
REGI News

Newsletter from the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development

VII Legislature N. 14 - 20 October 2010



Meeting on

Wednesday 27 October 2010 (15.00 - 18.30)

& Thursday 28 October 2010 (9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30)

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Date of next meetings:
Tuesday 30 November 2010
9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30
Wednesday 1st December 2010-10-15 9.00 - 12.30
Brussels

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PART I

Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI Committee meeting on 27 and 28 October 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. 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)

The Minister will have an exchange of views with the Members on the implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in Bulgaria.

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 will hold a Public Hearing on "Innovation, SMEs and Cohesion Policy" on 27 October. This public hearing intends 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 is 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 have been invited to 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.

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 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. The debate on territorial cohesion that has been further strengthened by the Lisbon Treaty raises 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, about 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. All these questions are addressed by the rapporteur in her Working Document that will be presented on 28 October.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid	Consideration of working document: 28/10/2010
Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring	Consideration of draft report: 09/12/2010
Procedure: 2010/2155(INI)	Adoption REGI: 22/03/2011 (tbc)
	Plenary: 04-05/2010 (tbc)

4. Achieving real territorial, social and economic cohesion within the EU - a sine qua non condition for global competitiveness? (Point 8 of the draft agenda)

In his report Mr Luhan underlines the key role that public sector has in rebuilding the financial sector and the role of cohesion policy in this task particularly by ensuring public investment and sustainable development. In his view balanced economic development of the EU will reduce the differences in the level of development of the regions and prepares them to face challenges like globalisation, demographic and climate changes, taking into consideration their specific weaknesses. He underlines in this respect the importance of R&D. He supports the views expressed in the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion public consultation process regarding the most important components of territorial cohesion which he considers to be, respect for regional diversity, development of the territorial potential and territorial competitiveness and the importance of accessibility through infrastructure and public services. 103 Amendments have been tabled to this report. The vote is planned to take place on 28 October.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Petru Constantin Luhan	Exchange of views: 17/03/2010
Responsible administrator: Christian Chopin	Consideration of draft report: 21/06/2010
Procedure: 2009/2233(INI)	Deadline for Ams: 29/06/2010
	Adoption REGI: 28/10/2010 (tbc)
	Plenary: 10 November 2010 (tbc)

5. GDP and beyond - Measuring progress in a changing world (Point 9 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 calls 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 will be voted on 28 October 2010.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Jean-Paul Besset	Consideration of draft opinion: 28/09/2010
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Planned deadline for Ams: 05/10/2010
Procedure: 2010/2088(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 27/10/2010
Lead Committee: ENVI Rapporteur: A. Rosbach	Planned adoption ENVI: 30/11/2010 (tbc)
	Planned plenary: 17/01/2011 (tbc)

6. State aid to facilitate the closure of uncompetitive coal mines (Point 10 of the draft agenda)

In his draft opinion the draftsman called on the Commission to extend the intended expiry date for the legitimacy of hard coal subsidies from 2014 to 2020 and to undertake a regular re-evaluation of the potential contribution of European hard coal to energy security. Furthermore, he called for special support in the post-2013 multiannual financial framework by the European structural funds for regions threatened by future mine closings.

29 amendments have been tabled to this report. The vote is planned to take place on 28 October.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Jan Brezina	Consideration of draft opinion: 28/09/2010
Responsible administrator: Monika Makay	Deadline for Ams: 08/10/2010
Procedure: 2010/0220(NLE)	Planned adoption REGI: 28/10/2010
Lead Committee: ECON - Rapporteur B. Rapkay	Planned adoption in ECON: 09/11/2010
	Planned plenary: November II 2010 (tbc)

7. Revision of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan (Point 11 of the draft agenda)

The Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (EEAP) of 2006 was prepared and adopted with a view to intensify the process of realising the substantial cost-effective energy savings potential and the above-mentioned target on energy consumption reduction. A major mid-term review to evaluate its effectiveness and results was scheduled to take place in 2009. A thorough assessment of the achievements and shortcomings of the 2006 Energy Efficiency Action Plan should be undertaken as a basis for the revision of the EU's energy efficiency policy.

In her opinion the drafts person expresses her concern about the low outflow of ERDF funds for the energy efficiency measures in a number of Member States and urges the Member States to make energy efficiency a priority in their operational programmes. Furthermore she calls on the Commission and national authorities to elaborate ways to facilitate the use of structural funds for the energy efficiency measures, such as by ensuring better flows of information to the local level or establishing one-stop-shops. Considering the need to invest upfront as the biggest challenge for the energy efficiency at local and regional level, the drafts person is convinced that any measure taken at EU level should take due account of the implications on budgetary restrictions of municipalities and regions. The draft opinion supports a multi-level, decentralised and bottom-up approach to the Energy Efficiency policy including the Covenant of Mayors and the Smart Cities Initiative.

On 28 October the REGI committee will vote on 19 amendments tabled to this opinion. The vote in plenary is tabled for December.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Lena Kolarska-Bobińska	Consideration of draft opinion: 28/09/2010
Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring	Deadline for Ams: 08/10/10
Procedure: 2010/2107(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 28/10/2010
Lead Committee :ITRE - Rapporteur: B. Bendtsen	Planned adoption in ITRE: 09/11/2010
	Planned plenary: 13/12/2010 (tbc)

8. 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.

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: 09/12/2010 (tbc)
	Planned deadline for Ams:
	Planned adoption REGI: 27/01/2011 (tbc)
	Plenary: 02-03/2010 (tbc)

9. 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 has meanwhile been 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, will present once again to the Committee the main lines of her draft opinion and a deadline for amendments will be 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 draftsman, in her opinion, states her hopes of 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.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Filiz Hakaeva Hyusmenova	Exchange of views: 23/06/2010
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Consideration of draft opinion: 28/09/2010
Procedure: 2010/2053(INI)	Planned deadline for Ams: 09/11/2010 (tbc)
Lead Committee:IMCO - Rapporteur E. Gebhardt	Planned adoption REGI: 30/11-01/12/2010 (tbc)
	Planned adoption in IMCO: 10/01/2011 (tbc)
	Planned plenary: February 2011 (tbc)

10. 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 in 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 will hold a first exchange of views on this crucial subject in order to submit an opinion to the SURE Committee.

Indeed, as called for in the European Parliament resolution of 7 October 2010 on EU cohesion and regional policy after 2013, it is necessary that the regional dimension is fully considered in the review of the MFF and that a strong and well-financed EU regional policy, as a *conditio sine qua non* for achieving social, economic and territorial cohesion is provided for.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Constanze Angela Krehl	Exchange of views: 28/10/2010
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Consideration of draft opinion:
Procedure: 2010/2211(INI)	Planned deadline for Ams:
Lead Committee:SURE	Planned adoption REGI:
	Planned adoption in SURE:
	Planned plenary:

11. 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 will present his working document that intends 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.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Miroslav Mikolášik	Consideration of working document: 27-28/10/2010
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Consideration of draft report: 12/2010 (tbc)
Procedure: 2010/2139 (INI)	Adoption REGI: 01-02/2010 (tbc)
	Plenary: 02-03/2010 (tbc)

12. An EU Strategy for the Black Sea (Point 16 of the draft agenda)

The committee will debate on the draft opinion to the report of the Committee on foreign Affairs on "An EU Strategy for the Black Sea".

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 Black Sea Synergy was designed as a flexible framework complementary to existing EU policies in the region, i.e. the ENP (relevant for five Eastern ENP countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), the strategic partnership with the Russian Federation and the pre-accession policy for Turkey. The Strategy was very broad including a large number of priority areas. 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 Black Sea Synergy has also been criticised by other EU actors including European Parliament which have pointed out the need for more coordinated action in the region taking account of the new developments such as reorientation of Ukraine's approach towards Russia and the economic crises. One of the most important achievements of the Black Sea Synergy has been the establishment of sectoral partnerships in three key areas: environment, transport and energy.

In his opinion the draftsperson 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.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Victor Boștinăru	
Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring	Consideration of draft opinion: 28/10/2010 (tbc)
Procedure: 2010/2087(INI)	Planned deadline for Ams:
Lead Committee : AFET - Rapporteur: T. Ungureanu	Planned adoption REGI: 30/11/2010 (tbc)
	Planned adoption in AFET: 02/12/2010 (tbc)
	Planned plenary: 13/12/2010 (tbc)

13. 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.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Francesco De Angelis	Consideration of draft opinion: 28/10/2010
Responsible administrator: Monika Makay	Planned deadline for Ams:
Procedure: 2010/2095(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 01/12/2010 (tbc)
Lead Committee: ITRE - Rapporteur B. Lange	Planned adoption in ITRE: 13/01/2011 (tbc)
	Planned plenary: February 2011 (tbc)

14. European Year for Active Ageing (2012) (Point 18 of the draft agenda)

In its meeting in October REGI will hold 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.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Lambert van Nistelrooij	Exchange of views: 27-28/10/2010
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Consideration of draft opinion: 11/2010 (tbc)
Procedure: 2010/0242(COD) - REGI/7/03712	Adoption REGI: 01/2010 tbc
	Adoption in EMPL: 02/2011 (tbc)
	Plenary: tbc



PART II

Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meetings held on 27 and 28 September 2010, on 4 October 2010 (OPEN Days 2010 - Opening Session) and on 5 October 2010 (REGI-COTER Joint meeting)

1. Exchange of views with Mr Janusz Antoni Lewandowski, Commissioner on Budget and Financial Programming (Point 4 of the draft agenda)

European structural funds have played and are still playing a major role in the Union's economic strategy aimed at redressing the unprecedented financial crisis and economic downturn. This situation has forced Member State governments to take drastic action to cut the exceptional levels of public debt which were caused by the necessity to support the banking system.

In this context, the mid term review of the Union's budget, the necessity for which was agreed at the December 2005 European Council, takes on a new and more strategic importance as it will provide the basis for the design of the post 2013 Financial framework. It is for these reasons that the Chair has invited Commissioner Lewandowski to participate in an exchange of views with the committee.

In his introductory statement the Commissioner presented Commission's calendar for the post-2013 financial framework informing that the mid-term review of the Union's budget has been postponed to October and informed that the main question is how to draw lessons from the financial crisis. The Commission is legally obliged to present the first legislative proposal for the next financial perspective until the end of June 2011.

Mr Lewandowski presented the main trends that seem to be prevailing in the Commission emphasising that territorial cohesion has been reinforced by the Lisbon Treaty. The Commission similarly to REGI Committee considers regional policy as development policy. It should be integrated policy that makes European Social Fund visible as a part of cohesion policy, as well as the rural fund that should be coordinated with the regional policy. The GDP criteria should stay as the point of reference for the future distribution of funds. Simplification of rules taking into account the level of error in cohesion policy is another important issue. The Commissioner mentioned that for him the notion of macro-regions is a possible issue for discussion.

An exchange of views with question and answer session followed. Members raised the questions concerning the possibility for introduction of new own revenues to the EU budget, alignment to the new requirements introduced by the Lisbon Treaty but also by the EU2020 Strategy, possible budget restrictions due to the financial crisis, potential sanctioning

mechanisms involving structural funds, the length of the future financial perspective, Commissioner's opinion on sectoralisation of European policy, fears in the Member States that might lose eligibility to receive structural funds, introduction of budget line for training for local administration, etc.

The Commissioner has stressed that the investment nature of regional policy funds can contribute to budget cuts in countries such as Greece or Spain. As far as the EU2020 is concerned he informed that the Commission is trying to identify financial sources within the existing structures and that investments in transports, energy and climate can be financed within the territorial cohesion. He is personally convinced that the 7-years financial perspective should be continued or he would opt for the 5+5 period with a possibility of a real review after 5 years as an alternative. Mr Lewandowski called for more PR-exercise demonstrating the real added-value of the common European budget that unfortunately is still perceived as the budget for eurocrats.

Commissioner Lewandowski has been encouraged by the Members to attend the REGI meetings in the future.

2. Hearing on the European Urban Agenda and its Future in Cohesion Policy (Point 5 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.

Against this backdrop the Rapporteur, Mr Vlasák has invited two practitioners to share their experience in a "mini-hearing" as a starting point for work on his report which he would like to base on a thorough analysis of the current situation and exchanges with various stakeholders. Two experts: Mr Ruud van Raak (Program manager, Managing Authority West, The Netherlands), and Mr Gerry Mulligan (Head of Representation, Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels) have presented their views and experience on two important aspects: sub-delegation of management of funds in the Netherlands and integrated urban development in the Northern Ireland.

In a question and answer session that followed the presentations the Members have addressed the issue of feasibility of using sub-delegation in other countries than the Netherlands and its extent, the place of local authorities in programmes such as URBAN, the partnership principle and more involvement of local stakeholders in project financing, the need of specifying objectives for regional policy, the issue of revolving funds and the possibility of using the two examples in the future design for urban areas. The Commission representative has emphasised that urban dimension is one of the priorities of Commissioner Hahn and that non-grant instruments such as Jessica should be enhanced in the future cohesion policy.

3. The following votes took place

- **Good governance with regards to the EU regional policy: procedures of assistance and control by the European Commission**
Draftsperson: Ramona Nicole Mănescu (ALDE)
The report was adopted by 35 votes in favour.
- **Motion for a resolution further to a question for oral answer on EU Cohesion and Regional Policy after 2013**

Draftsperson: Danuta Maria Hübner on behalf of the REGI Committee
The motion was adopted by 39 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

4. The implementation of the Services Directive 2006/123/EC (Point 11 of the draft agenda)

The Competitiveness Council of 25-26 May 2010 gave an update of the situation in the implementation of the Services Directive highlighting the key priorities for action (see document 9475/10 of the Council). Moreover, the same Council formation issued a report on the mutual evaluation process under Article 39 of the Services Directive. In the context of this process and in view of the report that the Commission will submit to the Parliament and the Council by 28 December 2010 (under Article 39(4) of the Directive), the Presidency requested that the Commission reflects both the positive achievements of the Member States as a result of the implementation of the Directive (in view of the difficulties encountered by Member States and their effort in the adaptation of their legislation to the directive), on one hand, and also the need to link the mutual evaluation process to the horizontal internal market policies under development, such as Europe 2020 (see document 9327/10 of the Council), on the other.

The opinion of Ms. Hyusmenova underlines the great potential of the Services Directive for the relaunch and the reinforcement of the internal market and for growth and competitiveness. It further highlights the potential of the Internal Market Information System and the Point of Single Contact for the improvement and possibly of extension/deepening of the interoperability and networking between regional and local authorities. The draftswoman, in her opinion, states her hopes of 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 the Members discussed the applicability of using the principle of multilingualism by local authorities and the danger of putting too much bureaucratic burden on the regions by the directive-screening requirements.

5. Exchange of views with Mr Jan Olsson, rapporteur of the European Economic and Social Committee on Efficient partnership in cohesion policy (Point 10 of the draft agenda)

Mr Jan Olsson (Sweden – Various Interests Group) was Rapporteur of the European Economic and Social Committee on: *How to foster efficient partnership in the management of the new cycle of cohesion policy's programmes 2007-2013 based on good practices*. This opinion had been requested by the European Commission in early 2009 and was adopted in July 2010. Jan Olsson was invited by the REGI Committee to introduce his main findings on how to foster efficient partnership in Cohesion Policy programmes. In his presentation he outlined several examples of good practice with applying the partnership principle in countries such England, Spain, Italy, Northern Ireland, Germany, Poland. The key finding is that partnership is key to the success of Cohesion policy projects as it greatly improves its effectiveness on the ground, responds to the needs of the local actors, and strengthens citizen participation; and creates a visible link between the EU and civil society. Partnership thereby creates a win-win for all stakeholders. The main recommendations of the EESC opinion are: setting minimum requirements for partnership, developing European Code of good practice, building capacity with the partners, integrated and targeted programmes, simplification of procedures and payments, disseminating best practice within networks of regions of excellence. In the discussion that followed the Members have emphasised the need

to share good practices, especially while having different working methods in the Member States, the problems with introduction of simplification of rules and possible reasons for poor absorption of structural funds as one of the consequences of complicated procedures, the possibility for operational programmes focused on projects providing technical assistance to people with disabilities. It has been concluded that the European Union needs citizens' involvement in cohesion policy and that is why this policy has to be adapted to the citizens' needs.

6. GDP and beyond - Measuring progress in a changing world (Point 12 of the draft agenda)

The report is based upon the Commission Communication entitled "GDP and beyond - Measuring progress in a changing world" (COM(2009)0433), which intends to improve data and indicators to complement the GDP. For this purpose, the Commission proposes a number of actions, namely aiming at complementing GDP with environmental and social indicators and well-being indicators and at providing for near real-time information (statistics) for decision-making purposes, as well as more accurate reporting on distribution and inequalities, among other actions specified in the Communication.

Against this backdrop, in his opinion, the draftsman welcomes the Commission's intention to adopt indicators complementary to GDP, which although indispensable is insufficient for the assessment of the regions' development and the design of the cohesion policies. The opinion underlines the relevance of the environmental sustainability and social equity factors, which should be put at the same level of the economic criteria. Accordingly, the draftsman calls 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.

In his presentation the rapporteur has stressed that this report is not about statistics but it is a political issue that could support Commission's proposal to be able to introduce additional instruments to GDP. In the discussion that followed the Members have emphasised that the GDP is a widely used indicator recognised to be the best although not perfect and any introduction of a new set of indicators needs a strong scientific background. Taking into account that the main objective of cohesion policy is supporting regions lagging behind, the GDP seems to be the correct indicator to use in the context of regional policy. It should stay the main future criteria. The majority of the Members agreed that there is a need for a complementary set of indicators to be applied by analysing specific problems. Among alternative measures the following indicators were mentioned in the debate: social indicators measuring life quality, monetary indicators, innovation indicators such as number of patents, environmental indicators such as water and air quality, the unemployment rate, the cost of living index. However, it has been emphasised that any additional set of indicators should be treated with caution and that we should cut red tape in stead of creating new administrative costs.

7. Council regulation on State Aid to facilitate the closure of uncompetitive coal mines

Aid to the EU hard coal industry is regulated by a sector-specific legal instrument: Council Regulation (EC) No 1407/2002 of 23 July 2002 on State aid to the coal industry (the "Coal Regulation"). The Coal Regulation expires on 31 December 2010. In the absence of a new legal framework allowing for certain specific types of State aid to the coal industry, Member States could grant aid only within the limits foreseen by general State aid rules applicable to all sectors. The expiry of the Coal Regulation will force some Member States to close their hard coal mines, and they will have to cope with the social and regional consequences.

The Commission proposed a sector-specific State aid regime that is to be considered as a transitory regime towards the full application of general State aid rules in the (hard) coal sector. In addition to the possibilities offered by the general State aid rules, the proposal offers the possibility to declare two types of aid to the hard coal industry as compatible with the internal market: closure aid and aid to cover exceptional costs.

In the REGI meeting, first, the draftsman presented the main elements of his draft opinion. He called on the Commission to extend the intended expiry date for the legitimacy of hard coal subsidies from 2014 to 2020 and to undertake a regular re-evaluation of the potential contribution of European hard coal to energy security. Furthermore, he called for special support in the post-2013 multiannual financial framework by the European structural funds for regions threatened by future mine closings. The REGI Members taking the floor shared the view of the draftsman; they underlined the importance of the problem and argued for the extension of the expiry date of hard coal subsidies.

The deadline for amendments was set for 8 October, at noon.

8. Revision of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan (Point 14 of the draft agenda)

The Heads of States and Governments have endorsed an ambitious European Energy policy which seeks to enable the European Union to reduce greenhouse gases by at least 20 %, to reduce energy consumption by 20 % and increase to 20 % the share of renewable energies in energy consumption by 2020.

The Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (EEAP) of 2006 was prepared and adopted with a view to intensify the process of realising the substantial cost-effective energy savings potential and the above-mentioned target on energy consumption reduction. The Plan's running time is until 2012. A major mid-term review to evaluate its effectiveness and results was scheduled to take place in 2009. A lot has been achieved until the adoption of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan in 2006; however, the political and economical context has changed quite a lot since then. Therefore, there is a clear need to review the EU's Energy Efficiency policy to align it with the current priorities and developments. A thorough assessment of the achievements and shortcomings of the 2006 Energy Efficiency Action Plan should be undertaken as a basis for the revision of the EU's energy efficiency policy.

In her opinion the draftsman expresses her concern about the low outflow of ERDF funds for the energy efficiency measures in a number of Member States and urges the Member States to make energy efficiency a priority in their operational programmes. Furthermore she calls on the Commission and national authorities to elaborate ways to facilitate the use of structural funds for the energy efficiency measures, such as by ensuring better flows of information to the local level or establishing one-stop-shops. Considering the need to invest upfront as the biggest challenge for the energy efficiency at local and regional level, the draftsman is convinced that any measure taken at EU level should take due account of the implications on budgetary restrictions of municipalities and regions. The draft opinion supports a multi-level, decentralised and bottom-up approach to the Energy Efficiency policy including the Covenant of Mayors and the Smart Cities Initiative. In her presentation the draftsman has emphasised that energy efficiency measures should be based on a successful implementation of already existing legislation such as Eco-Design-Directive and the Energy Labelling Directive rather than creating new European solutions.



The 2010 edition of the OPEN DAYS - *European week of regions and cities* - took place 4-7 October 2010. This year the event was dedicated to the following key topic. Europe 2020: Competitiveness, co-operation and cohesion for all regions.

As in previous years, REGI involvement had two angles: hosting and co-organising the formal **Opening Session (4 october 2010)** at the EP's hemicycle and the celebration of a **joint meeting** between REGI and the Commission for Territorial Cohesion (COTER) of the Committee of the Regions (CoR).



Europe 2020: Competitiveness, Cooperation and Cohesion for all regions

OPENING SESSION

Monday 4 October 2010

15.00 - 17.00

The **Opening Session**, which also coincided with the plenary session of the CoR was attended by about 800 regional and local representatives. The session began with welcome addresses by **Danuta Hübner**, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development, **Johannes Hahn**, Commissioner for Regional Policy and **Mercedes Bresso**, President of the Committee of the Regions. Three keynote speeches followed by **Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou**, Vice-President of the European Parliament, **Rudy Demotte**, Minister-President of the Walloon region, Belgian Presidency and **Philippe Maystadt**, President of the European Investment Bank. **José Manuel Barroso**, President of the European Commission addressed the audience via a video message.

In her opening speech, **Ms Hübner** stressed that Cohesion Policy is for all citizens and for all regions; however it should focus more on regions that need catching up, by addressing disparities, through the mobilisation of the regions' development potential, through networking and cooperation and through the investment on innovation and knowledge-based growth. In this context the role of territorial cohesion is enhanced and the need to fine-tune European policies with territorial specificities is increased, bearing in mind that territorial cohesion is a real instrument to deliver more growth.

Cohesion Policy should also focus more efficiently on results and on a resource efficient

growth, while taking into account the post-crisis situation at regional level, in an effort to build a policy based on incentives and on conditionality and more effective actions.

Ms. Mercedes Bresso, highlighted both the political ambition of the event and the desire to provide a communication platform for practitioners on themes close to the heart of regional and local authorities. She added that Europe has a new Strategy, Europe 2020, which intends to prepare us for the future, while getting us out of the crisis, must be equipped right now with specific policies backed by adequate financial instruments.

Mr Hahn underlined that the signs of recovery are fragile, giving no room to complacency and calling for greater focus on creating jobs, boosting competitiveness and building an open and modern single market. This requires starting immediately the reforms foreseen in the Europe 2020 Strategy in order to underpin recovery by encouraging a new, smarter, greener and more inclusive economy. Mr. Hahn emphasized that the size of the budget and geographical coverage of Cohesion Policy will ultimately depend on the collective capacity to convince national governments and critics that the policy has keeping pace with modern challenges.

Ms. Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou highlighted that Cohesion Policy is the most visible and quantifiable manifestation of European solidarity. Europe 2020 strategy urges for solidarity and common green growth and noted that cohesion funds are the crucial way to achieve the Single Market. In her opinion, cities should play a leading role in the development of regions and policies ought to be implemented on the basis of local expertise.

Mr. Demotte argued that Europe is confronted with a period of transformation that stems from the crisis, crisis that highlighted the structural weaknesses of the European economy. It is necessary to respond to the long term challenges such as globalisation, pressure on natural resources and demographic changes. Cohesion Policy has a leverage effect and a very important role to play in reconnecting with a balanced and sustainable growth and the structural funds can be one of the main instruments used for the Europe 2020 Strategy. The 5th Cohesion Report will give a detailed analysis of the current situation and initial guidance on the future design of Cohesion Policy after 2013. On behalf of the Belgian Presidency, he affirmed that the future of post-2013 Cohesion Policy remains a priority.

In his video message **Mr Barroso** stating that the EU budget review and the discussion on the post-2013 Cohesion Policy will be a difficult test for Europe. Nevertheless, he noted that despite being under pressure for the last tow years, the European Union's economic outlook is better than expected and problems are tackled by finding suitable solutions. The basic principles of Cohesion Policy will not change and this policy will remain strategic for the EU and synergies have to be found in order to make the EU2020 Strategy a success.

Reinforcing President Barroso's views, **Commissioner Hahn** highlighted that Cohesion policy is an investment policy. The bulk of resources of Cohesion policy is already geared towards the priorities of the EU2020 agenda: investments in cutting-edge innovation, high-speed internet business development, renewable energies, among others. There is no tension between Cohesion policy and the Europe 2020 Strategy - priorities are relevant to all regions and regions are relevant to this strategy.

Mr Maystadt started his speech by highlighting the vital role of local and regional authorities as the most important counterparts of the EIB's activities and assured that they are supported in many ways: direct loans, but also through co-financing activities partly funded from the EU structural funds via technical assistance and - more recently - with the help of financial engineering.

During the debate Members of the CoR stressed that the Lisbon Strategy did not reach its goals because regional and local authorities were not sufficiently involved. Therefore territorial pacts for the realisation of multilevel governance should be established and these pacts should be provided for in law rather than left to chance. Cohesion policy has to be a policy that works against the financial and the economic crisis and a policy that serves the poor and the working population.

REGI members emphasised that Cohesion policy should cover all regions of the EU, as it is vital for European growth and development, and in the context of the budget review it has to be ensured that this policy is seen as a growth policy and not as something that merely leads to expenditure. Any attempt of renationalising Cohesion Policy should be refused. Europe needs to be something tangible; people need to know where jobs are, where the education opportunities are and have to be aware of the added-value of the European Union.

Several representatives of authorities in the Member States and of third countries intervened, emphasising the following aspects:

- Cooperation between regions, innovation and courage of decision-makers and bridging the gap between politicians and innovators are necessary;
- Critical mass should be created by the Member States in order to increase opportunities to be used (for instance in transport);
- A social pact identical to the Covenant of Mayors should be established;
- Regions are complete adaptative systems and impetus to bottom-up initiatives should be given;
- The model of development of the EU and its possible use is under study in some third countries (in this case, Russia);
- Citizens should be given the possibility to participate in the design of the response given by the EU to their own problems;
- The unemployment situation in some parts of Europe (in this case, Sicily) and the questionable use of funds to curb this situation;
- A structured dialogue of the national governments with regions is necessary and inexistent and pressure has to be put on the national governments in order to create dialogue with the regional and local authorities.

In her closing remarks **Ms Hübner** concluded that the key message of the debate was that there is a strong support for a strong Cohesion Policy that can assist all regions of the EU that would allow achieving social, economic and territorial cohesion through investment in a knowledge and innovation based and resource efficient growth that generates jobs and makes Europe more competitive. Territorial cohesion is not only a goal, but also an instrument to achieve more and better growth and the territorial impact assessment has to be taken seriously. The proposed reforms will direct Cohesion Policy towards a more result-oriented policy and a future-oriented investment strategy, based on incentives but also based on conditionality, which should be working towards more effective interventions. Finally, EU2020 and its flagship initiatives should be brought down to the local levels of governance, bringing Europe closer to citizens.



WORKSHOP

REGI-COTER Joint meeting

Tuesday 5 October 2010

9.00 - 10.45

This year the **REGI-COTER Joint meeting** had the title: "**Added value, added-vision: EU2020&Cohesion Policy**". The event took place on Tuesday 5 October, 9h00-10h45, at the Committee of the Regions. Members of REGI and Members of COTER discussed with the audience the future of Cohesion Policy and its synergies with the Europe 2020 Strategy for the next programming period.

In her opening remarks, **Danuta Hübner**, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development stated that even though the future policy framework is decided at European level, the success of Cohesion Policy is largely dependent on those on the ground. It is necessary to avoid the subordination of Cohesion Policy to the Europe 2020 Strategy and the scepticism about this is often heard of. However, it must be acknowledged that if there was no such thing as the Europe 2020 Strategy our priorities would be just the same as they are with this Strategy. Indeed, investment in the context of EU2020 is channelled to innovation, resource efficient energy, modern infrastructure to generate growth and sustainable growth, all of which are the investments needed to achieve economic, social and territorial cohesion.

The EU2020 strategy and its implementation must link crisis exit policies and the pursuit of long-term growth, while taking into account the diversity and comparative advantages of European regions. The crisis has demonstrated the importance of structural funds as tools of economic stimulus, in particular for small businesses, sustainability and energy efficiency. The main driver of economic progress and regional competitiveness is innovation. Inclusive innovation is needed, as well as investment in education and the creation of a favourable environment to research.

Ms Hübner added that the flagship initiatives are criticised as too centralised and the regional and local levels should be more involved. The new strategy for Europe must be built on the role of active European citizens and an involved society. Multi-level governance and partnership should therefore be the core of governance and delivery of the strategy.

In his introductory remarks **Mr. Michel Delebarre**, Chair of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy (COTER), Committee of the Regions recalled that the President of the European Commission, Mr. José Manuel Barroso, has manifested his support to Cohesion Policy. However, in the forthcoming months declarations will have to be replaced by concrete actions. Cohesion Policy has to be directed to all regions, each one of them with its own development strategy. Furthermore, regional and local levels of governance have to move together and address common issues. Mr Delebarre added that competitiveness is as important as social cohesion. The question is how simple is that as an equation and how can these two elements be put under one same roof.

REGI Members emphasised that the Lisbon Strategy did not work due to lack of communication and that the role of the regions and multilevel governance. The specific requirements of regions and of social groups who are less favoured should not be forgotten. Moreover, there is a need to consult universities. Innovation, technology and research should be our priority, and education and training go hand in hand with that.

Cohesion Policy is tantamount to Europe making progress. What worked well in the past and what did not, on one hand, and how to organise Cohesion Policy without rural development and the European Social Fund, on the other, are questions which have to be reflected upon.

Members of the COTER Commission highlighted that regional policy needs to be reformed by stressing the role of urban and urbanised areas. Moreover, local priorities have to be identified so that Cohesion Funds are linked to regional priorities and specificities. In any event, the need for investment is now even greater to overcome the crisis.

The risk exists that the same shortcoming of the Lisbon Strategy - the fact of being a project of the Member States with no intervention of the regional and local authorities -, repeats itself in the Europe 2020 Strategy. The question is now about the process and the instruments: the legislator should engage the local authorities in a meaningful way.

Participants pointed out that there is stiff international competition and Europe is lagging behind. The Europe 2020 Strategy will not automatically turn Europe as an international player and it will not automatically be cohesive. There must be scope for the alliance with local authorities and civil society in order to allow for the rebalancing of Cohesion Policy. However, for that purpose a budget is needed, as well as a reorganisation and flexibility of the structure of cohesion policies.

Cohesion Policy is part of the Europe 2020 Strategy, but only as financial means, as structural funds. It should instead be a policy on its own, with goals and objectives to reduce disparities between regions.

In her closing remarks, **Ms. Danuta Hübner** highlighted that it should be recognised that the earmarking exercise of the budget to Lisbon Policy in 2006 was assessed by the Commission as extremely positive. This Strategy should not be totally condemned and indeed regional policy is doing Lisbon in the current period.

The biggest danger which Cohesion Policy now faces is the size of the budget. The questions that now arise are whether the European Social Fund will be taken away of the current framework and whether the budget will indeed be reduced, in which situation one may ask how can Objective 2 be kept.

The essential issue is that Cohesion Policy will have to be more strategic in terms of creating growth in regions and investing in areas which are more sustainable. For this purpose, the regional and local levels of government should reflect more in terms of strategic development. Special contracts between the Commission and the Member States and the regions will be established, with further conditionality stipulations.

In conclusion, the cooperation between institutions is essential in this period.

Mr. Michel Delebarre, concluded that the objective we need to be striving for is to involve local authorities in the implementation of Cohesion Policy. However, these should not be

merely consulted, but they should be viewed as co-producers instead. The process has to go beyond pure consultation or basic dialogue. Goals can only be achieved if the local levels of government are duly mobilised.

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:

24 September	Wroclaw, PL	Conference on renewable energy organised by newspaper "Gazeta Prawna"	The role for regional policy in stimulating green energy production
1 October	Tournai, BE	Belgian Presidency	Conference on the Territorial Cooperation
4 October	Brussels	COR	Opening session - 'Open Days'
5 October	Brussels	COR	REGI COTER Meeting
5 October lunchtime	Brussels	European Commission	Euraxess 2010 "Europe: where knowledge has no borders"
5 October 14.30	Brussels	GE	Open Days Workshop on best practice using structural funds
5 - 6 October	Brussels	Baden-Württemberg	3rd Danube Conference - "Future of the Danube Area"
6 October 11:15-13:00	Brussels	Fundacion Galicia Europa	Conference on Tackling regional inequalities: The Future of European Regional Policy
7 October	Brussels	The region of Lower Austria	Lower Austrian Initiative - Prolongation of Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective post 2013, addressing regional presidents during handing -over ceremony (in the context of the Open Days)

8 October	Warsaw, PL	City of Warsaw	Cities in the regional policy after 2013
12 October 11:00-12:30	Brussels	Knowledge4Innovation	2nd European Innovation Summit. Session: "Urban and Regional Mobility in the EU"

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:

9 November	Brussels	The Economist, European Voice	The challenge of liveable cities in the 21st century
9 November	Brussels	Dutch Delegation, Exhibition Opening	The relation of developed regions with the EU
12 November	Warsaw, PL	Polish Green Network, CEE Bankwatch Network and Coalition of Polish NGOs For European Funds	Future Cohesion Policy in context of climate change
16 November 12.45 - 13.30	Brussels	COTER	COTER meeting: DH intervention on Future Cohesion Policy, position paper
22-23 November	Liege, BE	Belgian Presidency	Informal ministerial meeting Future of Cohesion Policy
29-30 November	Brussels	European Commission - DG Regional Policy DO "Policy Coordination"	JEREMIE & JESSICA Conference: Towards successful implementation

Other Events

REGIO FLASH : Latest news from EU regional policy

What Future for Cohesion Policy? An Academic and Policy Debate 16th-18th March 2011, Slovenia



The Fifth Cohesion Report's broad orientations on the future architecture of cohesion policy will be discussed at a conference in Slovenia on 16-18 March 2011. The conference is co-organised by the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional Policy, the Regional Studies Association and the Slovenian Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy.

The Conference will provide a forum for the first international academic debate on the Fifth Cohesion Report between regional studies researchers and senior officials from the European institutions. The key topics of the conference will be: the contribution of cohesion policy to Europe 2020, the territorial coverage of the policy, the policy performance and effectiveness, the efficiency of governance structures and implementation arrangements and the relationship between cohesion policy and other EU structural policies.

More information on the calls for papers, paper submission deadline and registration [Regional Studies Association](#)

Library News

Publications



Regional cohesion: effectiveness of network structures / Piotr Pachura. Heidelberg: Physica-Verlag, 2010, 120 p.

This book presents an interdisciplinary analysis of EU regional cohesion based on a network and clusters approach. The author explores the question if and how the presence of network structures supports the effectiveness of transformation in EU regions, in particular with a focus on non-pecuniary factors of regional growth. For a theoretical foundation of the topic, characteristics of a networking economy as well as the determinants of EU policies on regional development and innovation are examined and discussed. The empirical analysis at the core of this work presents and makes use of interdisciplinary methodological tools such as Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA), K-means models and self-organizing maps. (Available in the Library - make a reservation [here](#))

Library Briefings



[Development of the EU's Outermost Regions](#) / Tiago Freitas, October 2010

Article 349 TFEU recognizes Outermost Regions (ORs) as having special structural, social and economic handicaps due to their remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography and climate, and economic dependence on a few products. The same article clearly identifies these regions: the Azores and Madeira (to Portugal), the Canary Islands (to

Spain), Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, Réunion, Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin (to France).

Being an integral part of the EU, EU treaties and laws are fully applicable. However, ORs benefit in EU law from a specific integration status. It is against this background that ORs have benefited, for example, from special provisions in the Structural Funds and special financing mechanisms such as the POSEI, in an attempt to tackle their handicaps and close the cohesion gap with the rest of the EU.

Latest analysis



[Trends in Economic Performance of European Regions 2000-2006](#) / ESPON, Territorial Observation, No 3, September 2010, 18 p.

The ESPON Territorial Observation No.3 intends to give policy makers and practitioners short and concise information on territorial dimensions of Lisbon/ Europe 2020 Strategy by comparing the position of regions around Europe. Benchmarking European regions support the understanding of their territorial potentials and dynamics. It gives as well insight of the regional diversity in economic performance related to the Lisbon/ Europe 2020 Strategy.

The content and maps included in this publication includes results from an ESPON project providing most recent data for 2001-2006 on seven regionalised Lisbon short list of indicators. The indicators and derived trends cover all 27 EU Member States plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. In providing comparable regional information across Europe, NUTS 2 regions have been chosen.



[National Place-based Policies in the Netherlands](#) / OECD, August 2010

This paper provides a quick scan of national place-based policy in the Netherlands. It anticipates an OECD Territorial Review of the Netherlands that will be conducted in 2011 and is intended as a follow up of an OECD Metropolitan Review of Randstad-Holland (2007) and an OECD Rural Policy Review of the Netherlands. This paper aims to analyse the main characteristics and performance of regions in the Netherlands, synthesise policy developments within regional policy since 2007, assess progress made since these two Reviews and indicate possible remaining or new challenges for Dutch place-based policy.

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/34/5/45901622.pdf>



[Le risque de dégageement d'office des fonds structurels européens: rapport](#) / Inspection générale des finances, France, mars 2010

Le rapport précise dans une première partie les principales difficultés rencontrées dans la gestion des fonds structurels, qui, d'après le rapport, sont de deux ordres: des difficultés conjoncturelles et des difficultés structurelles. Dans une seconde partie, la mission préconise cinq améliorations du dispositif, centrées sur l'évitement du dégageement d'office pour 2010.



[Modelling the Policy Instruments of the EU Cohesion Policy](#) / by A. Ferrara, O. Ivanova, d'A. Kancs, Working Papers, no 2, 2010

This Working Paper presents "a new analytical model that could lead to a better understanding of the economic, social and environmental impacts of EU Cohesion Policy. The so-called "regional holistic model" (RHOMOLO) is currently being developed using data from five EU countries (Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Hungary). The model takes on board a wide range of factors, from transportation costs to education and research". (Source: [DG Regional Policy](#))



[Getting the big picture right: a guide to large scale urban design](#) / CABE - the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, UK, 2010

Using a mix of UK best practice, international research and workshops with academics and practitioners, CABE examined whether there is a design approach that can work for the big picture in urban design. Over the coming decades this will include adapting to climate change, achieving sustainable economic development in a globalised market, and redressing the balance between advantaged and disadvantaged communities.