
REGI News

Newsletter from the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development

VII Legislature N. 10 - 27 May 2010



Legal disclaimer

The items contained herein are drafted by the REGI Secretariat and are provided for general information purposes only. In particular, the content of Part I is merely indicative and subject to changes.

The Newsletter may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organizations. The REGI Secretariat does not necessarily endorse the views expressed on these websites.



In Focus

on Wednesday 2 June 2010 (15.00 - 18.30)
& Thursday 3 June 2010 (9.00 - 12.30)
JAN 4 Q 2

- ❖ [Exchange of views with DG REGIO on the ex-post evaluation for the 2000-2006 period](#)
- ❖ [The Future of Cohesion Policy: exchanges of views](#)
- ❖ [Votes](#)
 - [EU financial contributions to the International Fund for Ireland \(Seán Kelly report\)](#)
 - [Contribution of EU regional policy towards fighting the financial and economic crisis \(Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou report\)](#)
 - [The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region \(Wojciech Michał Olejniczak report\)](#)

INDEX

[PART I](#) [2-3 June Meeting](#)

1. [Report on the work of the Working party on the future of the Cohesion Policy](#)
2. [REGI delegation to France from 28 to 30 April 2010](#)
3. [Control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers](#)
4. [Autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on imports of certain industrial products into Madeira and the Azores](#)
5. [Exchange of views with DG Regio on the ex-post evaluation for the 2000-2006 period](#)
6. [Exchange of views with the Committee of the Regions on the Future of Cohesion policy](#)
7. [EU financial contributions to the International Fund for Ireland](#)
8. [Contribution of EU regional policy towards fighting the financial and economic crisis](#)
9. [The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region](#)
10. [2010 Budget: Section III - Commission](#)
11. [Exchange of views on the future of the Cohesion Policy](#)

[Date of next meeting:](#)

Monday 21 June 2010
15.00 - 18.30
Tuesday 22 June 2010
9.00 - 12.30

[PART II](#) [26-27 April Meeting](#)

1. [Exchange of views with Mr Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Regional Policy](#)
2. [Hearing on good governance with regards to the EU regional policy: procedures of assistance and control by the European Commission](#)
3. [EU financial contributions to the International Fund for Ireland \(2007-2010\)](#)
4. [Votes](#)
5. [Developing the job potential of a new sustainable economy](#)
6. [Follow-up of the pilot projects proposed by the REGI Committee](#)

[PART III](#) [Other news](#)

[Chair's participation on events](#)
[Info from the Library](#)

Useful Internet links

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

Comments and subscriptions at
reginews@europarl.europa.eu



PART I

Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI Committee meeting on 2 and 3 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. Report on the work of the Working party on the future of the Cohesion Policy (Point 4 of the Draft Agenda)

The latest meeting of the REGI Working Party on the Future of Cohesion Policy (WPoFCP) took place on 24 March 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 had an exchange of views with Mrs Katharina MATHERNOVÁ, Deputy Director General, DG REGIO, European Commission. Mrs Mathernová reported on the issues addressed at the latest meeting of the EC High Level Group Reflecting on Future Cohesion Policy (Territorial Cooperation + delivery mechanisms, 25/03/2010):

- The future of the European territorial cooperation objective,
- Delivery system of cohesion policy,
- New Financial Regulation and its implications,

The second part of the meeting was devoted to discussions about the position paper on the future of cohesion policy. The debate was based on a preliminary analysis prepared by the Secretariat including converging views of the political groups. The draft position paper will be considered in the next WPoFCP meeting in June to be endorsed by the Committee during its second meeting in June.

2. Report on the visit of a REGI Committee delegation to France from 28 to 30 April 2010 (Point 5 of the Draft Agenda)

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.

In these quite differentiated contexts, Members were given the opportunity to visit and be presented different projects and plans of activity. The visits aimed at industrial activity sites in the first part, with the visits to Faiveley Transport company and to the Node Park Touraine in Tauxigny, focusing on the creation of businesses and jobs through the implementation of research and development activities. In the Region Ile-de-France the visit was mainly aiming at suburban working class estates, where innovative measures to combat exclusion coupled with measures to deal with dilapidated buildings and difficult housing are being taken (visit of the "Eco-quartier fluvial de l'Île Saint Denis and of the urban renovation project in the north of Aulnay-sous-Bois).

3. Control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (Point 6 of the Draft Agenda)

The committee will debate 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 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.

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 (tbc)
Lead Committee : JURI	Planned adoption in JURI: 23/06/2010 (tbc)
	Planned adoption in plenary: July 2010

4. Temporary suspension of autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on imports of certain industrial products into Madeira and the Azores (Point 7 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 is 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
Responsible administrator: Christian Chopin	Consideration of draft report under article 46(1): 21-22/06/2010 (tbc)
Procedure: 2009/0125 (NLE)	Adoption REGI:
	Plenary:

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 (Point 8 of the Draft Agenda)

Mr Dirk Ahner, Director-General (DG REGIO) and Ms Veronica Gaffey, Head of the Evaluation Unit (DG REGIO) will come 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.

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) is the rapporteur on the outlook opinion on the future of cohesion policy.

Dr Schneider has already had an exchange of views with members of the REGI Working Party on the Future of Cohesion Policy. He will now present his views to the Committee and then debate the key issues with Members.

7. EU financial contributions to the International Fund for Ireland (2007-2010) (Point 11 of the Draft Agenda)

Council Regulation (EC) No 1968/2006 of 21 December 2006 concerning Community financial contributions to the International Fund for Ireland (2007-2010) was annulled by the Court of Justice based on an appeal launched by the European Parliament. The Regulation was adopted on the basis of Article 308 of the Treaty, and the EP considered that the regulation should have been adopted under Article 159§3 of the Treaty establishing the European Community (now Article 175 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union).

The Commission's proposal aims to replace the annulled Regulation in compliance with the Court's Ruling, thus reflecting a dual legal basis in the recitals. All articles remained the same except for the retroactive application of Article 6.

Given that the EU contribution to the International Fund for Ireland ceases in 2010, this Regulation is to expire the 31 December 2010.

Having carefully examined the proposal and given its non-controversial nature, and the urgency of adoption no amendments were presented to the draft report.

On 3 June the REGI committee will vote this report with a view to vote in plenary in June and conclude a first reading agreement with the Council.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Mr Seán Kelly	Consideration of draft report: 27/04/2010
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Planned deadline for AMs: 11/05/2010
Procedure: 2010/0004(COD)	Planned adoption REGI: 03/06/2010
	Planned adoption in plenary: June 2010 (tbc)

8. Contribution of EU regional policy towards fighting the financial and economic crisis, with a special reference to Objective 2 (Point 12 of the Draft Agenda)

The financial crisis and the subsequent economic downturn has hit all regions of the EU including some occupying strategically important positions in the global financial market and which are key parts of the dynamic centre of the European economy. In its plan for economic recovery, the Union has had recourse to the financial instruments of the ERDF and has in particular invested large amounts in objective 2 regions with a view to stimulating demand, assisting large companies as well as SME's to survive the downturn as best they can. It has also seized the opportunity to encourage smart investment in nascent innovative sustainable industries, which will be the backbone of the new economy.

In her draft report Ms Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou addresses the following points:

- The situation of objective 2 regions prior to the financial crisis and how cohesion policy has contributed to increase the competitiveness and employment prospects in those regions;
- How cohesion policy tools have already come to the assistance of the regions concerned;
- What further measures and initiatives should be taken at national, regional and European levels.

On 3 June the REGI committee will vote this report with a view to vote in plenary in July. 68 amendments have been received and 10 compromise amendments have been negotiated. Initially planned for April the vote will proceed without discussion of the amendments.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou	Exchange of views: 22/02/2010
Responsible administrator: Christian Chopin	Consideration of draft report: 17/03/2010
Procedure: 2009/2234(INI)	Planned deadline for AMs: 24/03/2010
	Planned adoption REGI: 03/06/2010
	Planned adoption in plenary: July 2010 (tbc)

9. The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the role of macro-regions in the future Cohesion Policy (Point 13 of the Draft Agenda)

In his draft report, the Rapporteur welcomes the Baltic Sea Strategy and the idea of functional regions, which share common concerns and objectives, as the first example ever of the implementation of a macro-regional approach to regional policy, which should allow for a better identification of needs and allocation of resources.

The Rapporteur stresses the role of regional and local authorities in the constant shaping and improving of the Strategy through a bottom-up approach, the key principles being the implementation of an integrated approach and the multi-level governance with a better involvement of civil society.

In perspective, the macro-regional approach as a new form of territorial cooperation needs a careful consideration, as it can be helpful in addressing problems independent of administrative and political borders. The experience and assessment of the Baltic Sea Strategy will be important for drawing other possible macro-regional strategies as for the Danube, the Mediterranean or the Atlantic Arc.

On 3 June the REGI committee will vote on 110 amendments tabled to this report and some compromise amendments. There are three committee opinions by AFET, ENVI, and TRAN.

The amendments address diverse issues, such as the important role of consultation process for creation of macro-regional strategies, the environmental impact of energy infrastructure projects, the role of cooperation with non-EU countries in the strategy implementation process, and the possibilities of financing and coordination of the future macro-regional strategies.

The vote in plenary is scheduled in July in Strasbourg.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Wojciech Michał Olejniczak	Consideration of working document: 26/01/2010
	Consideration of draft report: 17/03/2010
Responsible administ.: Dagmara Stoerring	Planned deadline for Ams: 24/03/2010
Procedure: 2009/2230(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 03/06/2010
	Planned adoption in plenary: July 2010 (tbc)

10. 2010 Budget: Section III - Commission (Point 14 of the Draft Agenda)

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 and adopt its draft opinion at a special meeting to be held in Strasbourg on 6 September. Apart from the standard procedure putting back any amounts the Council may have reduced from the Commission's draft budget, the opinion will also refer to any proposed Pilot projects proposed either by the Rapporteur or by the political groups.

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 will explain the situation to the committee and ask 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.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
	Exchange of views: 3 June 2010
Rapporteur: László Surján	Consideration of draft opinion:
Responsible administrator: Christian Chopin	Planned deadline for Ams:
Procedure:	Planned adoption REGI: 06/09/2010 (tbc)
Lead Committee : BUDG	Planned adoption in BUDG: 22-25/11/2010 (tbc)
	Planned adoption in plenary:

11. The future of regional policy (Exchange of views with experts) (Point 15 of the Draft Agenda)

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 next 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 participating in the REGI meeting are the following:

- **Mr John Bachtler, Professor of European Policy Studies, Director of European Policies Centre, University of Strathclyde**
- **Mr Jacek Szlachta, Professor, Warsaw School of Economics**
- **Mr Jean-Marie Rousseau, Innovation § Intelligence Territoriale, former national expert in the DG REGIO, European Commission**
- **Mr Jean-Charles Leygues, former Deputy Director General in the DG REGIO, European Commission**



PART II

Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meetings held on 26 and 27 April 2010

1. Exchange of views with Mr Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Regional Policy

The exchange of views with Commissioner Hahn focused on the future of European Cohesion Policy and its strengthening after 2013. Commissioner Hahn informed the Members of the Committee on the implementation of the 2007-2013 programmes, the European Commission 2011 working programme, mid-term budget review and the links between the cohesion policy and EU 2020 Strategy.

In his introductory statement Commissioner Hahn talked of the role and importance of the ongoing European projects. He stressed the fact that these projects create jobs and contribute to the sense of being European.

In times of crisis, there is a need for flexibility. There must also be structural reform so as to construct a result oriented regional policy. Cohesion policy is not about spending or redistributing money. It is about providing long term sustainable development measures and solutions to existing inequalities for all European regions. The point of the policy is to use available resources to invest in promising project which will obtain measurable and sustainable results. To ensure this, co-financing showed a special commitment of member states and should be maintained, said Commissioner Hahn.

2010 is a key year for future formation of this policy bearing in mind the necessity to adapt to the EU2020 strategy and the constraints imposed by the dire financial state of many Member State's economies and the need to target expenditure there where it will be the most productive.

Cohesion policy is essential to achieving the EU2020 strategy. With its mult-level governance structure it is the ideal tool to implement the strategy at all levels and throughout the territory. To be successful, the new strategy must link the crisis exit policies with long-term growth and structural change.

Addressing the question of the first synopsis report for the 2000 - 2006 period he pointed to the tangible results of the policy such as the creation of 1,4 mln jobs. Commissioner Hahn stated that we are on the right path. However, he agreed that there a number of weaker points subsist which have to be improved.

In the debate which followed Members raised questions concerning the possible creation of future financial engineering tools, the problems of the difficult public procurement rules, the mid term review, the future of the Macro-regions, especially the Danube Strategy.

2. Hearing on good governance with regards to the EU regional policy: procedures of assistance and control by the European Commission

In the preparation of the draft report (Rapporteur Ms Ramona MANESCU (ALDE)) a mini-hearing was held with participation of the following guest speakers:

- Ms Carola Gunnarsson, CEMR's political rapporteur on cohesion, territorial policy and economic development
- Mr. Luc Hendrickx, Director for Enterprise Policy and External Relations European association of craft, small and medium-sized enterprises (UEAPME)
- Ms. Julie Gourden - Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)

Ms Manescu presented her working document which describes the two complementary axes to be developed in her report.

In its first part it will analyse the White Paper of Multi-level governance adopted in June 2009 by the Committee of the Regions and make some assessment and recommendations as regards the proposals included there.

In its second part the report will analyse the mechanisms of shared management, in particular the different responsibilities of the European Commission and the Member States and their role of assistance and knowledge drivers towards the lower levels of governance with a view to improve the implementation of Programmes.

The main recommendations will come from the analysis of the 2008 Action Plan of the Commission on how to strengthen its supervisory role and from the two follow-up reports on the impact of the Action plan adopted in February 2009 and 2010 by the Commission.

The speakers expressed their views on the instruments and methodologies necessary to improve governance in the cohesion policy.

In particular the following recommendations were put forward:

- using European territorial pacts between the Commission, Member States and territorial authorities to build up clear contractual relations for the implementation of the cohesion policy;
- simplifying the rules governing the Structural Funds for the post 2013 period in order not to discourage regional and local authorities from participating in Structural funded projects due to their complexity;
- intensifying pre-legislative dialogue with regional and local authorities, who have to be regarded not just as actuators of policies but rather as co-owners of strategies and objectives;
- putting into place a more performance-oriented policy where the priority lies in delivering qualitative results and not just in respecting rules and procedures;
- creating a framework for a wider and deeper involvement of private partners in Structural funded projects, by adapting policies to private realities also at smaller scale and by taking into account the needs of SMEs;
- implementing the sub-national subsidiarity principle also in an horizontal dimension, including socio-economic actors.

In the debate that followed Members stressed that the principle of partnership needs to be better defined, with rights and obligations clearly stated and with better training and assistance ensured to project beneficiaries and authorities in charge of implementation.

Finally the potential of financial engineering instruments should be further exploited, revising their rules in the direction of a more simplified functioning.

In its final remark, Ms. Andersson Pench - Director of the Audit Directorate - European Commission) focussed on the significance of finding the right balance between efficiency and control as well as creation of a stronger method of coordination.

It was also pointed out that a certain 'culture of assessment' going hand in hand with simplification of national and European standards needs to be developed.

3. EU financial contributions to the International Fund for Ireland (2007-2010)

The Repporteur presented his draft report to the Members of the Committee followed by an exchange of views.

Council Regulation (EC) No 1968/2006 of 21 December 2006 concerning Community financial contributions to the International Fund for Ireland (2007-2010) was annuled by the Court of Justice based on an appeal launched by the European Parliament. The Regulation was adopted on the basis of Article 308 of the Treaty, and the EP considered that the regulation should have been adopted under Article 159§3 of the Treaty establishing the European Community (now Article 175 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union).

The Commission's proposal aims to replace the annulled Regulation in compliance with the Court's Ruling, thus reflecting a dual legal basis in the recitals. All articles remained the same except for the retroactive application of Article 6.

Given that the EU contribution to the International Fund for Ireland ceases in 2010, this Regulation is to expire the 31 December 2010.

The deadline for amendments was set for 5 May 2010 at 12:00. In a following communication to the Members, the Chairwoman extended the deadline to 11 May at 12:00:

4. The following votes took place

- **Contribution of the Cohesion policy to the achievement of Lisbon objectives**

Draftsperson: Ricardo Cortés Lastra (S&D)

The report was adopted by 40 votes in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

- **Report on the implementation of the synergies of research and innovation earmarked funds in Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 concerning the European Fund of Regional Development and the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development in cities and regions as well as in the Member States and the Union**

Draftsperson: Lambert Van Nistelrooij (PPE)

The opinion was adopted by 39 votes in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

- **Transparency in regional policy and its funding**

Draftsperson: Michail Tremopoulos (Verts/ALE)

The opinion was adopted by 34 votes in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

- **Report on the Commission communication : A community approach on the prevention of natural and man made disasters**

Draftsperson: Viktor Uspaskich (ALDE)

The opinion was adopted by 37 votes in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions

5. Developing the job potential of a new sustainable economy

In its Conclusions of 10-11 December 2009, the European Council has considered that

"sustainable development remains a fundamental objective of the European Union under the Lisbon Treaty". In this respect, the European Council named several areas where urgent action is required so that a stronger focus is given in the future to "the shift to a safe and low-carbon and low-input economy". In this context, the report tabled by Elisabeth Schroedter, of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, on developing the job potential of a new sustainable economy puts forward answers to the European Council demands in the framework of the labour market, asking for the optimisation of employment potential, for decent jobs and for the adaptation of national training and education systems to the skills needs.

Ms. Westphal presented her draft opinion to the above-mentioned report addresses the following main issues:

- the need to for reducing regional disparities and the role of structural funds in this respect;
- the crucial role of regional authorities in the education sector and certain strands of the labour market (such as public transport);
- the importance of mobility of workers and, for this purpose, of infrastructures that allow for mobility;
- the need for stricter control over the durability of operations co-financed by structural funds;

the importance of reinvigorating support over the pilot project "Erasmus for elected local and regional representatives".

A deadline for amendments was set for 4 May 2010 at 12:00.

6. Follow-up of the pilot projects proposed by the REGI Committee

In response to the note sent by the European Commission on 11 February 2010 on the state of play concerning the three pilot projects proposed by the Committee on regional development and accepted by the Commission, the representatives of the Commission have been invited to supply the Committee with additional information.

Currently there are three pilot projects and one preparatory action under the responsibility of DG REGIO:

- PP "Pan-European coordination of Roma integration methods"
- PP "Erasmus for elected local and regional representatives"
- PP "Enhanced regional and local cooperation through promotion of EU regional policy on a global scale"
- PA " Promoting a more favourable environment for micro-credit in Europe"

On behalf of the European Commission, Director Policy Coordination DG REGIO - Mr Rudolf NIESSLER, and Mr Ronald HALL Director REGIO B provided the Committee with an explanatory presentation on the current state of play and responded to the questions of the Members of the Committee.

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:

29 - 30 April	Bucharest, RO	Polish Embassy in Rumunia	Conference " <i>Cohesion Policy from the Lisbon Agenda to the EU 2020 Strategy: new perspectives</i> "
4 May	Brussels, BE	European Commission	Covenant of Mayors
7 May	Brussels, BE	IQ-Net network	IQ-Net conference on the reform of Cohesion policy
8 May	Santiago de Compostela, ES	Gabinete da Alcaldía - Concello de Santiago de Compostela	Conference of European Cross-border and Interregional Cities Network
11 May	ASP pasarelle in the EP	Corien Wortmann, MEP	At home - Art Exhibition
21 May	Seville, ES	Congreso Estudios Andaluces	Symposium 'Regions and the European Union'

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

* * *

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

28-29 May	Warsaw, PL	Group for Civilisation Project for Poland	12th Meeting
1 June	Linz, AT	East-West Partnership Ltd, via donau - Österreichische Wasserstraßen GmbH and Port of Enns	5th Danube Summit

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 2, 2010:

Conceptualizing Local and Regional Economic Development in the USA / by Dave Valler and Andrew Wood, pp. 139-151 ([full text](#) - click on IP authentication)



European Planning Studies, monthly

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

Selected articles from vol. 18, issue 6, 2010:

Spatialization Patterns of Translocal Knowledge Networks: Conceptual Understandings and Empirical Evidences of Erlangen and Frankfurt/Oder / by Bastian Lange and Kerstin Büttner, pp. 989 – 1018 (for the full text please contact the [Library](#))



Die Zukunft der EU-Strukturpolitik / Friedrich Heinemann, ZEW Wirtschaftsanalysen , Bd. 94, Baden-Baden: Nomos , 2010

Die Kohäsionspolitik wird wie alle anderen Ausgaben des EU-Haushalts zusammen mit der Einnahmeseite in die gegenwärtige umfassende Generalüberprüfung des EU-Finanzsystems einbezogen. Die Studie will zu dieser Überprüfung durch Behandlung einer doppelten und interdependenten Fragestellung einen Beitrag leisten: Erstens wird untersucht, wo die Stärken und Schwächen des gegenwärtigen Systems liegen und welche Reformoptionen sich empfehlen. Zweitens sollen die budgetären Konsequenzen verschiedener Reformoptionen inklusive einer Fortschreibung des Status quo quantitativ durchleuchtet werden. Die budgetären Konsequenzen sind auch deshalb von Bedeutung, weil sie signalisieren, inwieweit auf Seiten der Geberländer finanzielle (im Hinblick auf die Zahlungsfähigkeit) oder politische (im Hinblick auf die Zahlungsbereitschaft) Restriktionen verletzt werden könnten.“ (Source: [NomosShop](#)) (Available in the Library, make a [reservation](#))

Latest analysis



Territorial Diversity in Europe: final draft report / ESPON, April 2010

Based on a series of case studies, [the study](#) explores the capacity of regions with geographic specificities to contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies.

ESPON TeDi is an applied and exploratory project addressing the issue of economic and social development in regions with geographic specificities such as mountainousness, insularity, demographic sparsity and high population density in peripheral regions. It is a targeted analysis based on an initial request from a group of stakeholders.

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



METROBORDER - Cross-border Polycentric Metropolitan Regions: interim report / ESPON, 2010

The Metroborder project addresses cross-border metropolitan polycentric regions (CBMRs). The aim of the project is to map and to better understand the structures and the functioning of this type of spatial pattern. On the European level, 11 CBRMs are analysed.

In order to analyse the functional integration within these regions, the authors focused on four indicators: the development of cross-border commuting, the comparison of cross-border transportation lines, the population density and growth, the development of the citizenship on each sides of the border.

In parallel, the institutional integration of the 11 regions has been compared. The indicators used for the analysis illustrates the diversity of cross-border cooperation, including the juridical form, thematic scope, the stakeholders involved, historical context etc. (Available on the Library website - [see latest analyses](#)).



European research area: boosting the potential of the outermost regions, Research EU - Focus N° 5, 4 April 2010

[This issue](#) is looking to the EU's outermost regions as an asset for the research and innovation system in Europe, inviting the reader to discover their research profiles and find out what needs to be done in order to exploit their potential even further. The supplement explains how EU supports the outermost regions to strengthen their research and innovation capacities and presents their success stories.

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