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# REGI News

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*Newsletter from the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development*

*VII Legislature N. 15 - 23 November 2010*



## ***Meeting on***

***Tuesday 30 November 2010 (9.00 - 12.30 & 15.00 - 18.30)***

***Wednesday 1st December 2010 (9.00 - 12.30)***

***PHS 3 C 50***

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<i>Comments and subscriptions at</i> <a href="mailto:IP-REGI@europarl.europa.eu"><u>IP-REGI@europarl.europa.eu</u></a>	



## **PART I**

*Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI Committee meeting on 30 November and 1st December 2010*

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. EU strategy on Roma inclusion (Point 4 of the draft agenda)**

The Europe wide problem of integrating marginalised communities is particularly acute when dealing with the Roma. In his opinion Mr Kovatchev calls on Member States to use the possibilities offered by the provisions of Regulation 437/2010 which permit the use of up to 3% of ERDF allocations to specific programmes or 2% of the overall allocated budget for the rehabilitation of housing for the benefit of marginalised communities. He also recommends that the allocation of new housing to these groups be conditional on their undertaking certain social commitments such as ensuring school attendance by their children or again accepting jobs and integrating the work force.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Andrey Kovatchev	Exchange of views:
Responsible administrator: Christian Chopin	Consideration of draft opinion: 30/11/2010
Procedure: COM/2010/0133	Adoption REGI:
Main committee: LIBE	Adoption in LIBE:
	Plenary:

### **2. Exchange of views with Mr Mikel Landabaso, Head of the Unit "Thematic Coordination & Innovation", DG REGIO, European Commission, on the EC Communication on "Contribution of Cohesion Policy to Smart Growth" (Point 5 of the draft agenda)**

Mr Mikel Landabaso will discuss the EC Communication on Contribution of Cohesion Policy to Smart growth, published 6 October 2010 and setting out the role of Regional

Policy in implementing the Europe 2020 strategy, in the area of smart growth and in particular the flagship initiative, "Innovation Union" (This Communication complements the one on the Innovation Union). This Communication calls on Member States and regions to help attain the smart growth objectives of Europe 2020 through Regional Policy and its funding, the ERDF. Suggestions are made on ways of building on regional diversity and ensuring an efficient use of scarce resources by exploiting synergies between funding sources and between the research and innovation systems in different regions.

### **3. European Year for Active Ageing (2012) (Point 6 of the draft agenda)**

The Commission's proposal on the European Year for Active Ageing (2012) falls under the ordinary legislative procedure and REGI will draft an opinion to the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

The Commission's proposal highlights the importance of promoting a healthy and active ageing population to help, among other things, achieve high-employment, invest in skills and reduce poverty. The proposed European Year for Active Ageing would encourage and support the efforts of Member States, their regional and local authorities, social partners and civil society to promote active ageing and do more to mobilise the potential of the baby boom cohorts. No additional funding is sought for the European Year.

The Draftsperson (Mr Lambert van Nistelrooij) will present his draft opinion in which he has prepared 14 amendments, aiming at the following:

- Ensuring that active ageing is firmly placed on the policy agenda, and highlighting the issue of intergenerational solidarity.
- Stressing the key role the European Year can play in supporting and leveraging local and regional projects and initiatives and ensuring that general awareness is raised in cities and regions of the Member States, as well as ensuring that initiatives will have a decentralised approach.
- Providing for accurate coordination, coherency and effectiveness through the setup of a strategic guidance on the implementation of the projects that are initiated in the light of the European Year.
- Raising awareness of the importance of ICT technologies development, which can effectively respond to the challenges of an ageing society.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Lambert van Nistelrooij	Exchange of views: 28/10/2010
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Consideration of draft opinion: 30/11/2010
Procedure: <a href="#">2010/0242(COD)</a> - REGI/7/03712	Adoption REGI: 26-27/01/2011
	Adoption in EMPL: 02-03/2011 (tbc)
	Plenary: 03-04/2011 (tbc)

### **4. Follow-up of the Peace programme for Ireland (Point 7 of the draft agenda)**

Whilst so far the Peace programme has been successful and has achieved much progress, clearly the situation in Northern Ireland remains fragile and work remains to be done. The economic downturn and the loss of jobs fuels frustration and with it flame of

discontent. In the Northern Irish context this can easily spill over into violence. The need for a Peace programme 4 is widely recognised, it is however for the Member States to decide if, given the need for financial rigour, the resources required can be made available. The European Commission will present to the Committee the latest developments and the implementation of the Peace Programme.

**5. Exchange of views with the European Commission on the Question for written answer P-7842/2010 to the Commission by Mr Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE) on "Follow-up to parliamentary question on job losses at Twinings, Hampshire, UK" (Point 8 of the draft agenda)**

Mr Taylor (Greens/ALE-UK) presented a written question (see below) on the possible use of EU cohesion funds to "delocalise" employments, in this particular case from UK to Poland:

[P-7842/2010](#)

*Parliamentary Question E-2295/10, tabled by my predecessor Caroline Lucas MEP in April 2010 on the issue of 'job losses at Twinings, Hampshire, UK', asked the Commission to confirm whether the company Twinings was, or would be, in receipt of EU funding for the building of a new factory in Poland or the subsequent planned creation of new jobs there. Ms Lucas' motivation for writing was her concern that EU grants to Poland were being used specifically to encourage businesses such as Twinings to relocate there from other Member States, with a subsequent loss of jobs in those Member States, including the UK. I share this concern.*

*In its response of 28 May 2010, the Commission explained that it had been informed by the Polish authorities responsible that a subsidiary of R. Twining and Co. had indeed applied for funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the 'Innovative Economy' programme. The application had been made, under the heading of 'support for investments in the production sector', for an investment in Swarzędz, in the Wielkopolska Voivodship, with co-financing from public funds (ERDF and state budget) amounting to some EUR 10 400 439.*

*Despite the fact that, under ERDF conditions, the Polish authorities should have requested an assurance from Twinings that the funding would not be used to support investments entailing the relocation of production or service facilities from another Member State, this assurance was never obtained.*

*The Commission then committed itself to seeking formal guarantees from the Polish authorities that EU support for the subsidiary of R. Twining and Co. would not be used in this way.*

*Can the Commission state whether this guarantee has been obtained and where the process is now (as of 28 May 2010, the project had been accepted, but not yet signed). If a guarantee has not been obtained, I would be grateful if the Commission could let me know why this is the case.*

On 27 October 2010 the EC sent the following response:

*The Commission was informed by the Polish managing authority that the contract for support was signed on 4 October 2010. Total value of the project amounts to 174.5 MPLN*

(ca. EUR 43 million) of which 48.4 MPLN (ca. EUR 12 million) of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) support. The support was contracted under the Priority axis 4: Investments in innovative undertakings of the operational programme 'Innovative Economy'.

The Commission is currently analysing the situation and the Honourable Member will be informed of the results of this enquiry.

Following this response Mr Taylor requested following Rule 117 that this point be placed in the agenda of the REGI committee. The purpose of this is to listen from the EC an explanation to the issue and, eventually, undertake the pertinent measures.

## **6. Europe, the world's n° 1 tourist destination - A new political framework for tourism in Europe (Point 9 of the draft agenda)**

Tourism is an economic activity capable of generating growth and employment in the EU. With some 1.8 million businesses, primarily SMEs, employing approximately 5.2 % of the total workforce, the European tourism industry generates over 5 % of EU GDP, a figure which is steadily rising. Observing the trend over the last ten years, growth in employment in the tourism sector has almost always been more pronounced than in the rest of the economy. In addition, the EU remains the world's favourite tourist destination, with 370 million international tourist arrivals in 2008, or 40 % of arrivals around the world.

However, European tourism has faced difficult times. Firstly, the economic and financial crisis affecting all economies since 2008 has had a considerable effect on demand for tourism services. The difficulties have been aggravated by the eruption of the Eyjafjöll volcano. This difficult background for the tourism industry has highlighted a number of challenges which the European tourism sector must face.

With this Communication, the Commission intends to encourage a coordinated approach for initiatives linked to tourism and define a new framework for action to increase its competitiveness and its capacity for sustainable growth. It therefore proposes a number of European or multinational initiatives aimed at achieving these objectives, drawing in full on the Union's competence in the field of tourism as introduced by the Lisbon Treaty.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Salvatore Caronna	Exchange of views: 30/11/2010
Responsible administrator: Monika Makay	Consideration of draft opinion: 26-27/01/2011 (tbc)
Procedure: 2010/2206(INI)	Planned deadline for Ams:
Lead Committee: TRAN Rapporteur: c. Fidanza	Planned adoption REGI: 28/02/2011 (tbc)
	Planned adoption TRAN: March 2011 (tbc)
	Planned plenary:

## **7. Objective 3: A challenge for territorial cooperation - Future agenda for cross-border, interregional and neighbourhood cooperation (Point 10 of the draft agenda)**

European Territorial Cooperation is one of 3 objectives of the EU Cohesion Policy (alongside "Convergence" and "Competitiveness"). This Objective plays a crucial role in the "ever closer union" by reducing barriers between territories and regions to enable

them to face together common challenges. Objective 3 targets all the EU's regions, with a funding of 8.5 billion euros, and its potential in bringing together people represents a truly European added value. During 26-27 October Committee meeting the rapporteur, Ms Sanchez-Schmid presented the Working Document in which she raised important questions about its definition and scope, the architecture of the objectives of cohesion policy as well as the design within the objective, about the funding of the objectives, the need for new forms of cooperation and partnerships across regional and national borders such as macro-regional cooperation, the alignment with the EU2020 Strategy, the specific questions concerning the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) regulation, the implementation of the territorial cooperation objective. In order to bring in some theoretical and practical insights into the discussion on the future design of Objective 3, the rapporteur has invited experts for the second exchange of views with the REGI Members. The main question for the discussion is **what should be our future ambitions for the territorial cooperation?**

The following experts will present their views on the subject of this report:

- **Martin GUILLERMO-RAMIREZ**, the Secretary General of the Association of European Border Regions. The AEBR is the oldest regional Association in Europe (founded in 1971), with more than one hundred member regions (border and cross-border regions) in Europe
- **Prof. Charles RICQ-CHAPPUIS**, Scientific Director of COEUR (Observation Centre of the European Regions at Geneva University)

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid	Consideration of working document: 28/10/2010
Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring	Consideration of draft report: 26-27/01/2011
Procedure: 2010/2155(INI)	Adoption REGI: 22/03/2011 (tbc)
	Plenary: 04-05/2010 (tbc)

## **8. GDP and beyond - Measuring progress in a changing world (Point 11 of the draft agenda)**

In his draft opinion, the Rapporteur welcomed the Commission's intention to adopt indicators complementary to GDP. He deemed this indicator indispensable but insufficient for the assessment of the regions' development and the overall design of cohesion policies.

The draft opinion underlined the relevance of environmental sustainability and social equity factors, which should be put at the same level of economic criteria.

Accordingly, the Rapporteur called on the Commission to give priority to the setting of complementary social and environmental indicators, proposing that these be applied both to the classification of regions and to the definition of their eligibility to obtain support from the funds.

A considerable number of amendments (93) were tabled to this draft opinion which was initially scheduled to be voted on 28 October 2010. Due to a rather complex and heterogeneous set of amendments and to the lack of agreement between the relevant actors on these, the coordinators decided to postpone the vote to a later meeting.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Jean-Paul Besset	Consideration of draft opinion: 28/09/2010
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Deadline for Ams: 05/10/2010
Procedure: 2010/2088(INI)	Adoption REGI: <u>postponed to 30/11/2010</u>
Lead Committee: ENVI Rapporteur: A. Rosbach	Planned adoption ENVI: postponed to end of January
	Planned plenary: tbc

### **9. An EU Strategy for the Black Sea (Point 12 of the draft agenda)**

In his opinion which was presented during 26-27 October meeting the draftsman stresses the need to fully involve all the countries concerned in the Strategy, without distinction between EU and non-EU countries and calls for cooperation between all the relevant regions, through the involvement of existing organizations such as the BSEC, the PABSEC and the Commission on the Black Sea, but also through the creation of new ones. Furthermore he encourages the development of an integrated approach and the use of the well-established principles of the EU Cohesion Policy such as cross-border cooperation between regions. The opinion stresses the importance of coordination of infrastructure projects in the fields of energy and transport as well as finding common solutions for dealing with potential environmental disasters or technical accidents in the region.

On 30 November the REGI committee will vote on 44 amendments and some compromise amendments tabled to this opinion. The vote in the main committee is tabled for 9 December.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Victor Boștinăru	Consideration of draft opinion: 28/10/2010
Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring	Planned deadline for Ams: 09/11/2010
Procedure: 2010/2087(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 30/11/2010
Lead Committee : AFET - Rapporteur: T. Ungureanu	Planned adoption in AFET: 09/12/2010
	Planned plenary: 01/2011

### **10. The implementation of the Services Directive 2006/123/EC (Point 13 of the draft agenda)**

In her draft opinion, Ms. Hyusmenova underlined the great potential of the Services Directive for the relaunch and the reinforcement of the internal market and for growth and competitiveness, further highlighting the potential of the IMI and the PSCs for the improvement and possibly of extension/deepening of the interoperability and networking between regional and local authorities.

Furthermore, the draftswoman expressed her hopes for a quick achievement of the objectives of the Directive, underlining the role of the structural funds in this respect and calling for greater coherence and coordination between policies, also demanding for a close monitoring by the Commission of the impact of the Directive.

31 amendments were tabled to this opinion and a set of compromise amendments may possibly be put forward before the vote on 30 November.



<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Filiz Hakaeva Hyusmenova	Consideration of draft opinion: 28/09/2010
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Deadline for Ams: 09/11/2010
Procedure: 2010/2053(INI)	Adoption REGI: 30/11/2010
Lead Committee: IMCO - Rapporteur E. Gebhardt	Planned adoption in IMCO: 10/01/2011 (tbc)
	Planned plenary: February 2011 (tbc)

## **11. An Industrial Policy for the Globalised Era (Point 14 of the draft agenda)**

With the EU 2020 Strategy the Commission acknowledged the importance of an active industrial policy for sustainable growth and employment in Europe and is due to adopt a Communication entitled "An Industrial Policy for the Globalised Era" in October. The EP Committee on Industry, Research and Energy drafted an own-initiative report with the same title.

In his draft opinion the draftsman highlights that the new integrated industrial policy shall deal with the extent to which Community policies are adapted to future challenges that European regions and their local industries are facing and will face in the coming years. Furthermore, it should focus primarily on an enhanced approach toward SMEs as the key to territorial cohesion. He underlines that research and innovation is a need shared by the whole spectrum of industry, and is of the opinion that the EU's various instruments for cohesion, research and innovation should be implemented in an integrated manner to ensure their effectiveness; he also calls for an increased budget for these financial instruments. He notes that research and innovation is most effectively addressed at regional level in the proximity of actors such as universities, public research organisations and industry. In this context he calls on the Commission to invest in innovation clusters and networks, through enhanced cooperation with the European Investment Bank and within the framework of a permanent industrial policy task force. Finally, he highlights the regional differences in industrial development and calls for these too to be fully incorporated into the new sustainable industry policy.

51 amendments have been tabled to this report. The vote is planned to take place on 30 November.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Francesco De Angelis	Consideration of draft opinion: 28/10/2010
Responsible administrator: Monika Makay	Planned deadline for Ams: 09/11/2010
Procedure: 2010/2095(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 30/11/2010
Lead Committee: ITRE - Rapporteur B. Lange	Planned adoption in ITRE: 02/12/2011 (tbc)
	Planned plenary: 17/01/2011 (tbc)

## **12. Follow-up of the visit of a REGI delegation to France in April 2010: Exchange of views with representatives of the Association of Clichy-Sous-Bois on urban and housing issues (Point 15 of the draft agenda)**

On Ms Delli's request and as a sort of follow-up of the REGI's delegation to France, the committee will receive representatives from associations of Clichy-Sous-Bois, a difficult

and deprived area near Paris. The purpose of the Delegation to France was to monitor the implementation of cohesion policy in some French cities and to visit concrete examples of the implementation of ERDF and ESF programmes in local urban communities. The presence today of these representatives of different associations very active in the community will allow the committee to have first hand information from urban areas which was not possible to visit during that delegation.

### **13. State of play and future synergies for increased effectiveness between ERDF and other Structural Funds (Point 17 of the draft agenda)**

In order to open the discussion on the Report's subject within the Committee, the Rapporteur will present a working document that intends to expose the main elements of the debate at stake.

The working document, while setting the legal and institutional framework of the subject, presents the Committee the main lines along which the Rapporteur considers that further coordination and consistency between the action of the several cohesion instruments and policies is needed, namely in view of an efficient implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The Rapporteur wants special attention to be given to the separation of the EAFRD from the general framework of the Structural Funds, as there is conflicting evidence on the ground concerning the efficiency and assessment of this separation.

The current crisis/post-crisis juncture is two-fold: it makes the need for further coordination greater than ever due to shrinking budgets, but, in the Rapporteur's view, constitutes also an opportunity to achieve deeper synergies between policies and instruments aiming at greater strategic efficiency.

Three speakers were invited by the Rapporteur to participate in this first exchange of views, in order to present the Committee an overview of their experience on the ground as regards the relationship between the various EU structural and cohesion policies and instruments, their coordination and aggregated impact and effectiveness:

- **Jan Maarten de Vet:** Director of ECORYS Brussels Office;
- **Norbert Heller:** head of Managing Authority (MA) of Saxony-Anhalt;
- **Serafin Pazos-Vidal:** Head of COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) Brussels Office.

Speakers will deal with specified issues, by providing data and evidence on:

- The merits of integrated planning, focusing mostly on the urban dimension of Cohesion Policy and the opportunities/missed changes for synergies and coordination with the other funds;
- ERDF, ESF, EARDF/EAGFF and Urban development synergies', exposing examples, lessons learnt and problems faced on the ground;
- The difficulties with which stakeholders are confronted at local level when it comes to the implementation of Structural Funds and complementarities with rural development, highlighting the potential benefits of increased synergies at local level.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Georgios Stavrakakis	Exchange of views: 01/12/2010 (debate with guest speakers)
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Consideration of draft report: 26-27/01/2011 (tbc)
Procedure: 2010/2160(INI)	Planned deadline for Ams: 04/02/2011 (tbc)
	Planned adoption REGI: 28/02/2011 (tbc)
	Planned plenary: March 2011 (tbc)

#### **14. Public hearing on "The place of Europe's towns and cities in Cohesion Policy" (Point 18 of the draft agenda)**

The European Parliament and the European Commission share the view that, given the facts that 80% of Europeans live in cities and that towns are the seat of most centres of research, Universities and industrial and commercial companies, it is towns and cities which will be the motors of European economic recovery and reconstruction. Whilst facing the challenges of the global financial and economic downturn, Europe must re-orient its economic activity away from a carbon based power source and towards a sustainable, clean, revitalised knowledge based economy which will maintain a preeminent place on the world stage. In this context the committee has invited representatives of the European Commission, the Committee of European Regions and two eminent professors from Budapest and Prague Universities to discuss innovative ideas in regional development terms, for assuming these revolutionary tasks under the current rigorous budgetary constraints.

#### *Draft Programme*

**10:00 - 10:10 Evaluation of the Urban community initiative 2000-2006**

**Mr Daniel Mouqué - European Commission DG REGIO**

Evaluation offices of the Urban community initiative

**10:10 - 10:20 Mr Patrick Salez - European Commission DG REGIO**

Policy Coordinator Urban development Territorial Cohesion

**10:20 - 10:30 Mr Paul Bevan - Eurocities actions - present and future strategy**

Secretary General of Eurocities - Present and future actions of a regional policy driven by the vigour and resources of its towns and cities

**10:30 - 10:40 Professor Ludek Sýkora from Charles University Prague**

The role of cities in responding to major challenges faced by European society and conditions that cities need for successful response to these challenges

**10:40 - 10:50 Professor Ivan Tosics of the Metropolitan Research Institute, Budapest**

**10:50 - 11:00 Mr Michel Delebarre President COTER and Mayor of Dunkerque (tbc)**

**11:00- 11:45 Debate with Members of the committee**

**15. Exchange of views with Mr Rudolf Niessler, Director, European Commission, DG REGIO, Policy Coordination Director, on the EU Cohesion Policy response to the economic crisis (Point 19 of the draft agenda)**

The biggest economic crisis since the 1930s has had a major impact on the economies of EU Member States. GDP has declined, many businesses are struggling, unemployment has risen sharply. The EU responded with the European Economic Recovery Plan, which encouraged Member States to provide a fiscal stimulus to their economies. Cohesion Policy – designed to help the disadvantaged regions and communities of the EU – has made an important contribution to the Recovery Plan.

The European Parliament, following the position adopted at the REGI Committee, requested the European Commission to come back to Parliament after a year with an evaluation of the impact of the measures adopted.

On the 25th of October 2010 the Commission adopted a Staff Working Paper: ‘Cohesion Policy: Responding to the economic crisis’. A review of the implementation of cohesion policy measures adopted in support of the European Economic Recovery Plan (SEC(2010) 1291).

Mr Rudolf Niessler, the Director of the Policy Coordination in DG REGIO, is going to present measures that have been taken through a series of amending regulations in response to the economic crisis and the role of cohesion policy instruments in the recovery and growth of the European Economy.



## **PART II**

*Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meetings held on 27 and 28 October 2010*

### **1. Exchange of views with Mr Rosen Plevneliev, Bulgarian Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, on the implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in Bulgaria (Point 4 of the draft agenda)**

Bulgaria is the Member State with the lowest per capita revenue and one of the biggest beneficiaries of the Union's cohesion policy. In the years to come it will be very much scrutinised not only to find out how actually European monies are used but also to check and evaluate the added value of Structural Funds funding, the real contribution of EU cohesion policy to the economic integration and sustainability of its economy. Mr Rosen Plevneliev, *Minister of Regional Development and Public Works of Bulgaria* has asked to present his country's experiences so far with the EU Cohesion Fund to the Regional committee.

In his introductory speech Mr. Plevneliev admitted that Bulgaria has a lot of difficulties in implementing of the projects supported by the Cohesion Fund and the Structural Funds. At the same time he underlined that they have a detailed action plan for solving the problems and a new project pipeline. In addition they set up a special coordination unit. He stressed that Bulgaria became more transparent and the communication improved significantly. After Mr. Plevneliev's introduction an exchange of views with questions and answers followed. Members raised questions inter alia concerning the visibility of results, the third Danube bridge, administrative capacity, public tendering process and cross-border cooperation.

### **2. Public Hearing on Innovation, SMEs and Cohesion Policy (Point 5 of the draft agenda)**

In the context of the works on the future Cohesion Policy, the Committee on Regional Development held a Public Hearing on "Innovation, SMEs and Cohesion Policy". This public hearing intended to debate the role of innovation for generating growth in the regions with focus on the SMEs role in this process. The main aim of the hearing was to present the role that Cohesion Policy plays in supporting innovation in the SMEs in the present financing period and to discuss the possibilities of Cohesion Policy for supporting the innovative capacity of SMEs in the post 2013 period.

The following experts took part in the REGI hearing:

- **Mr John Walsh**, European Commission, Thematic coordination, innovation
- **Mr Hubert Delorme**, The European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (UEAPME)
- **Mr Paul Nijskens**, NV REWIN West-Brabant, regional development authority, Netherlands
- **Ms Aida Catana**, European Project Consulting, Romania
- **Mr Helmut Jäger**, Solvis (company for solar energy), Germany.

Mr John Walsh from the European Commission presented the ways the EU Cohesion policy can support innovation in the SMEs and the available data on the allocation of the Regional Policy support in the present programming period.

Mr Hubert Delorme from the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (UEAPME) presented priorities for the new Innovation Strategy from the micro-enterprise- point of view. Among the main policy recommendations that should be taken into consideration to exploit SMEs capacity to innovate is that the existing financial support instruments at European level have to be streamlined and better coordinated. Furthermore, the development of new financial instruments, which are able to carry risks better like Mezzanine Instruments, will be necessary to ensure financing of innovation in future, also any financial instrument for SMEs has to be adapted to their needs and must be made attractive.

Mr Paul Nijskens from REWIN West-Brabant presented the Southwest Netherlands' experience with designing a strategic regional agenda including stimulating SMEs in the selected priority sectors to organise innovation through collaboration between businesses and centres of expertise. One of his recommendations was to take the step from individual project support to supporting a strategic approach, one drawn up by the region itself. In addition there should also be sufficient funds available for the organisational task, as carried out by REWIN.

Ms Aida Catana from the European Project Consulting, Romania, dedicated her presentation to the local and regional authorities and SMEs problems in accessing Structural Funds and their capacities to develop strategies and programmes including innovation as a main component. The Convergence regions, and especially those in the EU-12, have a serious deficit in transport infrastructure. The major interest of the local and regional authorities is in this field. In this context, it is essential to have a clear idea about what 'innovation' means for local and regional authorities. The capacity of the local and regional authorities to develop partnerships with universities and research institutes is another issue to be analysed for SMEs and intermediaries.

The last presentation by Mr Helmut Jäger, the founder of an innovative SME: Solvis (company for solar energy) in Germany, illustrated a successful story from the green industry sector. Mr Jäger has pointed to the fact that many rules concerning management of the EU projects can hamper the small enterprises from applying for the EU financing.

After the presentations an exchange of views with questions and answers followed. Members raised questions inter alia concerning sleeping innovators, start-up support, role of clusters for stimulating innovation, added value of European funds, financial problems of SMEs and high-risk enterprises.

### **3. Objective 3: A challenge for territorial cooperation - Future agenda for cross-border, interregional and neighbourhood cooperation (Point 7 of the draft agenda)**

European Territorial Cooperation is one of 3 objectives of the EU Cohesion Policy (alongside "Convergence" and "Competitiveness"). This objective was established as a successor to the INTERREG Community Initiative for the 2007-2013 financial framework with the budget of EUR 7,5 billion (2,5 % of EU structural funds). It entails about 70 programmes across the EU. It is divided into three strands. The cross-border version (strand A) targets individual borders, or where several borders are interlinked. The transnational version (strand B) focuses on bigger zones or international regions, such as the Baltic Sea or the Alpine Space, and addresses correspondingly bigger problems (marine pollution, retreating snowlines). The interregional version (strand C) brings together all EU-27 Member States plus Norway and Switzerland. It builds networks to develop good practice and facilitate the dissemination of lessons and experiences by successful regions "harnessing regional development knowledge" at European level.

Today, we have entered the period of designing the future of cohesion policy after 2013 and the report on the future of Objective 3 is an important element of this process.

In the Working Document presented during the meeting, the rapporteur, Ms Sanchez-Schmid raises important questions about the definition and scope of Objective 3, the architecture of the objectives of cohesion policy as well as the design within the Objective 3. Furthermore she discusses the funding of the cohesion policy objectives, the need for new forms of cooperation and partnerships across regional and national borders such as macro-regional cooperation, the alignment with the EU2020 Strategy, the specific questions concerning the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) regulation, the implementation of the territorial cooperation objective.

In the exchange of views Members raised the possibility to include the Erasmus pilot programme for local administration within the cross-border and cross-national cooperation. Furthermore Erasmus was considered as an instrument for raising citizens' awareness about the cross-border cooperation and about the available funding. The citizens' aspect of the Working Document was highly appreciated by the Members. It was emphasised that the EGTC is still very bureaucratic, missing citizens' involvement: the Parliament should work on structures of different programmes of Objective 3 to get more involvement from the citizens. The notion of macro-regions has raised both positive and negative response. On the one hand it is essential to guarantee more place for macro-regions within Objective 3 programmes. At the same time the question was raised whether we need to introduce a separate budget line for macro-regions in the future financial perspective, or whether the EGTC could be applied for macro-regions. On the other hand it was noted that it might be dangerous to put too much emphasis on the macro-regions as there are more considerable problems and barriers in cross-border regions and macro-regions are only one aspect of the cross-border cooperation.

Furthermore, it was stressed that the European value-added is in the cross-border cooperation. The cross-border cooperation is the place where the power of Europe is the strongest, however, there are still places in Europe where there is no willingness to cooperate across the border lines. In addition it was underlined that applying the EU subsidiarity principle across the borders can bring considerable savings of resources.

#### **4. The following votes took place:**

- **Achieving real territorial, social and economic cohesion within the EU - a sine qua non condition for global competitiveness?**

Rapporteur: Petru Constantin Luhan (PPE)

The report was adopted by 38 votes in favour, 5 against and 1 abstention.

- **GDP and beyond - Measuring progress in a changing world (Point 9 of the draft agenda)**

Draftsperson: Jean-Paul Basset (Greens)

The vote was postponed.

- **State aid to facilitate the closure of uncompetitive coal mines**

Draftsperson: Jan Březina (PPE)

The opinion was adopted by 39 votes in favour, 4 against and 2 abstentions.

- **Revision of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan**

Draftsperson: Lena Kolarska-Bobińska (PPE)

The opinion was adopted by 42 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.

## **5. European Urban Agenda and its Future in Cohesion Policy (Point 12 of the draft agenda)**

Following the Leipzig charter and the Reference Framework for European Sustainable Cities, the declaration of Ministers responsible for Urban Development (Toledo, 22 June 2010) concludes among others on the need to consolidate a European urban agenda in the future.

Further to this, the urban dimension of Cohesion Policy, the role of cities in regional development and the role of local authorities in the management of funds is an important theme of the discussions on the future of Cohesion Policy.

Already during the mini-hearing in the REGI meeting in September, the Rapporteur, Mr Vlasák, presented a few issues to form the basis of the discussion, and that could be further elaborated in the report: urban challenges and core priorities of Cohesion Policy, sub-delegation and the use of global grants, partnership principle and multi-level governance in this context, financial engineering and the experience with JESSICA initiative, integrated urban development.

In the exchange of views Members appreciated the rapporteur's working document very much, agreeing with the ideas in it. At the same time they added some important aspects. It was underlined that the starting point should be the definition of terminology. Furthermore attention was drawn to the interaction among the different policy areas such as rural development, transport policy and urban policy, which should work and develop together. In addition the problems of climate change, migration to cities from peripheries and CO2 pollution were raised. It was stressed that cities should play a key role in the future cohesion policy. Local programming should be included in regional programming and procedures should be simplified. Concerning funding the question was raised whether the community approach should be followed or rather a more EIB based system. Attention was drawn also to the differences between the development of cities in the Western and Eastern part of Europe.

## **6. The implementation of the Services Directive 2006/123/EC (Point 13 of the draft agenda)**

In view of the changes in the timetable for the Report in the IMCO Committee the calendar in



REGI was suspended and the deadline for amendments was therefore not set in the meeting of 27-28 September 2010, contrary to what was initially foreseen.

The Report calendar was meanwhile confirmed by the IMCO Committee, with the adoption of the Report in that Committee taking place on 10 January 2011.

Therefore, the Rapporteur for opinion, Ms. Hyusmenova, presented once again to the Committee the main lines of her draft opinion and a deadline for amendments was set for 9 November 2010, with a view to voting in the REGI meeting of 30 November-1 December 2010, if the calendar in the lead Committee stays unmodified.

The draft opinion underlines the great potential of the Services Directive for the relaunching and reinforcement of the internal market and for growth and competitiveness. It further highlights the potential of the IMI and the PSCs for the improvement and possibly of extension/deepening of the interoperability and networking between regional and local authorities. The draftswoman, in her opinion, stated her hopes for a quick achievement of the objectives of the Directive, underlining the role of the structural funds in this respect and calling for greater coherence and coordination between policies. Furthermore, the draft opinion demands for a close monitoring by the Commission of the impact of the Directive across regions as well as of the application of the restrictions concerning the services of general economic interest.

In the exchange of views Members raised once again the problem of using the principle of multilingualism by local authorities and the danger of putting too much bureaucratic burden on the local and regional authorities.

## **7. Policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013 (Point 14 of the draft agenda)**

The SURE special committee was established by resolution of the European Parliament of 16 June 2010, with a view to:

- defining Parliament's political priorities for the post-2013 multi-annual financial framework (MFF), both in legislative terms and budgetary terms;
- estimating the financial resources necessary for the Union to attain its objectives and carry out its policies for the period starting 1 January 2014;
- defining the duration of the next MFF;
- proposing, in accordance with those priorities and objectives, a structure for the future MFF, indicating the main areas of Union activity;
- submitting guidelines for an indicative allocation of resources between and within the different headings of expenditure of the MFF in line with the priorities and proposed structure;
- specifying the link between a reform of the financing system of the EU budget and a review of expenditure to provide the Committee on Budgets with a sound basis for negotiations on the new MFF.

For this purpose, and especially in order to establish a mandate for the Committee on

Budgets for its negotiations with the Council aiming to adopt a regulation containing the future MFF, and possibly, to define supporting measures to an interinstitutional agreement, the SURE Committee will gather and coordinate the opinions of the various committees concerned.

In the context of this exercise, the REGI Committee held a first exchange of views on this crucial subject in order to submit an opinion to the SURE Committee.

The rapporteur announced that her draft opinion would be presented in December. With regards to the limit of the lengths of opinions she cannot include every important aspect into the draft opinion; therefore she intends to introduce several amendments on her own opinion. She stressed that the Cohesion Policy should not be sectoralized, this policy is envisaged for regions. It is important that Cohesion Policy does not support only disadvantaged regions, but it intends to eliminate problems. She listed the following priorities: sustainable economic growth, infrastructure, research, innovation, better education, more efficient rural development, sustainable development of cities and trans-border cooperation. She considered the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for seven years as the best alternative against the proposals for 2\*5 years timeframe. In her opinion the principle of co-financing should be maintained.

Members agreed with the rapporteur in supporting the MFF of seven years. They also stressed that Objective 1 and 2 regions shall be maintained. Members shared the view that regional policy should not be nationalized. Lack of visibility of the benefits was raised as a problem. In addition Members noted that the European value added of the regional policy must be shown.

## **8. Report 2010 on the implementation of the Cohesion Policy programmes for 2007-2013 (Point 15 of the draft agenda)**

The Report will be based on the Communication from the Commission “Cohesion Policy: Strategic Report 2010 on the implementation of the programmes 2007-2013” which allows for a first real analysis of the implementation process of the Operational Programmes. (Member States were required to provide the first national strategic reports at the latest by the end of 2009. The data presented in the Strategic Report is based on these national strategic reports.)

During the REGI meeting in October, the Rapporteur Mr Miroslav Mikolášik presented his working document that intended to trigger debate within Members of the REGI committee. The Working Document describes the momentum of this implementation report, proposing an objective and working hypothesis, as well as an initial thematic structure for the report.

The Rapporteur's proposed working hypothesis is the following: Cohesion Policy continues to prove its relevance, by ensuring, in the special context of the crisis, a moderate, but encouraging improvement of the socio - economic environment, with inherent heterogeneity at the level of countries. Nevertheless, more efforts are needed in certain areas, especially to strengthen performance of the implementation, avoiding excessive delays, ensuring higher financial discipline, increasing synergies with other EU policies. The rapporteur announced that his draft report would be presented in January, and the vote would take place in February.

In the exchange of views Members stressed the importance of sustainability, gender

mainstreaming, transparency and principle of cooperation. More emphasis should be put on environmental aspects; more sustainable, green projects are necessary. The role of best practices was also highlighted, they should be spread among the countries. The need for more synergies between ERDF and ESF was also raised.

### **9. An EU Strategy for the Black Sea (Point 16 of the draft agenda)**

The last enlargement of the European Union has shifted its borders to the Black Sea, leading to an enhanced EU involvement in a region that traditionally had been beyond the EU direct interests. At the same time the European Commission critically assessed the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), especially on the conflict resolution that is the most difficult issue around the Black Sea. This led to the publication of the Black Sea Synergy by the European Commission in April 2007 to increase cooperation with and between the countries surrounding the Black Sea. The *Report on the first year of implementation of the Black Sea Synergy* adopted on 19 June 2008 demonstrates uneven progress across sectors, with very limited achievements in sectors such as democracy, trade and conflict resolution.

The draftsman presented his opinion in which he stressed the need to fully involve all the countries concerned in the Strategy, without distinction between EU and non-EU countries and calls for cooperation between all the relevant regions, through the involvement of existing organizations such as the BSEC, the PABSEC and the Commission on the Black Sea, but also through the creation of new ones. Furthermore he encouraged the development of an integrated approach and the use of the well-established principles of the EU Cohesion Policy such as cross-border cooperation between regions. The opinion stressed the importance of coordination of infrastructure projects in the fields of energy and transport as well as finding common solutions for dealing with potential environmental disasters or technical accidents in the region.

In the exchange of views Members underlined that all countries and organisations concerned should be involved into the process but duplications should be avoided. EU must be the leading partner. The issue of maritime rescue was also raised. In addition Members noted that tourism and cultural exchange should be encouraged. More attention should be paid to environmental problems such as pollution in rivers and from vessels, in this aspect cross-border cooperation should play an important role, as pollution does not recognize borders. In this regard it is problematic that not every country transposed the EU environmental legislation. Furthermore, the issue of frozen conflicts was also raised in the debate.

### **10. An Industrial Policy for the Globalised Era (Point 17 of the draft agenda)**

With the EU 2020 Strategy the Commission acknowledged the importance of an active industrial policy for sustainable growth and employment in Europe and is due to adopt a Communication entitled "An Industrial Policy for the Globalised Era" in October. The EP Committee on Industry, Research and Energy drafted an own-initiative report with the same title.

In his draft opinion the draftsman highlights that the new integrated industrial policy shall deal with the extent to which Community policies are adapted to future challenges that European regions and their local industries are facing and will face in the coming years. Furthermore, it should focus primarily on an enhanced approach toward SMEs as the key to territorial cohesion. He underlines that research and innovation is a need shared by the whole spectrum of industry, and is of the opinion that the EU's various instruments for

cohesion, research and innovation should be implemented in an integrated manner to ensure their effectiveness; he also calls for an increased budget for these financial instruments. He notes that research and innovation is most effectively addressed at regional level in the proximity of actors such as universities, public research organisations and industry. In this context he calls on the Commission to invest in innovation clusters and networks, through enhanced cooperation with the European Investment Bank and within the framework of a permanent industrial policy task force. Finally, he highlights the regional differences in industrial development and calls for these too to be fully incorporated into the new sustainable industry policy.

First, the draftsman presented the main ideas of his draft opinion and thanked for the good cooperation of the shadows. In the exchange of views Members praised the draft opinion and at the same time they drew the attention to some missing points. The importance of investing into new growing industries was underlined. Furthermore it was noted that climate change should not be regarded only as a threat but also as an opportunity. Members shared the view that ultra-peripheral regions should be paid more attention.

### **11. European Year for Active Ageing (2012) (Point 18 of the draft agenda)**

In its meeting in October REGI held a first exchange of views on the proposal of the Commission on the European Year for Active Ageing (2012). The proposal falls under the ordinary legislative procedure and REGI will draft an opinion to the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

The Commission's proposal highlights the importance of promoting a healthy and active ageing population to help, among other things, achieve high-employment, invest in skills and reduce poverty. The proposed European Year for Active Ageing would encourage and support the efforts of Member States, their regional and local authorities, social partners and civil society to promote active ageing and do more to mobilise the potential of the baby boom cohorts. No additional funding is sought for the European Year.

The rapporteur announced that his draft opinion would be presented in November and the vote would take place in January. In the exchange of views attention was drawn to the dropping birth rate. Members were divided in judging the situation of elderly people. Some Members claimed that the amount of pensions does not allow for an adequate standard of life in several countries, while others stressed the low retirement age in contrast with the increased health of the population in some countries which increases the cost of pensions. It was noted that it would be important to analyse the ways in which different regions face this problem. Best practices should be spread. Furthermore, it should be examined how regional policy could support regions facing this problem. The rapporteur noted that the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs would draft a separate report on pensions.

## **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:

<b>9 November</b>	<b>Brussels</b>	<b>The Economist, European Voice</b>	<b>The challenge of liveable cities in the 21st century</b>
<b>9 November</b>	<b>Brussels</b>	<b>Dutch Delegation, Exhibition Opening</b>	<b>The relation of developed regions with the EU</b>
<b>17 November</b>	<b>Brussels</b>	<b>Wielkopolska Region and European Citizens Action Services (ECAS)</b>	<b>A Seminar on Migration and Cohesion</b>
<b>22-23 November</b>	<b>Liege, BE</b>	<b>Belgian Presidency</b>	<b>Informal ministerial meeting Future of Cohesion Policy</b>

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

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Ms Hübner, representing the committee, has accepted so far an invitation to participate (until the next REGI meeting) in the following events:

<b>26 November</b>	<b>Paris, FR</b>	<b>Polish Embassy in France</b>	<b>Debate "L'Europe après 2013, à la veille des décisions budgétaires"</b>
<b>29-30 November</b>	<b>Brussels, BE</b>	<b>European Commission - DG Regional Policy D0 "Policy Coordination"</b>	<b>JEREMIE &amp; JESSICA Conference: Towards successful implementation</b>
<b>29-30 November</b>	<b>Brussels, BE</b>	<b>European Commission - DG Regional Policy D0 "Policy Coordination"</b>	<b>JEREMIE &amp; JESSICA Conference: Towards successful implementation</b>

<b>3 December</b>	<b>Ludwigsburg, DE</b>	<b>University of Applied Science, Ludwigsburg</b>	<b>6th European Higher Education Day.</b> <b>Sustainable city development in a European context</b>
<b>6 December</b>	<b>Brussels, BE</b>	<b>CONCERTO Plus</b> <b>an evening cocktail debate at EP</b>	<b>Solutions to combine all aspects of energy efficiency, poly-generation and renewables with a strong socio-economic and educational focus</b>

### **Delegation to Romania** **3-5 November 2010**

As approved by the Bureau at its meeting of 20 September 2010, the REGI Committee sent a delegation to Romania (Bucharest, Giurgiu, Arad, Timisoara) between 3 and 5 November 2010.

10 Members, 5 of them from Romania, representing three political groups were participating in the visit, whose purpose was to see some of the projects which had been co-financed by the EU Structural Funds and to discuss challenges, difficulties and good practices of implementation. REGI Members participated in meetings with national, regional and local authorities as well as with project managers, and visited a diverse set of projects ranging from road construction, city centre rehabilitation to social housing for marginalised communities and research and innovation related investments.

More information about this delegation (programme, list of participants) is available at our website [REGI delegations](#).

A Report summarising the outcome of the visit is being prepared by the Secretariat and will be circulated to all Members of the Committee.

## Library News

### Publications



**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. 44, no 9, November 2010:

**Functional Polycentrism and Urban Network Development in the Greater South East, United Kingdom: Evidence from Commuting Patterns, 1981–2001** / by Bastiaan de Goei, Martijn J. Burger, Frank G. van Oort and Michael Kitson, pp 1149–1170 ([full text](#) - click on IP authentication)

**Count on the Growth Pole Strategy for Regional Economic Growth? Spread-Backwash Effects in Greater Central China** / by Shansi Ke and Edward Feser, pp 1131–1147 ([full text](#) - click on IP authentication).



**European urban and regional studies** / Harlow, Essex, England \$b 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. (Available in the Library - see catalogue entry [here](#))

Selected articles from vol. 17, no 4, 2010:

**Dutch urban governance: Multi-level or multi-scalar?** / by Anita Kokx and Ronald van Kempen, pp. 355-369 ([full text](#) - click on IP authentication)

**The reproduction of Estonian provinces in the context of transitional administrative reform** / by Veiko Sepp and Jaanus Veemaa, pp. 417-432 ([full text](#) - click on IP authentication)

**Social capital, research and development, and innovation: An empirical analysis of Spanish and Italian regions** / by Jose M. Barrutia and Carmen Echebarria pp. 371-386 ([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. 18, 2010:

**European Spatial Planning Between Competitiveness and Territorial Cohesion: Shadows of Neo-liberalism** / by Alberto Vanoloa, issue 8, pp. 1301-1315 ([abstract](#); for the full text please contact the [Library](#) )

**Knowledge Production in European Regions: The Impact of Regional Strategies and**

**Regionalization on Innovation** / by Hugo Pinto and Paulo M. M. Rodrigues, issue 10, pp 1731 – 1748 ([abstract](#); for the full text please contact the [Library](#) )

**Increasing Societal Discomfort About a Dominant Restrictive Planning Discourse on Open Space in Flanders, Belgium** / by Hans Leinfelder and Georges Allaerta, issue 11, pp 1787 - 1804 ([abstract](#); for the full text please contact the [Library](#) )

**Prospective Future Trends in Urban–Rural Relationships Within the Territorial Agenda of the EU: A Critical Analysis of Implementation with a Special Focus on the Example of the Czech Republic** / by René Wokoun, Jana Kourilova, Martin Pelucha and Viktor Kveton, issue 11 pp. 1881 – 1896 ([abstract](#); for the full text please contact the [Library](#) )

**Empowerment Planning in Regional Development** / by Roar Amdam, issue 11, pp 1805 – 1819 ([abstract](#); for the full text please contact the [Library](#) ).



**Revue d'Économie Régionale & Urbaine**, 5 numéros par an

Pluridisciplinaire, cette revue rend compte des grandes questions urbaines et régionales contemporaines et publie des analyses constituant des apports aux théories, méthodes et modèles de l'économie spatiale. La revue favorise la recherche francophone dans les domaines de l'analyse spatiale, de l'économie urbaine et de l'aménagement, de la croissance régionale, de l'environnement, des politiques publiques territoriales et de la gouvernance. Elle participe par ailleurs aux débats théoriques et aux préoccupations des politiques économiques au niveau international ([consultation](#) possible via la base de donnée CAIRN).

Ci-dessous une sélection des articles du numéro 2, mai 2010:

**Trajectoires contrastées de développement local: Sicile et Nord-Est italien** / par Clotilde Champeyrache, numéro 2, mai 2010, p. 337 à 359 (pour accéder au texte cliquez sur le [lien](#), déroulez l'écran en bas et cliquez sur la version désirée).

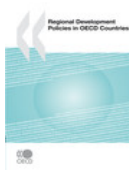
## Latest analysis



**[Eurostat regional yearbook 2010](#)** / Eurostat, November 2010

This yearbook gives a detailed picture of a large number of statistical fields in the 27 Member States of the European Union, as well as in candidate and EFTA countries. There is a broad set of regional indicators for the following 15 subjects: population, European cities, labour market, gross domestic product, household accounts, structural business statistics, information society, science, technology and innovation, education, transport, tourism, health, agriculture, coastal regions, and last but not least, a study on a new urban-rural typology. This publication is available also in [German](#) and [French](#).

**[Regional Development Policies in OECD Countries](#)** / OECD, November 2010



Regional Policies in OECD Countries is systematic, comparative analysis of OECD countries' regional policies, a reference guide to the regional policies of these countries and a broader analysis of trends in regional policies, based on sound, comparable information. It includes country profiles covering the 31 OECD members. The profiles share a common conceptual framework, allowing countries to see how their experiences measure up.

**[White paper on Future of Cohesion Policy: Towards a territorially-based policy for all Europeans?](#)** / Adopted at the AER General Assembly on 11th November 2010, in Istanbul (TR)



In this paper, the Assembly of European Regions unfolds its official position on what cohesion policy should look like in the future. It is based on the several position papers adopted between 2007 and 2009 and on the reflection work carried out by the AER Task Force on cohesion policy, chaired by Thomas Andersson, County Councillor in Jämtland (S).





[Annual Report on the implementation of the 2009 EU Budget \(2010/C 303/01\)](#) / The European Court of Auditors, 2010

The European Union's Court of Auditors has released its annual report. As regards cohesion policy Mr Vitor Caldeira, President of the European Court of Auditors, says "the estimate for the most likely error in Cohesion spending was significantly lower than in previous years; and, for the budget as a whole, the Court's estimate of error has fallen over recent years". See: [Chapter 4 - Cohesion](#) on pp. 95-114