crime rates. Furthermore, it contains a clear appeal to make it obligatory for Member States to involve cities and local government representatives in the definition of the policies that directly address them.

In the following discussion some Members highlighted other points that need to be dealt with in the report, including the problems related to large conurbation, the need for clearer functional definitions of urban areas and the social role of cities. The Rapporteur, acknowledging length constraints, noted that not all the relevant topics are included in the

5. Amendment of Decision 2004/162/EC as regards the products that may benefit from exemption from or a reduction in dock dues (Point 12 of the draft agenda)

The Rapporteur introduced the discussion on the opinion drawing a storyline of the evolution of dock dues since their introduction.

Dock dues are, for the regions concerned, one of the main entries in their budgets, but there are currently special arrangements allowing the outermost regions to exempt local products for promoting the economy. As the Rapporteur underlined, dock dues represent a crucial resource for these regions, which are financing measures for development, and he suggested to make these arrangements permanent in order to ensure more stability. Under the current situation, they need to be reapproved every year.

6. Specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union (Point 13 of the draft agenda)

Mr. Hoarau underlined how thirty years have been necessary to define a specific legal framework to address the needs of these territories, recognizing the fact that having unique conditions allows for unique measures to be implemented. Agriculture is a key factor in these areas, both for growth and food security, and is therefore important to enhance the level of food self-sufficiency, and allows for increasing the amount of home-grown product over the imported ones. Furthermore, he highlighted how traditional sectors should be supported and not replaced with other productions, however he wanted to ensure a more equal distribution of profits among the different stages of the value chain.

Finally, the Rapporteur reassured that the REGI Committee has a prominent role in the subject, in response to some competence issues raised by the other Members.

7. Exchange of views with Mr Tamás Fellegi, Minister of National Development acting as President-in-Office of the Council, on the Council's debate on the European Commission Fifth Cohesion Report (Point 15 of the draft agenda)

Mr Fellegi briefly explained the Council Conclusions together with the Conclusions of a High level Conference on cohesion policy organised by the Hungarian Presidency in Budapest, 31 March-1st April. He highlighted the need to align cohesion policy with the EU2020 strategy, to pursue simplification, and to take territorial aspects into account also through the revised Territorial Agenda. He stressed that budget lines should not be tied in to thematic priorities, and that, on the other hand, thematic concentration is welcome in cohesion policy.

Members discussed conditionality, macroeconomic sanctions, macroregions, eligibility indicators, integrated approaches and the new idea of intermediate regions with the Minister. The Minister confirmed that the policy should have at least the same financial allocation as in the present period, agreed to conditionality measures and intermediate regions.

The Chair praised the good cooperation with the Hungarian presidency and congratulated them on their effort to raise the profile of the policy in the Council, commenting that it is unprecedented that, at this stage of the negotiations on the future, the General Affairs Council has already adopted conclusions.

8. The EC 5th Cohesion Report and the Strategy for the post-2013 Cohesion Policy (Point 16 of the draft agenda)

The Rapporteur, Mr. Pieper, highlighted the main contents of his report, starting with a confirmation of the Cohesion Policy effectiveness. In fact, he believes that the introduction of the new category of intermediate regions, proposed by the Commission, can hinder the possibility to use the cross cutting approach among better-off and poorer regions, which proved to be very successful until now. In addition, he underlined the need for enhancing the added value of the policy, mainly through the internal market mechanisms that can properly work only when European legislation functions. Therefore, the Rapporteur strongly sustains the Commission's efforts to link funding to the respect of conditions, for example, in public procurement. Furthermore, he agrees to a shift towards a more performance oriented approach, recognizing the need for measuring progress through indicators, but they have to reflect the European areas of competence, and not interfere with the subsidiarity principle. Finally, Mr. Pieper, addressing the future of Cohesion Policy, stressed how important it is to focus on the weaker regions, leaving that Community Initiatives deal with objectives such as globalization, and allowing a multi-fund approach in order to deliver tangible outputs of EU interventions.

In the following discussion, firstly the floor was taken by a representative of the Committee of Regions, who underlined the differences with their report, in which it is stated that Cohesion Policy should be available for all the regions that want to develop because there are territories stagnating for structural reasons if their GDP is 75% above the EU average. He furthermore expressed doubts on conditionality and a more performance oriented system, as they can negatively affect the local level for shortfalls of which it is not directly responsible for.

There were several Members contributions to the debate, reflecting the different positions on some of the most controversial issues-mainly the introduction of the new intermediate group of regions and the rules that should govern this category.

9. Gender Mainstreaming in the EU Cohesion Policy (Point 17 of the draft agenda)

The Committee on Regional Development held a Public Hearing with the following panelists:

- **Britt-Marie Söderberg Torstensson** – Winnet Sweden/Europe - Winnet 8 Responsible for Communication and dissemination
- **Ewa Ruminska-Zimny** – Warsaw School of Economics, former Head of the UN Programme on Gender and Economy, UNECE
- **Anne-Charlott Callerstig** – European Community of Practice on Gender Mainstreaming
- with the participation of **Mikel Landabaso**, Head of the Unit "Thematic coordination, innovation" at European Commission DG REGIO

The invited participants gave an overview of the key issues at stake, highlighting good examples and platforms of action on gender issues, and mentioning that, in order to reach the EU2020 employment targets, women have to be mobilised in the labour market. Gender issues need active steering and support, and countries such as Spain, Finland, Poland and Portugal were cited as good examples. Article 16 of the General Regulation gives the basis for gender issues in cohesion policy implementation, but Members considered that it should be

reinforced in the future. The high level group, created by the Commission, offering a platform for exchange of best practices among Member States was welcomed. Ms Elisabeth Schroedter, MEP responsible for gender mainstreaming in REGI, formulated some recommendations with regard to cohesion policy post 2013, emphasising gender budgeting within OPs, full mainstreaming of gender issues, the development of general indicators, training for administrations and strengthening of the partnership principle.

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:

4 May	Szczecin, PL	The President of the City of Szczecin	European Territorial Cooperation in the future cohesion policy 2014-2020
8 May	Innsbruck, AUT	European Prize for Regional and Local Politics	Ms Huebner will receive the Emperor-Maximilian-Prize 2011 for "outstanding achievements in the regional policy"
17 May	Katowice, PL	European Economic Congress	Discussion panel: "EU Funds and regional development"
19 May	Godollo, HU	the Hungarian EU Presidency	Informal Ministerial Meeting on Territorial Cohesion and Cohesion Policy

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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:

31 May	Brussels	Conference on "Every European Digital. The Challenge of Bridging the broadband gap"	Introduction as a moderator of the Conference and the closure - conclusions. "Importance of broadband for regional development".
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3 June	Warsaw, PL	Scandinavian - Polish Chamber of Commerce	The Baltic Sea Region growth - how to achieve the EU 2020 goals
10 June	Warsaw, PL	Committee on Regional Development in Polish Sejm	Future regional policy in the context of MFF 2014-2020"
13 June	Warsaw, PL	Ms Bienkowska, Minister for Regional Development in PL	Meeting in the framework of the preparatin of PL Presidency

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

ESPON News

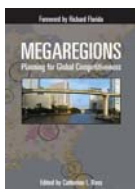
ESPON Focus on Energy: “Knowledge on Risk of Energy Poverty feeds the current political discussions in Europe”

The Japan nuclear disaster and the recent unrest in the Arab world might change the energy policies in Europe. According to the International Energy Agency, Europe receives over 85% of Libya’s crude-oil exports. Therefore, oriented policies towards clean energy supplies and sustainable energy sources become more and more urgent. ESPON provides policy makers with detailed knowledge on the development of the European territory; this is clearly reflected in the recently released [ESPON ReRisk](#) (Regions at Risk of Energy Poverty) Final Report, which puts the results of the project into an interesting policy perspective.

Speaking to the ESPON Coordination Unit, policy makers emphasized the ways they can make use of the findings from the ReRisk Project while scientists highlighted evidence and scenarios on the impact of rising energy prices. Read the interview at the [ESPON Website](#).

Library News

Publications



Megaregions: planning for global competitiveness / by Catherine Laverne Ross. Washington, DC: Island Press, c2009. 307 p.

This title discusses planning for a future to respond to global challenges at the megaregional scale. The concept of 'the city' - as well as 'the state' and 'the nation state' - is passe, agree contributors to this insightful book. The new scale for considering economic strength and growth opportunities is 'the megaregion', a network of metropolitan centres and their surrounding areas that are spatially and functionally linked through environmental, economic and infrastructure interactions. Recently a great deal of attention has been focused on the emergence of the European Union and on European spatial planning, which has boosted the region's competitiveness. "Megaregions" applies these emerging concepts in an American context. (Available in the Library - make a reservation [here](#))



Regional studies / Regional Studies Association, monthly

Regional Studies is an international journal in theoretical development, empirical analysis and policy debate in the multi- and inter-disciplinary field of regional studies. It contains: high-quality research, critical surveys, policy debates and special thematic issues. (Available in the Library - see catalogue entry [here](#))

Selected articles from vol. 45, no 5, May 2011:

Financial Accountability and European Union Cohesion Policy / by Sara Davies and Laura Polverari, pp. 695-706 ([full text](#) - click on IP authentication)

Globalization and Competitive Strategies in European Vulnerable Regions / by Antonio Affuso, Roberta Capello and Ugo Fratesi, pp. 657-675 ([full text](#) - click on IP authentication)



European Planning Studies, monthly

European Planning Studies focus upon specific spatial development problems, as well as emerging explanations of new urban, regional, national or supranational developmental tendencies.

Selected articles from vol. 19, issue 5, May 2011:

Polycentricity: An Issue in Local Development Strategies? Findings from the Baltic Sea Region /by Niels Boje Groth, Søren Smidt-Jensen and Thomas Alexander Sick Nielsen, pp. 727 - 751([abstract](#); for the full text please contact the [Library](#))

Planning at the National Level in Europe in Relation to Major Infrastructure / by Tim Marshall, pp. 887 - 905 ([abstract](#); for the full text please contact the [Library](#))

Latest analysis



[Regions and Innovation Policy](#) / OECD, May 2011

This book addresses the needs of national and regional governments for greater clarity on how to strengthen the innovation capacity of regions. The first part of the book examines strategies, policies and governance, explaining why regions matter, what makes smart policy mixes, and multilevel governance. The second part of the book looks at agencies, instruments and country information, showing how agencies can maximize their impact and what policy instruments work. The final chapter provides country-by-country summaries of what countries are doing.



[OECD Urban Policy Reviews Poland](#), 2011

This comprehensive review of urban policy in Poland looks at the urban system and the challenges it faces, national policies for urban development in Poland, and adapting governance for a national urban policy agenda.



[EU subnational governments: 2009 key figures](#) / CEMR and Dexia, 2010-2011 edition

The Dexia/CEMR key figures includes key indicators on local and regional government, such as socio-economic data, the number of sub-national governments, average municipal size, public sector expenditure, revenue, budget balance and debt, as well as the allocation of EU structural and cohesion funds, a calendar of local and regional elections, and the number of twinning links in the EU.