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# REGI News

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*Newsletter from the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development*

*VII Legislature N. 12 - 5 July 2010*



## *Meeting on*

*Monday 12 July 2010 (15.00 - 18.30)  
& Tuesday 13 July 2010 (9.00 - 12.30)  
JAN 2 Q 2*

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*19.00 - 20.30*

*in Brussels*  
*Monday 27 September 2010*  
*15.00 - 18.30*  
*Tuesday 28 September 2010*  
*9.00 - 12.30*

*Comments and subscriptions at*  
*[reginews@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:reginews@europarl.europa.eu)*

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#### **Useful Internet links**

[EP Library - Info on items related to regional development](#)  
[OEIL - The Legislative Observatory](#)  
[Regional Policy Info regio](#)  
[EUR-Lex](#)  
[Committee of the Regions](#)  
[EP studies Website](#)  
[REGI Website](#)



## **PART I**

*Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI Committee meeting on 12 and 13 July 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. INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE MEETING:** **European Parliament Committee on Regional Development - National Parliaments (Point 1 of the agenda)**

The entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon in December 2009 has provided for a legal basis for a strengthened role of the National Parliaments in the EU legislative process (yellow card and orange card procedures). In the last two years there have been an increasing number of meetings organised on a regular basis both at the level of Committees and of European parliamentary assembly on a wide range of topics.

REGI is at its second inter-parliamentary meeting (the first one was held on 11 February 2009 on the future of the cohesion policy after 2013). The identified issue for this year is the *"Impact on and practical implications of the Lisbon Treaty for cohesion policy"*.

The REGI committee will welcome four guest speakers who have accepted to intervene:

**Mr Rudy Demotte**, Minister-President of the Walloon Region and of the French Community, who represents the Belgian Presidency;

**Mr Johannes Hahn**, Commissioner in charge for regional policy at the European Commission;

**Mr Giancarlo Giorgetti**, Chair of the Budget Committee in the Italian Chamber of Deputies;

**Mr Vytautas Kurpuvesas**, Chair of the Committee on State Administration and local authorities in the Lithuanian Parliament.

A background note has been prepared by the Policy Department in cooperation with the REGI Secretariat in order to help participants structuring the debate during the meeting (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/webnp/webdav/site/myjahiasite/users/emartinezdealosmoner/public/Impact%20on%20a>

The sub-issues identified in the field of the topic are the following:

- 1) New legislative powers of the European Parliament
- 2) Subsidiarity check
- 3) New objective of territorial cohesion
- 4) Other potential implications (outermost regions, services of general interest, enhanced cooperation).

Before the meeting, at 14.30, the REGI Chair, Ms. Danuta Hübner, will meet the press (room JAN 2Q2).

## **2. Exchange of views with Mr Rudy Demotte, Minister-President of the Walloon Region and of the French Community, acting as President-in-Office of the Council, on the work programme of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (Point 5 of the agenda)**

As it is customary with the starting of every new presidency of the Council, the Minister responsible for cohesion and regional policy comes to the Committee on Regional Development of the European Parliament to present and debate the presidency's work programme in cohesion policy with the Members of the committee.

## **3. Temporary suspension of autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on imports of certain industrial products into Madeira and the Azores (Point 6 of the Draft Agenda)**

Following the entry into force of the TFEU the Council modified the provisions of the initial Commission proposal dealing with comitology in order to provide for the provisions governing delegated acts and consequently was obliged to re-consult Parliament.

The new saisine was announced in Parliament on 6 May and referred back to the REGI committee.

Following the opinion of Parliament's legal service, the Chair presented a report with three amendments to the Council's provisions concerning delegated acts which reserved Parliament's rights to be informed of any revocation or objection by Council to proposed delegated acts.

No further amendments have been tabled. The report should be adopted in committee on 13 July.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Ms Danuta Maria Hübner	Exchange of views: 02/06/2010 - 22/06/2010
Responsible administrator: Christian Chopin	Consideration of draft report under article 46(1):
Procedure: 2009/0125 (NLE)	Adoption REGI:
	Plenary:

## **4. Achieving real territorial, social and economic cohesion within the EU - a sine qua non condition for global competitiveness? (Point 7 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 13 July.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
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 (INI)	Adoption REGI: 13 July 2010 (tbc)
	Plenary: September 2010 (tbc)

## **5. Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) - Evaluation of progress made and new challenges (Point 8 of the Draft Agenda)**

In his draft opinion Mr Stavrakakis stressed that each island or group of islands faces various specific handicaps and difficulties, he also considers that multilevel governance is essential in order to avoid the overlapping of competences between different levels of government and to increase cooperation and dialogue with local and regional authorities. The rapporteur then proposes the creation, within the European Commission services, of a horizontal unit which would be responsible only for islands/coastal issues and allow and encourage an integrated approach of maritime policies and actions in order to avoid policy segmentation (policy on environment Vs policy on transport).

34 amendements have been tabled, the vote will take place on 13 July.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
	Exchange of views: 3 June 2010
Rapporteur: Georgios Stavrakakis	Consideration of draft opinion: 21 June
Responsible administrator: Christian Chopin	Planned deadline for Ams: 28 June 2010
Procedure: 2010/2040(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 13 July /2010
Lead Committee : Rapporteur Ms G Meisser TRAN	Planned adoption in Tran: September 2010 (tbc)

## **6. Report on the work of the Working Party on the future of Cohesion Policy (Point 9 of the Draft Agenda)**

The Working Party on the Future of Cohesion Policy has drafted a position paper on the future of the policy. This paper was discussed by the REGI Coordinators 21 June 2010. A final text is to be circulated to all members of the Committee before the REGI meeting in 12-13 July with a view to obtain an endorsement from the Committee and to present the paper to the President of the European Parliament, the President of the European Commission as well as to the Commissioner for Regional Policy.

The informal Position Paper summarises the key ideas with regard to the future priorities and architecture of Cohesion Policy. The ideas presented in the paper represent those issues on which the Political Groups could come to a consensus during the informal procedure leading to the drafting of this paper.

## **7. Parliament's position on the 2011 Draft Budget as modified by the Council - Section III - Commission (Point 10 of the Draft Agenda)**

The calendar for this year's budgetary procedure is once again very tight and the committee will have to consider its draft opinion during its July meeting despite the fact that Parliament will only be informed of Council's position on the Draft Budget at a later date.

In his opinion the Rapporteur first proposes to put back any amounts the Council may have reduced from the Commission's draft budget. This is justified, as in the past, by the fact that the Commission is the only institution with an overall view of budgetary needs. He then proposes a Pilot project in favour of the Danube Macro region and calls on the Commission to support and implement all the pilot projects retained and proposed by the Committee. This year 16 draft pilot projects have been tabled by Members and political groups.

The deadline for amendments will be fixed at 26 July.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
	Exchange of views: 3 June 2010
Rapporteur: László Surján	Consideration of draft opinion: 13/07/2010
Responsible administrator: Christian Chopin	Planned deadline for Ams: 26 July 2010 (tbc)
Procedure: 2010/2001(BUD)	Planned adoption REGI: 06/09/2010 (tbc)
Lead Committee: BUDG Rapporteur Ms Jędrzejewska	Planned adoption in BUDG: 22-25/11/2010 (tbc)
	Planned adoption in plenary:

## **8. Simplifying the implementation of the Research Framework Programmes (Point 11 of the Draft Agenda)**

Research and innovation are at the core of the Commission's initiative "Europe 2020 under the Innovation Union flagship initiative. The constant growth in the number and scope of the European Research Framework programmes has led to a parallel growth of rules and administrative procedures that should insure the proper use of EU funds. However, it has also a side effect of complexity and it is particularly difficult for smaller organisations such as SMEs, high tech start-ups, smaller universities and research centres to be successful with their applications. The 2009 Consultation of the European Commission on the simplification of the implementation of the EU Research Framework Programmes has shown that the main argument of the stakeholders was the complexity of portfolios, funding schemes and intervention mechanisms as well as a lack of coherence and harmonisation of rules between the different mechanisms.

The Commission's Communication "Simplifying the implementation of the Research Framework Programmes" proposes possible directions for a reform of the Research Framework Programmes that could be translated into concrete actions, either under the current framework or in form of new legislative proposals. It should launch a broad inter-institutional discussion on reviewing the regulatory framework of research policy and will help the European Commission to develop new concepts for research funding. The Commission proposal in the autumn for a European Research and Innovation Plan will contain specific details on the way forward. Legislative steps and rule changes will then follow where necessary. Radical simplification measures require a modification of the current legal framework which can only be achieved with the full commitment and political support of the other EU institutions, in particular European Parliament and the Council.

The Draftsperson will present the key ideas outlined in the draft opinion, which welcomes the proposal aiming at simplifying administrative procedures and encourages that

experience with simplification in cohesion policy should be capitalised upon, and in this context highlight the importance of synergies between policy areas. The draft highlights the role of local and regional level in stimulating innovation, and also stresses the territorial impact of excellence based support for R&D and innovation.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Alain Cadec (EPP)	Exchange of views: 22/06/2010
Responsible ITRE: Maria Da Graça Carvalho (EPP)	Consideration of draft opinion: 13/07/2010
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase, Dagmara Stoerring	Adoption REGI: 06/09/2010 (tbc)
Procedure: 2010/2079(INI) COM(2009)0187	Adoption ITRE: 30/09/2010 (tbc)
	Plenary: October 2010 (tbc)





## **PART II**

*Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meetings held on 21 and 22 June 2010*

### **1. Workshop on the Simplification in Cohesion policy**

The Committee on Regional Development held a workshop on the Simplification in Cohesion Policy, with experts John Bachtler, Professor of European Policy Studies, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, and Roland Blomeyer, from Blomeyer & Sanz (a Consultant firm providing for evaluation services in Spain). Representatives from national authorities, Graeme D. Watson, Head of the Certifying Authority and Finance Team European Structural Funds of the Scottish Government, Marek Kalupa, Director, Department for Co-ordination of the EU Funds Implementation of the Polish Ministry of Regional Development and Jan Gregor, Department Director, Ministry of Finance, National Fund Department of the Czech Republic were also present and took part in the debate.

Mr. Bachtler gave an overview, as well as an assessment, of recent simplification measures in the field of Cohesion policy during the 2007-2013 programming period. Some proposals for further future simplification were also made as far as management and control systems are concerned and on wider issues such as the implications of reform in terms of governance.

Mr. Blomeyer tackled the issue of simplification of audit procedures and shared management in Cohesion Policy. On the basis of a study covering 25 Member States, this expert presented first a critical review of the effectiveness of the simplification measures adopted so far and then some recommendations for future reform.

The views of the representatives from national authorities on the simplification measures in general are that although measures of simplification are welcome, changing programmes and methods half way through the implementation process creates serious difficulties to the national authorities. That applies to any possible modification in the structure post-2013. In this context the very notion of shared management was criticised by the representatives to the extent that the emphasis should be put on the national level, both in terms of applicable rules and of implementation. The delivery system of the Structural Funds should, as it was suggested, have the same level or error of the CAP funds. In the debate that followed, after some Members manifested some disappointment as to the findings of the workshop, experts explained that the system of shared management is extremely complex due to the significant institutional and methodological differences across the Members States. There is no breakthrough solution or "silver bullet", but it would be important to ensure some elements, namely, the same eligibility rules, consistent methodologies, stability of the rules before and during any programming period, a coherent approach to audit and the separation of fraud from other irregularities. In general it is considered that implementation and audit focus

probably too much on errors and frauds, whereas they should become more result-oriented.

The attention was also drawn to the fact that while the debate on simplification is going on, the Court of Auditors is in fact asking the Commission for more control. In this respect, some Members deem crucial a more precise and operational definition of the shared management system. The Commission considered that evolution and not revolution is perhaps the best way and stated that it will put forward proposals in the framework of the Cohesion Report. Essentially, the Commission is of the opinion that a more targeted approach is needed and that compliance assessments are a basis for a future framework. As far as the application of some features of the CAP is concerned, the Commission finds they are not entirely transposable to the field of Cohesion Policy, although some of them like the annual clearance of accounts would be positive in Cohesion Policy.

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

- **Control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers**  
Draftsperson: Danuta Maria Hübner (PPE)  
The report was adopted by 40 votes in favour and 1 against
- **Developing the job potential of a new sustainable economy**  
Draftsperson: Kerstin Westphal (S&D)  
The opinion was adopted by 40 votes in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention

## **3. Temporary suspension of autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on imports of certain industrial products into Madeira and the Azores**

An opinion requested by the Chair to the Legal Service on this file was presented. This opinion raises several issues and advises the committee to amend the draft Council Regulation. The questions raised by the Legal Service are important not because of this particular case but because this is the first time the problem arises and might be considered as setting a legal precedent if we do not establish Parliament's rights for the cases where the Parliament is only consulted. The legal opinion does not question the right of the Council to delegate powers under Article 290 TFEU. The questions raised concern merely the duty to inform the Parliament in case where the Council intends either to revoke a delegation or to object to a delegated act adopted by the Commission. This duty stems, according to the opinion, from the very right of the Parliament to be consulted (under the special legislative procedure for that purpose) and from the obligation of loyal cooperation between the institutions. A draft report containing three amendments to that effect was distributed to Members.

## **4. Report on the work of the Working party on the future of the Cohesion Policy**

A draft position paper, as drawn up on the basis of a Working Document previously prepared by the Secretariat synthesising the common elements of the position papers of the political groups, was discussed by coordinators in detail with a view to reach consensus on a final text. For this purpose, the draft was analysed point by point and was subject to a number of modifications. A final position paper is expected to be presented in the course of weeks 26 and 27.

## **5. Good governance with regards to the EU regional policy: procedures of assistance and control by the European Commission**

The rapporteur, Ms. Manescu (ALDE) presented her draft report. Efficiency of Cohesion Policy depends not only on the design of policies but to a great extent on the implementation capacities at local and regional levels. The participation of national authorities is very

important from the very beginning, that is to say, from the pre-legislative stage. Multi-level governance allows for a better exploitation of territorial cooperation and in this context Member States are encouraged to further support the implementation of European Groupings of Territorial cooperation on their territory.

As a general, overarching principle, the simplification exercise of the policy should continue after 2013. Moreover, the Erasmus for local and regional elected should be applied on a more practical way, involving also the local and regional administrative levels in charge of management.

In the debate that followed Members considered that references to the participation of civil society and to transparency could be further highlighted in the report. Reference should also be made to the Commission's Strategic Report 2007-2013 and to the apparent insufficient administrative capacity for implementation in some Member States. Members, however supportive in general of the request contained in the report for a standardized application of the single audit model, observed that this should be complemented by putting emphasis on the equation one programme-one audit, on one hand, and that although auditing is indeed necessary, it should not become an unnecessary burden for the beneficiaries, on the other.

The Commission observed that in the context of shared management it is important to strike the right balance between the supervisory role of the Commission and the implementation responsibilities of the Member States. Commission colleagues also informed that the approval of the compliance assessment reports is slightly coming to an end and that DG REGIO and BUDGET will come up with a proposal on the tolerable risk of error by 2012.

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

The rapporteur, Mr. Luhan (EPP) has presented his draft report, observing that the title of the report reflects a vast reality. Although it is necessary to mobilize the EU at global level, it is first and foremost necessary to solve internal problems, namely in terms of infrastructure. Members manifested their wish that this report goes further into the theme of global competitiveness and how this interconnects for instance with the demographic issue. They also want to make recommendations regarding the regions under the convergence objective and the real goals and criteria of Cohesion Policy in the context of global competitiveness. Moreover, the focus placed by the draft report on infrastructure was to some extent criticised in that it leaves out a reference to innovation and sustainability, on one hand, and to growth and employment, on the other. The reinforcement of the entrepreneurial aspect would in fact contribute to increase the interregional competitiveness. The report should also provide for an answer to the basic question on why there is a need for Cohesion Policy to underscore EU's competitiveness, by presenting more concrete solutions and clearer instructions to the Member States and the Commission in this respect. Economic territorial cohesion was also mentioned as key to competitiveness and some Members consider that indeed investment in infrastructure, especially transport infrastructure, more than in sustainable development is needed in the new Member States, otherwise these will lag behind. However, innovation is extremely important and education plays a key role in terms of Europe's international competitiveness. Cohesion Policy and competitiveness are closely interrelated, but the report, for some Members, should build on a more integrated approach to the problems regions are confronted with. The role of Cohesion Policy in mitigating the differences of development between Member States should be kept.

## **7. Integrated maritime policy - Evaluation of progress made and new challenges**

The rapporteur, Mr. Stavrakakis (S&D), has presented his draft opinion, highlighting the importance of reinforcing territorial cohesion by creating connections between mainland and both outlying islands and highlands. In this context it is crucial to reinforce the transport infrastructure by improving exchanges between maritime regions and of maritime security. In the debate that followed, Members have highlighted many different aspects, from climate change to macro-regions. For some, the draft opinion should focus less on small dimension islands and more on the need to protect the environment and the ecosystems of coastal

regions in general, account being taken of the climate change prospects. For this purpose, the provision of services of protection and security of coastal areas is considered crucial. The lack of coordination in the EU in the field of maritime policy was also emphasised and Members would like to discuss sustainable tourism and maritime transport and shipping conditions in the context of a broader European Strategy. Better strategies for the outermost regions are also called for, namely through the creation of a Mediterranean Strategy. The expected Atlantic coastal initiative expected this Autumn could be anticipated in some way by immediately encouraging outermost regions to create macro-regions in the context of objective 3, which provides for an appropriate framework which better reflects the territorial dimension. The Commission announced that further "geographical documents" will be put forward responding to the need of having geographically cohesive documents which allow Member States to present coherent strategies for their sea basins. The representative from the Commission has also stressed that although outermost regions are often referred to as a block, which is correct from a legal point of view, they should be referred to separately depending on the geographical they belong to, because these have specificities.

## **8. Simplifying the implementation of the Research Framework Programmes**

The rapporteur, Alain Cadec (EPP), considers this matter to be of great political importance and therefore will present a draft opinion at the next July meeting, to be voted at the REGI extraordinary meeting of 6 of September. The rapporteur has introduced the issue and his main ideas on the subject, which is based on the Communication from the Commission on Simplifying the implementation of the research framework programmes (COM(2010)0187). According to the rapporteur, the Commission stresses the importance of R&D and innovation for growth and for the creation of good and qualified jobs, as well as for the protection of the environment. The complexity of the implementation methods impairs the efficiency and effectiveness of the policies in this area. More flexibility is therefore needed and some simplification measures are put forward, namely in the rules applicable to the calls for tenders and in terms of uniform accounting methods. The rapporteur considers that synergies have to be drawn between policies and instruments, especially between the Cohesion Policy instruments and the research framework programmes. In this context, an integrated approach to research programmes and stronger cross-border, interregional and transnational cooperation are needed. As far as governance is concerned, the draft opinion will call for further decentralisation, in view of the fact that the regional level is the one which is best placed to stimulate synergies between local actors. The co-financing rule should be kept but the criteria for funding should be more focused on economic growth and creation of jobs. Emphasis has to be put on excellence projects of great dimension in order to enhance competitiveness and, through this, credibility of programmes.

## **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>22 June</b>	<b>Toledo, ES</b>	<b>Spanish Presidency</b>	<b>Informal meeting of Urban Development Ministers</b>
<b>25 June</b>	<b>Vienna, AT</b>	<b>UEAPME -European Association of Crafts and SMEs</b>	<b>Conference on regional policy and SMEs</b>
<b>9 July</b>	<b>Warsaw, PL</b>	<b>Polish Sejm</b>	<b>Committee Meeting</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>21 - 23 July</b>	<b>Santander, ES</b>	<b>UIMP - Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo</b>	<b>'Regional branding in the EU 2020'</b>
<b>29 August</b>	<b>Vienna, AT</b>	<b>Europäisches Forum Albach</b>	<b>Albach political symposium</b>
<b>16 September</b>	<b>Warsaw, PL</b>	<b>General Assembly of Polish regions</b>	<b>Future of the Cohesion Policy</b>

### Informal Ministerial Meetings Toledo 21 - 22 June 2010

In Toledo, Spain, took place on the 21st and the 22nd of June respectively, the Informal Ministerial meetings of Housing Ministers and of Urban development. The Chair of the Committee on Regional Development was invited to participate in both gatherings and to address the Ministers at the beginning of the conferences.

These informal reunions coincided with the ordinary meeting of the committee on regional development but the committee was represented at the first meeting by Ms Karima Delli ( GREENS/ALE- FR) who was asked by the Chair to present the views of the committee to the Ministers. The Chair participate herself at the Urban Development Ministers meeting delivering an speech at the beginning of the gathering and contributing later in the debates.

The speeches of the Ms Delli and the Chair are available on the website of the committee and the Final Declarations of both informal ministerial meetings have already been distributed to the Members together with other relevant documents produced by these events.

### Delegation to Germany

As approved by the Bureau at its meeting of 14 December 2009, the REGI Committee sent a delegation to Germany (Mannheim, Ludwigshafen and Heidelberg) between 23 and 25 June 2010.

8 Members, 3 of them from Germany and representing four 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. REGI Members participated in meetings with regional and local authorities and project managers from other policy stakeholders to discuss the practical aspects of implementation of the urban dimension in cohesion policy.

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 al Members of the Committee.

## ESPON Open Seminar

On 9 and 10 June 2010 ESPON organised a two days Open Seminar on “ESPON Evidence for Regional Policy-Making. Contributing to the Europe 2020 Strategy” in Alcalá de Henares Madrid -. The Seminar addressed the use of ESPON results in policy-making in support of competitiveness and territorial cohesion. The Seminar started with a special roundtable discussion on understanding of the territorial dimension of the new European 2020 Strategy. Participants included policy makers including representatives of the Spanish and Belgian Presidencies, the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee. The presentations and workshops organised at the Seminar demonstrated the added value and suggest practical use of European wide ESPON knowledge in policy making, particular at regional level. The participants also discussed best practices and possible improvements in disseminating and communicating ESPON project results to policy makers ranging from local/regional level to European level. The future Hungarian Presidency presented the first results of the project: "First steps towards the revised Territorial Agenda" together with indicating the calendar for its finalising.

Among the ESPON ongoing projects discussed at the Seminar the following might be particularly useful for the present and future work of REGI Committee:

- DEMIFER - *The influence of demography and migratory flows on the development of regions.*
- CAEE - *Agglomeration economies and their influence on defining growth strategies.*
- EDORA - *Different kind of rural areas and their opportunities for development.*
- FOCI - *The future of cities: levers for creating smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.*

More detailed information is available online at the ESPON Website: [http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Events/](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Events/)

Over 200 participants from European Institutions, national governments, research institutions and universities attended the seminar. The REGI Secretariat was among the participants.

## Presentation of a book



### **"Cost-Benefit Analysis of Multi-Level Government: The case of EU Cohesion Policy and of US Federal Investment Policies"**

**by Dr Alessandro Ferrara**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, **Miguel Tell Cremades**, Secretary of the Committee of Regional Development, European Parliament, organized the presentation of the above mentioned book recently published in London and New York by Routledge by inviting in addition to the author, **Alessandro Ferrara**, Unit Economic and Quantitative Analysis, Additionality, DG Regional Policy, European Commission, the three following *discussants*: **Gerhard Stahl**, Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions; **Anastassios Bougas**, former Head of Unit of the Evaluation Unit, Policy Conception Unit, and Unit of Romania, DG

Regional Policy, European Commission; and **Eric Von Breska**, Head of Unit, Economic and Quantitative Analysis, Additionality, DG Regional Policy, European Commission

During the presentation, it was emphasized that the book provides an original framework for assessing public investment policies co-financed by Union (Federal) governments. This framework is applied to EU Cohesion Policy and to US Federal Investment Policies. In particular the following questions are addressed:

- Why a Cohesion Policy at EU level is needed and justified?
- Why is important to reduce inter-regional disparities across EU?
- How can social exclusion be considered when alternative European Cohesion Policy options are assessed?
- How can we ensure that the EU Cohesion Policy budget is properly allocated per Member State and priority objective before National Strategic Frameworks and operational programmes are negotiated with Member States authorities?
- In these circumstances, how can co-funding rates be derived under binding or non binding budgetary constraints?
- How can such an analytical framework provide guidance FOR\*\* EU decision-makers?

The book also describes the US Federal Investment Policies and compares them with EU Cohesion Policy. Guidelines such as the *Impact Assessment Guidelines* (European Commission), *Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government*, the *Green Book* (British Treasury), and *Guidelines and Discount Rates for Benefit-Cost Analysis of Federal Programs* (Executive Office of the US President) are also analysed (book summary: <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415568210/>).

The book's key messages and conclusions were underlined the facts that there is a strong case for EU Cohesion Policy across the entire European Union; the introduction of impact assessment has been a fundamental milestone in the EU decision-making process; the and strong added value of cost-benefit analysis for the impact assessment of policy options; the book provides methodological directions for the implementation and further development of the European Commission impact assessment guidelines. Finally, it was also emphasized that the book constitutes a very valuable contribution in terms of describing the complex scenario of US Federal Investment Policies.

## Library News

### 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 6, July 2010:

**Regional Analysis of Public Capital Expenditure: To Which Regions Is Public Capital Expenditure Channelled - to 'Rich' or to 'Poor' Ones?** /by Jiri Blazek and Marie Maceskova, pp. 679-696 ([full text](#) - click on IP authentication)





### European urban and regional studies / 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 truly 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 3, 2010:

**What can we learn from the failures of technology and innovation policies in the European periphery?**/by George Liagouras, pp. 331-349 ([full text](#) - click on IP authentication)

**Exploring the correspondence between regional forms of governance and regional identity: The case of Western Europe** / by Marco Antonsich, pp. 261-276 ([full text](#) - click on IP authentication)

**Development in peripheral regions: Case studies in Sweden** / by Cali Nuur and Staffan Laestadius, pp. 309-330 ([full text](#) - click on IP authentication)

### Latest analysis



**From Incremental to Comprehensive: Towards Island-Friendly European Union Policymaking** / by Stefano Moncada, Marguerite Camilleri, Saviour Formosa and Roberta Galea. In: Island Studies Journal, Vol. 5, No. 1, May 2010, pp. 61 - 88

Abstract: The sustainability challenges faced by islands in the European Union (EU) are not well reflected in EU policy, where the approach to island issues has been incremental and fragmented. [This paper](#) identifies EU islands and their main sustainability issues, and argues for a stronger awareness of island issues in EU policy processes. It notes in particular the current restrictive definition of islands, which excludes island states, and the fact that the issues of peripherality and insularity do not fit into any of the categories provided in the EU's impact assessment guidelines. Moreover, since European islands are found at various administrative scales, there is a lack of harmonized statistical data on fundamental factors necessary for monitoring their sustainable development (Source: [Island Studies Journal](#)) (Available on the Library website - [see latest analyses](#)).

### "Your voice on Europe 2020": report / Committee of the Regions, June 2010



The Committee of the Regions published the report on the follow-up consultation "[Your Voice on Europe 2020](#)", which was launched on March 2010, via a questionnaire posted on the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform.

The report summarises the 97 contributions received from the local and regional authorities from 21 EU Member States.

The main issues tackled in the report are: the need for differentiated targets at the territorial level; the need for policy-shaping indicators going beyond GDP; the actual role of the local and regional authorities in the design and implementation of the new strategy; the relationships between Europe 2020, cohesion policy and the EU budget; and the need to communicate the new strategy to all EU citizens. (Available on the Library website - [see latest analyses](#)).

### Science, Technology and Innovation in Europe / Eurostat Pocketbook, 2010



This [publication](#) draws a comprehensive picture of the Science, Technology and Innovation activities in the European Union as carried out by its people, enterprises and governments. It provides the reader with statistical information to appreciate the evolution and composition of science and technology in Europe and its position with regard to its partners. The pocketbook is divided into seven chapters among which: Government budget appropriations or outlays on Research and Development (GBAORD), R&D Expenditure, R&D Personnel, Human Resources in Science and Technology, Innovation, Patents, High-technology ([Table of content](#)). (Available on the Library website - [see latest analyses](#))

**ReRisk - Regions at Risk of Energy Poverty: draft final report / ESPON, 2010**

ESPON ReRisk project has published its [draft final report](#). By looking at the impact the energy prices have on the competitiveness and cohesion, regions with similar characteristics have been identified in order to address them by a common set of policies.

The policy recommendations have also taken into account the long-term planning framework in the energy sector, which is described in four qualitative scenarios. Further input was obtained from a survey of 40 regional administrations, from the case studies carried out in several EU regions (Samsø/Denmark, Navarra/Spain, Kalundborg and Landskrona/Sweden and Freiburg/Germany) and from relevant EU policy documents. (Available on the Library website - [see latest analyses](#)).