
REGI News

Newsletter from the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development

VII Legislature N. 11 - 11 June 2010



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In Focus

on Monday 21 June 2010 (15.00 - 18.30)
& Tuesday 22 June 2010 (9.00 - 12.30)
JAN 4 Q 2

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- ❖ Votes
 - Control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (Danuta Hübner opinion)
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Date of next meeting:

*Monday 12 July 2010
15.00 - 18.30*

*Tuesday 13 July 2010
9.00 - 12.30*

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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

Comments and subscriptions at
regineews@europarl.europa.eu



PART I

Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI Committee meeting on 21 and 22 June 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. Workshop on Simplification in Cohesion policy (Point 3 of the Draft Agenda)

The Committee on Regional Development will hold a workshop on the Simplification in Cohesion Policy.

John Bachtler (Professor of European Policy Studies, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow) will give an overview about simplification measures in Cohesion policy in the 2007-2013 programme period.

The second expert, Mr Roland Blomeyer, (expert, blomeyer&szanz) will tackle the issue of simplification of audit procedures and shared management.

After the presentations, Members will debate this crucial topic with the two experts. In order to broaden the scope of the workshop, two representatives from national authorities will also join the debate: Mr Graeme D Watson (Head of the Certifying Authority and Finance Team, European Structural Funds, Scottish Government) and Mr. Marek Kalupa (Director, Department for Co-ordination of the EU Funds Implementation, Polish Ministry of Regional Development).

2. Control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (Point 4 of the Draft Agenda)

The Committee will vote on the draft opinion of Ms. Hübner to the report of the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) regarding the Commission proposal on a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council to establish the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers.

Two amendments were tabled to this draft opinion, which is due to be voted in JURI on 23 of June of 2010. These amendments seek to emphasise that the need for uniform application of implementing acts is the underlying reason for the attribution to the

Commission of implementing powers by the Treaty. Moreover, a reinforcement of the effective application of the right of the Parliament and of the Council to information on committees' procedures, by giving them the same rights as these latter in the procedure, is also sought.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Danuta Maria Hübner	Consideration of draft opinion: 02/06/2010
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Planned deadline for Ams:
Procedure: 2010/0051(COD)	Planned adoption REGI: 21/06/2010
Lead Committee : JURI	Planned adoption in JURI: 23/06/2010 (tbc)
	Planned adoption in plenary: July 2010 (tbc)

3. Developing the job potential of a new sustainable economy (Point 5 of the Draft Agenda)

The draft opinion drawn by Ms. Westphal to the report of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL), on developing the job potential of a new sustainable economy, will be voted in REGI.

Fifty-two amendments were tabled to this report which is due to be voted in EMPL on 14 of July 2010. The amendments tabled focus on various aspects, from the need to involve local actors in the design of labour policies and in the creation of the necessary conditions for a good employment environment, to the role of Structural Funds in the creation of a more sustainable labour market and economy. The importance of education and training is also emphasised, as well as the need for research and development and for the development of good infrastructure systems, namely in the field of transport.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Kerstin Westphal	Consideration of draft opinion: 26-27/04/2010
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Planned deadline for Ams: 04/05/2010
Procedure: 2010/2010(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 21-22/06/2010
Lead Committee : EMPL	Planned adoption in EMPL: 14/07/2010 (tbc)
	Planned adoption in plenary: September 2010 (tbc)

4. 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.

It will not be possible to establish the definitive calendar for dealing with the dossier until certain legal positions have been clarified. Provisionally, the timetable for this report was 21-22 June. It may be dealt with under the Article 46(1) rule - simplified procedure without amendments.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
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:

5. Report on the work of the Working Party on the future of Cohesion Policy (Point 7 of the Draft Agenda)

The latest meeting of the REGI Working Party on the Future of Cohesion Policy (WPOFCP) took place on 3 June 2010. The decision to create this informal working party was made the 3-4 November 2009 by REGI. The WPOFCP has mere preparatory capacities, all decisional powers being left within the REGI Committee.

During the meeting Members discussed the draft text of the position paper on the future of cohesion policy and it was decided that the work would continue with close cooperation between the political groups and the Secretariat. The following experts took part in the debate:

- John Bachtler, Professor of European Policy Studies, Director of European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde
- Jacek Szlachta, Professor, Warsaw School of Economics
- Jean Marie Rousseau, Innovation & Intelligence territoriale, former national expert in the Directorate-General for Regional Policy of the European Commission
- Jean-Charles Leygues, former deputy Director General, Regional Policy, European Commission

The draft position paper is to be presented to the Committee during its second meeting in June.

6. Good governance with regards to the EU regional policy: procedures of assistance and control by the European Commission (Point 9 of the Draft Agenda)

The rapporteur, Ms. Manescu (ALDE) will present her draft report, which is structured on two axes.

In its first part it analyses the principle and practical application of multi-level governance, starting from the valuable contribution provided by Committee of the Regions through its White Paper of Multi-level governance adopted in June 2009.

The main points raised and recommendations addressed to Commission and Member States concern the following issues:

- the link between MLG and territorial cohesion and the suggestion to make the first compulsory in policy areas with strong territorial impact; the need to fully exploit the potential of the objective of Territorial cooperation and the role of EGTCs in facilitating cross-border cooperation;
- the intensification of the integrated approach, to be set as an obligatory requirement for the future cohesion policy;
- the need of involving regional and local authorities since the pre-legislative phase of the EU legislation and give them equal rights and positions in the decision-making bodies in charge of the Programmes
- the horizontal and vertical dimension of multi-level governance intended as

cooperation and synergies between policies and actors of different levels and types.

In its second part the report analyses the mechanisms of shared management, in particular the responsibilities of the European Commission and the Member States in supporting regional and local authorities in the implementation of structural funded programmes.

The main recommendations towards improved governance at this level are based on the analysis of the 2008 Action Plan of the Commission on how to strengthen its supervisory role, and the two subsequent reports on the implementation of the Action Plan of February 2009 and February 2010 respectively.

The main recommendations concern:

- the need for the Commission to increase its assistance to Managing and Certifying Authorities and to constantly monitor the actual transfer of knowledge to the lower levels, especially the local one;
- a better coordination among the control levels in place in order to avoid duplication of controls and consequent over-control on Programmes and projects;
- reinforcement and simplification of the financial engineering instruments in place in order to become more appealing and user-friendly, especially for the private sector;
- the priority of a cohesion policy oriented towards tangible results rather than on the respect of administrative procedures;
- the simplification of rules for Structural Funds as precondition for better governance in the cohesion policy, through the application of principles as proportionality and differentiation in the future regulations;
- as a consequence, the opportunity to seek for a better harmonization in the rules of the Structural Funds in future so as to facilitate access to and management of EU funding by the potential beneficiaries.

The draft report is expected to be voted in the REGI meeting of 27-28 September and go to the October plenary in Strasbourg.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Ms Ramona Nicole Mănescu	Consideration of working document: 17/03/2010 - 26/04/2010
Responsible administrator: Elisa Daffarra	Consideration of draft report: 21/06/2010
Procedure: 2009/2231(INI)	Adoption REGI: 27-28/09/2010 (tbc)
	Plenary: October 2010 (tbc)

7. Achieving real territorial, social and economic cohesion within the EU - a sine qua non condition for global competitiveness? (Point 10 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

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) (INI)	Adoption REGI: July 2010 (tbc)
	Plenary: September 2010 (tbc)

8. Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) - Evaluation of progress made and new challenges (Point 11 of the Draft Agenda)

In his opinion Mr Stavrakakis points to the need to further develop the integration of the internal market vis à vis the mobility of passengers and goods through the promotion of short sea shipping. He also stresses the specificity of each island and the need for specific solutions and place based local development strategies.

He proposes the creation of a horizontal unit within the European Commission services which would have sole responsibility for islands and coastal issues.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Mr Georgios Stavrakakis (S&D)	Consideration of draft opinion: 21/06/2010
Responsible TRAN: Gesine Meissner (ALDE)	
Responsible administrator: Christian Chopin	Adoption REGI: July 2010 (tbc)
Procedure: 2010/2040(INI) COM(2009)0540	Adoption Tran September 2010 (tbc)

9. Simplifying the implementation of the Research Framework Programmes (Point 12 of the Draft Agenda)

On 18 May 2010, the Conference of Presidents of Political Groups authorised the Committee of Industry, Research and Energy to elaborate an Initiative report on "Simplifying the implementation of the Research Framework Programmes". This procedure could be announced during the Plenary of June.

The Committee on Regional Development has been appointed to give an opinion. During its meeting of 2 June 2010, the REGI Coordinators decided to draft an opinion on this matter. It was allocated to the EPP Group. These decisions were ratified by REGI Committee on 3 June 2010.

The timetable set by ITRE Committee foresees to vote on its draft report on 30 September and the vote in plenary is scheduled on 18 October 2010.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: (EPP)	Exchange of views: 22/06/2010
Responsible ITRE: Maria Da Graça Carvalho (EPP)	Consideration of draft opinion:
Responsible administrator:	Adoption REGI:
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 2 and 3 June 2010

1. Report on the work of the Working party on the future of the Cohesion Policy

The latest meeting of the REGI Working Party on the Future of Cohesion Policy (WPoFCP) took place on 3 June 2010. The decision to create this informal working party was made on the 3-4 November 2009 by REGI. The WPoFCP is an informal consultative body, all decisional powers being left within the REGI Committee.

The discussion revolved around the draft position paper prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the information and documents supplied by the political groups. Members decided that the Position paper should not be converted into an own initiative report as had initially been envisaged but may be used in the context of a debate with resolution in a future Plenary. It was agreed that more work was required and the working group charged the secretariat to meet with and work in close collaboration with the political group secretariats to draw up a new improved version of the paper.

2. Report on the visit of a REGI Committee delegation to France from 28 to 30 April 2010

The Regional Development Committee (REGI) sent a delegation to France (Indre-et-Loire and Île de France) between 28 and 30 April 2010.

Participant Members were given the opportunity to visit and observe how local authorities are addressing different problems of development in different regions of France (Region Centre and Region Ile-de-France), where European Union funding (ERDF) is being invested.

Although both Regions aim ultimately, through their regional operational programmes, at creating jobs and boosting business and competitiveness by creating or developing entrepreneurial activities, they focus on different priorities of action.

Whereas the Region Centre, one of the less populated of France, clearly prioritises research and innovation activities, trying to boost the Region's attractiveness to investors, the Region of Ile-de-France, the most populated of France and ranking first in GDP, is focusing more on urban requalification and development, while integrating an environmentally respectful and a social inclusion approach.

The chair of the delegation Mr. Lambert van Nistelrooij, presented the main conclusions and relevant points of the visit. He reported that during the delegation the Members have noticed an ongoing discussion on the future of Cohesion Policy and structural funds in France. Easier procedures to access European funds and the need for more integrated approach have been requested by the stakeholders met in the visited regions. Other Members of the delegation emphasised the importance of communicating the results of cohesion policy to citizens as the way of showing positive impacts of the European integration. The possibility of using delegations as a tool for improving the Committee's visibility, possibly through liaison with the EP's Information Offices was mentioned.

The Chair informed that a report on the outcome of the delegation had been distributed to the Members and that it would be forwarded to the Conference of Committee Chairs for information as foreseen in the decision of the CoP.

3. Control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers

The committee debated on the draft opinion to the report of the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) regarding the Commission proposal on a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council to establish the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers, under Article 291(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

The Chair informed that The Treaty of Lisbon substantially modified the framework for implementing powers that are conferred upon the Commission by the legislator. Contrary to the provisions of the Treaty establishing the European Community, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union makes a clear distinction between the powers delegated to the Commission to adopt non-legislative acts of general application to supplement or amend certain non-essential elements of a legislative act (delegated acts, under Article 290, TFEU), on the one hand, and the powers conferred on the Commission to adopt implementing acts, on the other hand (Article 291, TFEU).

The provisions of the new Treaty put the co-legislators on an equal footing in relation to the conferral of delegated and implementing powers. Under the EC Treaty it was the Council that could confer implementing powers on the Commission. The Council could also reserve implementing powers to itself in specific cases. Under the new Treaty provisions it is a direct obligation deriving from the Treaty that acts must confer implementing powers on the Commission where this is needed in view of ensuring uniform implementation of these acts.

The Commission's proposal relies mainly on a general principle that it is the Member States only that are responsible for controlling the Commission's exercise of implementing powers, totally excluding the legislator (the European Parliament and Council) from that control. This would in practice imply moving backwards as far as the acquired prerogatives of the Parliament are concerned.

The draft opinion, based on a large debate and consensus among the various committees involved, purports to maintain the rights of information of the Parliament regarding all the implementing measures adopted by the Commission and also the right to oppose those measures should they go beyond the scope of the basic act. Apart from those essential provisions, the draft opinion defends that the choice of the procedures provided for (advisory and examination) should be non-binding. In fact, the draft opinion proposes that the choice should be left to the legislator on a case-by-case basis, while recommending the application of the more demanding procedure of examination in certain circumstances, namely where the basic act has important budgetary implications.

The deadline for amendments was set for 4 June 2010 at 12:00.

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

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.

It will not be possible to establish the definitive calendar for dealing with the dossier until certain legal positions have been clarified. Provisionally, the timetable for this report is 21-22 June. The committee's report will be dealt with under Article 46(1) rule - simplified procedure without amendments..

5. Exchange of views with Mr Dirk Ahner, Director General, and Ms Veronica Gaffey, Head of the Evaluation Unit at European Commission - DG Regio, on the ex-post Evaluation for the 2000-2006 period

Mr Dirk Ahner, Director-General (DG REGIO) and Ms Veronica Gaffey, Head of the Evaluation Unit (DG REGIO) were invited to the Committee on Regional Development to inform the committee on the findings of the Synthesis report summarising the ex-post evaluation of Cohesion policy programmes 2000-06 co-financed by the ERDF (Objective 1 and 2). The report was published the 19 April 2010. The Commission intends to publish the evaluation reports concerning Cohesion and Social Funds until mid-2011. As the only exercise of this kind this evaluation is important in the context of the discussion on post 2013 cohesion policy.

Mr Ahner in his presentation emphasised that it was the biggest ex-post evaluation exercise so far and pointed at novelty of using thematic approach (methods and evaluation teams adapted to themes) instead of holistic approach that was applied before. The whole period was cut into the following thematic blocks: Enterprise support, Environment and Climate Change, Transport, Structural change and globalization, Gender and Demography, Rural Development, which were evaluated by the experts. They were trying to answer the question how the regional growth can be attributed to the cohesion policy using wide range of methods including project examples, case studies, counterfactual analysis, and macroeconomic models. The main questions were:

- What has been achieved in terms of reducing disparities (e.g. as GDP per capita)?
- What has been achieved in specific policy fields?

Ms Gaffey has informed that the synthesis report was result of work of 14 evaluation teams of 3 years' duration. The result of the study is that in the period 2000-2006 the growth was higher in Objective 1 regions in nearly all countries, in the EU-25 regional disparities narrowed, in EU 15: narrowed in most EU15 countries (exception Greece), in the EU 10: regional disparities widened (due to the high growth capitals). Finally, in EU15 in Objective 1 regions there was 2% growth in GDP pc, compared to 1.4% in non-assisted regions. She emphasised that it is not possible to judge success of policy by observation of statistics as there are other factors at work. Thus the approach taken in this evaluation exercise was to ask specific questions such as: Was scale of funding big enough to make a difference?, Do macroeconomic models indicate positive effect on growth?, Is there concrete evidence of positive results?, etc. All the answers were positive, the models shown positive effects, and Member States reported creation of over 1 million jobs by enterprise support. The specific results in thematic themes lead to the following conclusions:

- Evaluation demonstrates contribution of ERDF to reduction of disparities.
- EU25 as a whole wins with cohesion policy.
- We have more knowledge about what policy has delivered in main policy fields (transport, environment, enterprise support).
- We can demonstrate that policy delivers more than growth: a better environment and social benefits.
- We know much better how to evaluate.

In a long debate that followed the presentations the Members raised questions concerning the possibility of integrating funds, rules concerning using of funds, problematic nature of using indicators as the evaluation method, which indicators shall be used in the future, possibilities of using preventive monitoring that would for instance enable detecting mistakes in tendering procedures, and investments in road building vs. investments in other kinds of transport. The evaluation's finding on widening of regional disparities in Greece led to the discussion on the possible introduction of systematic conditionality of regional funding with macro-economic stability.

As far as the question of the cost of evaluation was concerned, the Commission's representatives confirmed that the analysis represents a good value for money and informed that during the evaluation 2 contracts were terminated because of the bad quality.

The final conclusion was that more evaluation is needed, also more long-term evaluation. Mr Ahner pointed to the need of more established dialogue between regions and Commission's desk officers in order to solve problems such as funds absorption.

6. Exchange of views with Mr Michael Schneider, Rapporteur on the opinion of the Committee of the Regions, on the future of Cohesion Policy (Point 10 of the Draft Agenda)

Dr Michael Schneider (DE/EPP) Member of COTER, Committee of the Regions) presented the main recommendations of the CoR's outlook opinion on the future of cohesion policy, of which he was rapporteur:

- Cohesion policy, with its devolved approach and system of multilevel governance, is the only European Union policy to link the goals of the EUROPE 2020 strategy and the new challenges with local and regional authorities. It is therefore essential that cohesion policy continue to be geared towards the goals of sustainable growth, social inclusion, employment and the fight against climate change.
- Under cohesion policy, the major share of available resources must continue to go to the neediest and most problem-ridden Member States and regions of the European Union in order to help reduce the development gaps and thus make a practical contribution both to securing fairness of opportunity for the regions and to fostering European solidarity. The criteria used for defining funding areas have proved successful.
- Regions in transition also need special support so that the successes they have achieved with the help of the Structural Funds are not jeopardised by the funding being discontinued. The long-term nature of European support should give these regions the security to press ahead with development and enable them to respond to their own particular situations.
- The Regional competitiveness and employment objective must also continue to support all the other EU regions, not least in order to boost innovation, social cohesion and competitiveness.

- Given the high European added value which it offers, territorial cooperation must also remain a target in its own right to support cross-border, transnational and inter-regional cooperation, in particular to make a practical contribution to territorial cohesion in the European Union. • We know much better how to evaluate.

In the debate that followed the presentation the Members discussed the rationale of using GDP pc as the only indicator, how transition regions should be defined and supported, failures of the Lisbon Strategy, earmarking of funds, strengthening the role of local authorities, the possibility of sanctioning regions that have misused funds.

7. The following votes took place

- **EU financial contributions to the International Fund for Ireland (2007-2010)**
REGI/7/02244
Draftsperson: Seán Kelly (PPE)
The report was adopted by 42 votes in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.
- **Contribution of EU regional policy towards fighting the financial and economic crisis, with a special reference to Objective 2**
Draftsperson: Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (PPE)
The opinion was adopted by 42 votes in favour, 0 against and 2 abstentions.
- **The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the role of macro-regions in the future cohesion policy**
Draftsperson: Wojciech Michał Olejniczak (S&D)
The report was adopted by 43 votes in favour, 1 against and 0 abstention.

8. 2010 Budget: Section III - Commission

The TFEU changed the annual budget procedure and the 2011 budget is the first to fall under the new procedure. The Treaty introduced a number of changes in procedure and in Parliament's powers over the budget. In particular it eliminated the distinction between compulsory and non compulsory expenditure. The Calendar for this year's budgetary procedure is once again very tight and in all probability, the committee will have to consider its draft opinion in July and adopt it at a special meeting to be held in Strasbourg on 6 September. Apart from reinstating any amounts the Council may have reduced from the Commission's draft budget, the opinion will refer to Pilot projects proposed by the rapporteur as well as those retained by the Committee during the vote.

Unfortunately for the committee the extremely tight calendar is imposed by the calendars of the Council and the committee on budgets. In the first case Parliament will only receive the Council's position on the draft budget on 15 or 16 July. It is only then that the committee will be able to react. The committee on budgets has laid down a deadline for amendments for Committee's and individual Members as 8 September.

In the exchange of views the rapporteur explained the situation to the committee with emphasis on the actual change of powers that the Lisbon Treaty has introduced and asked the groups which were unable to meet the previously requested deadline of 20 May, to submit all or any proposed pilot projects by 21 June at the latest. This will allow him the time to draw up his opinion in good time.

9. The future of regional policy (Exchange of views with experts)

As the debate on the future of cohesion policy unfolds, the Committee on Regional Development is becoming more active in debating the complex issues related to this matter. Four experts have been invited to the meeting of the WPoFCP, and it was considered appropriate to also hold an exchange of views with the Committee preceding the debate during the Working Party meeting.

The experts participated in the REGI meeting and put forward the following recommendations:

Mr John Bachtler, Professor of European Policy Studies, Director of European Policies Centre, University of Strathclyde

- Policy has to be more focused on areas such as research, innovation, or carbon economy.
- We need more conditionality, better indicators, and better evaluation.
- There is a general agreement on more emphasis put on territorial integration.
- As far as performance is concerned, we need a significant change in evaluation culture showing for instance significant employment impact by enterprises and reinforced evidence for the added-value of the policy.
- Poor strategic coherence among policies and interventions is a problem.

Mr Jean-Marie Rousseau, Innovation § Intelligence Territoriale, former national expert in the DG REGIO, European Commission

- Cohesion policy is of a long-term nature and it is not a policy to provide any kind of income.
- Increasing subsidiarity as the main element with the European Commission playing a controlling role and intervening in order to increase the value-added of the policy.
- The Union is composed of majority with the GDP gap, thus majority is facing difficulties.
- If we compare this performance to Japan or the U.S. the picture becomes even worse.
- There are two alternatives: focusing on sectoral policies as priority area that would lead to renationalisation or a more integrated approach concentrated on the regional level.
- The needs of regions have to be better defined (differentiating between regions lagging behind, convergence regions, metropolitan areas, medium size towns, etc.).
- The consequences of the financial crisis have to be taken into account.
- Introduction of macro-economic conditionality may lead to disappearing of multi-level governance.

Mr Jacek Szlachta, Professor, Warsaw School of Economics

- The main question to be answered is how to foster economic development in Europe and whether territorial cohesion may be one of the instruments.
- We need re-simplification, avoiding duplication, cutting down on administrative costs, improving administrating culture.
- Concentration on thematic priorities, not on dispersed projects, improving absorption levels, flexible best practices exchange, and designing the system that would be able to check results was recommended.
- We have to remember about the unique role of regional level in conduction of cohesion policy.

Mr Jean-Charles Leygues, former Deputy Director General in the DG REGIO, European Commission

- The link between EU policy and other policies in the world such as Chinese policy based on innovation is interesting to analyse.
- The role of R&D and Innovation policy should not be overlooked.

- Cohesion policy should not lead to disappearing diversity.
- All synergies between cohesion policy and sectoral policies should be exploited.
- Links between centres of excellence and lagging regions should be established and exploited with the coordinating role of the European Commission and by using existing programmes such as Interreg.
- Emerging regions for systems of innovation should be identified to foster development.

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:

28-29 May	Warsaw, PL	12th Meeting of the Group for Civilisation Project for Poland	Conference
1 June	Linz, AT	East-West Partnership Ltd, via donau - Österreichische Wasserstraßen GmbH and Port of Enns	5th Danube Summit
14 June	Brussels, BE	AER	Conference "From Subsidiary to success"

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:

22 June	Toledo, ES	Spanish Presidency	Informal meeting of Urban Development Ministers
25 June	Vienna, AT	UEAPME -European Association of Crafts and SMEs	Conference on regional policy and SMEs
1 July	Brussels, BE	CRPM	Regional policy and neighbourhood after 2013: macro-regions, an opportunity for progress?
2 July 2010	Burgos, ES	European BIC Network (EBN)	Smart entrepreneurship: challenging the recession

Delegation to Germany

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

8 Members, 3 of them from Germany, are participating in the visit of this delegation, whose purpose is to gain an overview of the projects which have been co-financed by the EU Structural Funds. The REGI Members will meet regional and local authorities to discuss the practical aspects of implementation of the urban dimension in the cohesion policy.

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

Library News

Publications



Regional policy, economic growth and convergence: lessons from the Spanish case / editor Juan R. Cuadrado-Roura. Heidelberg: Springer Berlin, 2010, 311 p.

The aim of this book is not only to analyze the regional policies practiced, their objectives, instruments and effects, but to provide an in-depth analysis on the impact of investments in infrastructure, human capital and other factors, as well as the advances accomplished in terms of productivity, convergence and regional competitiveness. The book particularly wants to impart knowledge, which can be useful for other countries' policy makers, as well as for academics, researchers and consultants.

Available in the Library - make a reservation [here](#)



Public policy for regional development / edited by Jorge Martinez-Vazquez and François Vaillancourt. London: Routledge, 2008. 239 p.

This book draws on the expertise of both North American and European specialists of regional economics, evaluating the impact of economic policy in certain regions and considering alternative policies to foster regional economic development and improve the employment and income of the residents of these regions.

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Towards New Nordic regions: politics, administration and regional development / edited by Oddbjørn Bukve Henrik Halkier and Peter de Souza. Aalborg: Aalborg Universitetsforlag, 2008, 314 p.

Across the Nordic countries movements are taking place towards new political and administrative government structures at the regional level. The book presents an analysis of this development, in order to figure out both similarities and differences in the content of the reform and the reform process. At the same time the book also discusses how and to what extent new regions are growing from below. The overall aim of the book is to outline the broader implications of the Nordic experience for the understanding of the international trend towards the development of the new regions.

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Does EU Cohesion Policy Promote Growth?: evidence from regional data and alternative econometric approaches / Philipp Mohl and Tobias Hagen. Mannheim: ZEW, Zentrum für Europ. Wirtschaftsforschung, 2008, 49 p.

This paper analyses the growth effects of EU structural funds using a new panel dataset of 124 NUTS-1/NUTS-2 regions over the time period 1995-2005.

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Latest analysis



Guide des projets transfrontaliers: guide opérationnel et financier à l'attention des porteurs de projets / Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) ; Caisse des Dépôts, 2010

"Cet ouvrage se destine aux porteurs de projets transfrontaliers aux frontières françaises, afin de faciliter le fonctionnement et la gestion de leurs projets, au travers de conventions ou de structures communes de coopération transfrontalière. Il aborde des questions inédites comme l'application des règles de la commande publique en transfrontalier, le paiement de la TVA ou les partenariats publics-privés. Cet ouvrage a été réalisé par la MOT, à l'initiative de la CDC" (Source: [Espaces transfrontaliers](#)).

(Available on the Library website - [see latest analyses](#)).

Library Briefings



Environmental Sustainability of EU Islands / Tiago Freitas, 2010 (Available on the Library website - [see the briefing](#))

EU islands share some of the challenges of the other EU regions but also have specific handicaps that might hinder their sustainable development prospects.

Even if there is no EU insular law or specific funds for islands (except for outermost regions), and the definition of island regions remaining controversial, they can still use the available EU funds to tackle sustainable development.

Aside from the cohesion policy 2007-2013, island regions can finance environmental sustainability projects through the LIFE Programme, the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development and the European Fisheries Fund.



L'Union européenne et la montagne / Guillaume Ragonnaud, 2010 (Available on the Library website - [see the briefing](#))

De nombreuses politiques de l'UE ont un impact sur les zones de montagne, de façon directe ou indirecte. C'est le cas de la politique agricole commune et de la politique de cohésion.

Toutefois, il n'existe pas de politique européenne intégrée de la montagne. La notion de montagne ne fait elle-même pas consensus au niveau de l'UE.

Les zones de montagne présentent des handicaps naturels, économiques et sociaux.

Ces handicaps ne se retrouvent pas dans toutes ces zones, ni avec la même intensité. Face à cette diversité, le débat porte sur la meilleure manière de mobiliser le potentiel de ces territoires.