
REGI News

Newsletter from the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development

VII Legislature N. 9 - 19 April 2010



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[EP studies Website](#)
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PART I

Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI Committee meeting on 26 and 27 April 2010

The following items will be discussed as foreseen in the [draft agenda](#). Please note that most committee documents (working documents, draft reports, etc. are available at our website [REGI](#) .

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

Commissioner Hahn will come to the Committee on Regional Development to inform the committee on the EU 2020 strategy and the EU cohesion policy, the Commission's Strategic Report on the implementation of the programmes 2007-2013, the EC 2011 working programme, mid-term budget review and other subjects of interest to the committee.

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

The working document describes the two complementary axes, which the report will develop.

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 particular:

- horizontal and vertical dimension of MLG,
- application of the partnership principle,
- added value of territorial cohesion and territorial cooperation/role of EGTC,
- implementing the Erasmus programme for local and regional representatives,
- setting up of a EU Charter on multi-level governance,
- simplification of rules for Structural Funds.

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 look on how to improve the system in the implementation of Programmes.

The main recommendations towards an improved governance system will come from the analysis of the 2008 Action Plan of the Commission on how to strengthen its supervisory role, following the 2006 critical report of the Court of Auditors on irregularities in the Structural Fund expenditure.

As well the two follow-up reports on the impact of the Action plan adopted in 2009 and in February 2010 by the Commission will serve as a basis for recommendations, in particular on how to:

- reinforce Commission's assistance to MAs;
- enhance the cooperation with national audit authorities;
- ensure better coordination among the control levels in place;
- exploit the potential of the financial engineering instruments;
- seek for better coherence in the rules of the different EU Funds.

A mini-hearing will take place during the next REGI meeting with 3 guests speakers :

- Ms. **Eleni Marianou** - Secretary General of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)
- 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)

The European Commission - Unit for Coordination of Audit, relations with the Court of Auditors and OLAF - will be present in order to react to the interventions. The draft report will **probably** be presented in the meeting of 2-3 June 2010.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Ms Ramona Nicole Mănescu	Consideration of working document: 17/03/2010
	Mini-hearing and II consideration of WD: 26/04/2010
Responsible administrator: Elisa Daffarra	Consideration of draft report: 2-3/06/2010 (tbc)
Procedure: 2009/2231(INI)	Adoption REGI: 12-13/07/2010 (tbc)
	Plenary: September 2010 (tbc)

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

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, the rapporteur will present a draft report to REGI, including minor changes to the text.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Mr Seán Kelly	Consideration of draft report: 27/04/2010
Procedure: 2010/0004(COD)	Adoption REGI: 2-3/06/2010 (tbc)
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Plenary: July 2010 (tbc)

4. Contribution of the Cohesion policy to the achievement of Lisbon and EU 2020 objectives

The report is structured into two parts:

In the first part it focuses on an overall assessment of the earmarking system foreseen for the cohesion policy as regards the Lisbon Strategy for the period 2007-2013. The rapporteur criticizes the delayed start-up of the programmes of the current programming period, which has led to a lack of data allowing a proper assessment at this stage; he seizes the opportunity to criticize in general the lack of an overall assessment of the impact that the cohesion expenditure has on regional development; he urges the Commission to proceed as soon as possible with such an exercise making use of qualitative and quantitative reliable evaluation indicators.

The second part of the report analyses the current debate on the EU2020 Strategy. The rapporteur starts from the statement that the main limit of the Lisbon Strategy is the weak multilevel governance and the insufficient involvement of the regional and local authorities in the definition of the priorities and the implementation of the strategy. He expresses the recommendation that this approach is changed in the EU2020 Strategy and that the role of the cohesion policy is duly recognised, not as a simple source of stable financing but as a key source of instruments and methodologies (integrated approach, partnership, bottom-up approach), which are essential to ensure the success of the new strategy.

The rapporteur asks for a better recognition in the strategy of the objective of territorial cohesion, indicated as a new objective in the Lisbon Treaty; he insists on the need of a multi-level governance approach taking on board experience and contributions of regions, local authorities and cities; he recommends the setting up of synergies between the cohesion policy and other sectoral policies according to a more integrated approach.

The main points emphasised in the amendments are the following:

- the presence of different starting points in terms of development among MS, which the Lisbon as well as the EU2020 do not take sufficiently account of;
- the need to better and fully exploit the potential of territorial cooperation cross-border cooperation, macro-regional strategies;
- the need to simplify the management and control system for the cohesion policy to make it more flexible and efficient;
- the role of regions and cities as engines of development and key players in the implementation of the EU2020 strategy;
- the need of qualitative indicators alternative to the GDP to measure the actual wellbeing of the European regions;
- more attention to the areas with special needs (coastal areas, islands, mountains, outermost regions, etc.);
- the request for the Commission to present to the Parliament a work programme for the implementation of the EU2020 strategy and regular implementation assessments in the future.

A change in the title of the report has been requested in order to take on board also the debate on the EU2020 Strategy besides the assessment of the earmarking mechanism of

the Lisbon Strategy.

On 27 April the REGI committee will vote on 99 amendments tabled to this report and some compromise amendments. The vote in plenary is scheduled in May in Strasbourg. It has been requested to include this report in the general debate foreseen on the EU2020 Strategy.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Mr Ricardo Cortés Lastra	Consideration of draft report: 18/03/2010
Responsible administrator: Elisa Daffarra	Deadline for Ams: 24 March 2010
Procedure: 2009/2235(INI)	Adoption REGI: 26-27/04/2010
	Plenary: May 2010 (tbc)

5. Report on the implementation of the synergies of research and innovation earmarked funds in Regulation (EC) N° 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

This implementation report aims to evaluate the way Member States and regions implemented the Guidelines for earmarking funds for research and innovation in their National Strategic Reference Frameworks and Operational Programmes. Furthermore, the report also looks into synergies between cohesion policy and the framework programmes related to knowledge and innovation. Based on the analysis, the rapporteur has formulated some recommendations with a view to the next programming period.

The recommendations are focusing on one hand on strategic goals, on the other hand on concrete objectives and actions with a view to enhance synergy between cohesion, research and innovation policy.

In the draft report the rapporteur considered that the "earmarking" of Structural Funds allowed for better synergies with research and innovation policies, but stressed that a well functioning multi-level governance system is precondition for the achievement of the overall strategic goals, and that a strong cohesion policy is precondition for delivering the EU2020 strategy. Further, the need for better cross-sectoral communication between different actors, bodies involved in policy implementation and partners was highlighted, and the report made recommendations regarding the promotion of territorial cooperation in the field. The amendments address diverse issues, such as highlighting the need for effective guidance provided by the Commission, welcoming new financing methods, and stressing the environmental and social dimension.

On 27 April the REGI committee will vote on 74 amendments tabled to this report as well as on some compromise amendments with a view to vote in plenary in May in Strasbourg.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Mr. Van Nistelrooij (EPP)	Consideration of draft report: 18/03/2010
	Planned deadline for AMs: 24/03/2010
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Planned adoption REGI: 27/04/2010
Procedure: 2009/2243(INI)	Planned adoption in plenary: May 2010 (tbc)

6. Transparency in regional policy and its funding

The aim of this initiative report is to evaluate the implementation of information and communication obligations in the framework of the European Transparency Initiative

(ETI) and of the rules governing the implementation of the funds.

Commission Regulation (EC) N° 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 is the "implementing regulation" of Council Regulation (EC) N° 1083/2006 (General Regulation). It identifies information and communication measures as well as responsibilities and roles of each of the actors involved, in particular:

- the rules allowing the Member States to submit information to the Commission on the use of the Funds and of the allocation of the Funds throughout the life of a programme;
- the rules enabling the Commission to inform the other institutions and the citizens of the European Union about the use of the Funds;
- the rules obliging the Managing Authorities to publish all direct beneficiaries of EU cohesion policy.

The scope of the analysis of transparency is enlarged, since it looks into issues further than those covered by ETI. As a result, the main chapters of the draft report are: disclosure of data on beneficiaries of cohesion funding, transparency and shared management, transparency and partnership, improving transparency in respect of EU funding of major projects.

The amendments highlight the important of transparency in functioning democracies; stress the effective use of Internet based tools and searchable databases, as well as the need for transparent guidance from the side of the Commission. Further, the administrative capacity needed to comply with ETI requirements is highlighted.

On 27 April the REGI committee will vote on 54 amendments tabled to this report as well as on some compromise amendments. The vote in plenary is scheduled in June.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Michail Tremopoulos	Consideration of draft report: 17/03/2010
	Planned deadline for AMs: 24/03/2010
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Planned adoption REGI: 27/04/2010
Procedure: 2009/2232(INI)	Planned adoption in plenary: June 2010 (tbc)

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

The Committee will vote on the opinion drawn up by Mr. Uspaskich to the report of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) on the Commission Communication entitled "A Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters".

The rapporteur focuses its opinion on the crucial role played by regional and local authorities in the disaster management cycle. In that respect, the opinion stresses the need for a strong involvement of public and private stakeholders, emphasizing as well the role that macro-regions could have in effectively addressing those cooperation needs.

30 amendments were tabled to this opinion which is due to be voted in ENVI on 3-4 May 2010. These amendments mainly highlight the need for a stronger involvement of voluntary organisations in the disaster management cycle, and for an integrated management approach covering as much as possible all the phases of that cycle. Furthermore, closer attention to remote and isolated regions is called for alongside with

enhanced cross-border cooperation.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Viktor Uspaskich	Consideration of draft opinion: 22/02/2010
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Planned deadline for Ams: 1/03/2010
Procedure: 2009/2151(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 26-27/04/2010
Lead Committee : ENVI	Planned adoption in ENVI: 3-4/05/2010 (tbc)
	Planned adoption in plenary: June 2010 (tbc)

8. 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.

The draft opinion of Ms. Westphal 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".

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

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

On the 11 February 2010 the European Commission sent a note on the state of play concerning the three pilot projects proposed by the committee on regional development and accepted by the commission. This note, initially addressed to the chair, was distributed to all members by mail on 3 march.

The commission's follow-up of these pilot projects and in particular that concerning the setting up of an 'Erasmus for locally elected representatives', has not entirely satisfied committee members. Consequently the commission has been invited to supply the committee with complementary information.



PART II

Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meetings held on 17 and 18 March 2010

1. Transparency in regional policy and its funding

In his opening remarks the rapporteur, Michail Tremopoulos (Greens/EFA), highlighted that in the case of shared management the Commission provides an indicative model regarding the publication of beneficiaries, but the implementation is the exclusive domain of member States. To this date comparisons between countries are difficult.

In the unfolding debate some Members subscribed to the views of the rapporteur that information should be published not only in one language but also in English. Some elements of the report, such as introducing more complex list of compulsory information to be published, induced a debate. Some argued that one should not shy away from imposing more requirements on member States. Other stated that transparency is indispensable, clear and transparent procedures lead to better governance, it also makes monitoring easier, better controls leading to fewer irregularities, and further it makes the policy more visible. The proposal of "naming and shaming" of those who do not comply with information and transparency requirements was regarded as too strict by some of the members. It was also mentioned that in some International Financial Institutions, such as the EIB, more information is published already before the decision of financial support is granted, and it was suggested that cohesion policy should move in this direction.

In his closing remarks, the rapporteur agreed that the changes should not result in more burdensome bureaucracy, but he repeated that the system of publishing information should not be patchy across the EU.

A deadline for amendments was set for 24 March 2010.

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

The rapporteur, Petru Constantin Luhan (EPP), presented his working document mentioning several aspects that could be the focus of the report, such as competitiveness in an international context, type of interventions in member States such as infrastructure, transport, education, IT, etc. In the unfolding debate members suggested that the report should limit itself to key questions with a focus on trying to influence the debate on the future of cohesion policy. It was stressed that the report should analyse the policy from the

view of the whole of Europe and avoid concentrating on a few, or on a block of member States. It was suggested that the report should seek to establish links between cohesion and competitiveness, but not international but internal competitiveness. Hence the questions asked should be whether economic, social and territorial cohesion work well together or not.

The draft report will be debated on the Committee meeting of 26-27 April 2010.

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

Presenting her working document the rapporteur, Ramona Nicole Mănescu (ALDE), stressed the importance of cooperation and partnership.

She stressed that the responsibilities between the European Commission and the Member States should be better identified and the role of the Commission reinforced in application of the Action Plan approved in 2008, following the 2006 critical report of the Court of Auditors on irregularities in the Structural Fund expenditure.

The analysis of two follow-up reports on the impact of the Action plan adopted in 2009 and in February 2010 by the Commission will serve as a basis for recommendations.

In the debate members recalled the importance of simplification and decentralisation easing the administrative burden on local and regional level. It was stressed that it should always be considered what level of intervention is the most effective. Finally it was stressed that the concept of territorial cohesion, a balance between territories, is meaningless without multi-level governance. Multi-level governance should therefore become an obligatory requirement, as a consequence of the introduction of the new objective of territorial cohesion in the Lisbon Treaty.

A mini-hearing on this subject will take place on the Committee meeting of 26 April 2010.

4. Contribution of EU regional policy towards fighting the financial and economic crisis, with a special reference to Objective 2

The rapporteur, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (EPP), presented her draft report and in the ensuing debate members stressed the fact that more account should be taken of the social dimension, the aim being better jobs and better conditions. Members also drew attention to the fact that women are particularly affected by the crisis. Co-financing measures should focus on sustainable innovative growth. SMEs have an important role to play in this area as they are the engines of job creation. It was also pointed out that the urban dimension has a growing importance in cohesion policy, and regions should take into account the needs of towns. The representative of the Commission informed the Committee that it envisages the possibility of undertaking a study on the impact of the crisis on operational programmes.

A deadline for amendments was set for 24 March 2010.

5. The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the role of macro-regions in the future cohesion policy

The rapporteur, Wojciech Michał Olejniczak (S&D), underlined the importance of the Baltic Sea Strategy and the role of macro-regions in the reinforcement of cohesion policy. He has also noted that in his report special attention is given to education and training. As far as the funding is concerned, the rapporteur considered that an analysis on the future funding model for macro-regions. In the debate that followed, members agreed that this Strategy is indeed very important and that better coordination between policies is essential.

One of the issues that were most focused on were the "Nord Stream" gas pipeline and its environmental impact on the region as well as the security issues it raises. This issue relates also to the position of European Parliament in the launching of that project, as members question why no environmental impact assessment was submitted to Parliament. Members underline the need to involve the regions in the design and implementation of any macro-regional strategy and the need to cooperate with third countries, and especially with Russia. Although members tend to converge on the importance of not providing for new institutions, new administrative procedures or new funding, more human resources in the Commission are considered important for the Strategy to succeed. The place and role of the macro-regional approach in the context of the future cohesion policy was left as an open question.

The Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Committee of Regions (CoR) have participated in the debate. The Strategy involves an operation which is resource-heavy, and the Commission considers it is for the Parliament as budgetary authority to address this issue. The EESC and the CoR put emphasis was on the external dimension of the Strategy and on the fact that implementation is largely contingent upon the participation of third countries. The experimental nature of this Strategy and the need to obtain results were also stressed. On the other hand, the fact that not all regions of Europe can be covered by macro-regions was also highlighted.

A deadline for amendments was set for 24 March 2010.

6. The following votes took place:

- ***Report on General provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund as regards simplification of certain requirements and as regards certain provisions relating to financial management***

Draftsperson: Evgeni KIRILOV (S&D)

The report was adopted by 36 votes in favour, 4 against and 1 abstention.

- ***Opinion on Discharge 2008: EC general budget - Section III - Commission***

Draftsperson: Jan OLBRYCHT (EPP)

The opinion was adopted by 38 votes in favour, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

7. Contribution of the Cohesion policy to the achievement of Lisbon and EU 2020 objectives¹

The rapporteur, Ricardo Cortés Lastra (S&D), presented his report and stressed the need for an assessment with indicators of the impact of the Lisbon related investments. Furthermore, the rapporteur noted that regional authorities, civil society and other stakeholders have not been sufficiently involved in the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy, and therefore stresses the need to overcome this weakness in the context of the EU2020 Strategy. The rapporteur emphasized the key role given in the report to education and the "knowledge triangle". Moreover, the report calls for enhanced flexibility in dealing with all regional specificities and for better coordination and coherence between sectoral policies, on one hand, and between policies at national and European level, on the other. Finally, the reinforcement of the territorial cohesion, as new Union objective, in delivering the EU 2020 Strategy is advocated.

¹ The title of this report has been modified in order to include also the ongoing debate on the EU2020 Strategy and to allow REGI to express its position on the relation and interactions between this Strategy and the cohesion policy in the future.

The Commission, through Director-General of DG REGIO, Dirk Ahner, informed members about the state of play in the context of implementation of cohesion policy instruments. The implementation on the ground is overall very slow and there are significant variations between countries. The total absorption rate is currently 14% (compared to 20%-21% at identical moment of the last programming period). As far as the EU2020 Strategy is concerned, the Director-General stated that the current earmarking for the Lisbon Strategy can contribute to the EU2020 goals, and also that it is necessary to translate the priorities of this Strategy into concrete projects on the ground.

A calendar was presented for the submission of the strategic report (end of March 2010), the synthesis evaluation report on the 2000-2006 programming period (mid April 2010) and the 5th Cohesion report (end of 2010).

In the unfolding debate, members declared that the role given to the European Parliament in the context of the EU2020 Strategy is insufficient in the context of the new Treaty institutional framework. On the other hand, further assessment data on the Lisbon Strategy implementation is needed in order to properly launch a new ten years cycle. A closer link between cohesion policy and the Strategy was called for in order to reinforce coordination and the pooling of resources, as members consider that one of the weaknesses of the Lisbon Strategy was the absence of such a link. In this context, a stronger participation of regional authorities is deemed necessary in order to boost motivation and ownership, without prejudice to stronger economic and political EU governance.

A deadline for amendments was set for 24 March 2010.

8. Report on the implementation of the synergies of research and innovation earmarked funds in Regulation (EC) N° 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

During the debate the members of REGI stressed the importance of combining funds on a regional level, the simplification of procedures, the need to increase resources spent on renewable energy sources. Some stressed that there is a missing link between innovation and social integration. Others added that innovation has to come from universities and research centres. The role of innovation in competitiveness and the persisting gap between the EU and the USA and Japan was highlighted. The draftsman of the ITRE Committee, Jorgos Chatzimarkakis (ALDE), pointed out that now in the context of the goals set by the EU2020 Strategy the different instruments aiming at fostering innovation should not work in a counterproductive way.

In his closing remarks the rapporteur, Lambert van Nistelrooij (EPP), underlined that the framework programmes deliver a European added value, but also regional policy fosters innovation and also social innovation on the regional level. It has to be noted that cohesion policy and research and innovation policy have different delivery mechanisms (shared *vs* direct management). The EU2020 Strategy will render some of the resources of cohesion policy to be spent on research and innovation but this earmarking in turn should also allow regions to set their own innovation priorities along their regional specificities.

A deadline for amendments was set for 24 March 2010.

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

"Regions for innovation"

Week of Innovative regions in Europe (WIRE 2010)

15 March 2010

Granada - Spain

On 15 March, the Chairwoman of the REGI Committee took part in the Week of Innovative Regions in Europe organised jointly by the Spanish Presidency, the Ministry of Science and Innovation and the European Commission.

This event was the result of merging three different conferences:

- Conference on the efficient and effective use of budget earmarked in the Structural Funds for RTD and Innovation,
- "Research Potential" conference,
- "Regions of Knowledge" conference.

Several speakers representing political leaders and social stakeholders discussed the competitiveness of European Regions and the aggregation of the good practices found in the development of the two programmes, REGPOT and REGIONS. In particular, the efficient use of the resources devoted to R&D, especially the Structural Funds and their potential synergy with the Framework Programme of RTD and Innovation and Competitiveness Program were examined.

As is customary, the Committee on Regional Development was represented by the Chair of the Committee - Ms Danuta Hübner. Ms Hübner gave an opening speech which can be found [here](#). Other speakers were: Mr Johannes Hahn - Commissioner for Regional Policy, Ms Maire Geoghegan-Quinn - Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Ms Cristina Garmendia- Minister of Science and Innovation (Spain) and Martin Soler - Regional Minister of Research and Innovation of the Andalusian Government.

The additional information on this conference, as well as all the presentations given during this conference can be found on the WIRE website (<http://wire.fecyt.es/>).

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Ms Hübner has participated as a chairperson of the Committee in the following in the following events since the last meeting:

15 - 17 March	Granada, ES	Spanish Presidency	Week of Innovative Regions in Europe
16 March	Brussels, BE	Polish Institute of International Affairs	Conference on the outcome of the Lisbon Agenda
22 March	Brussels, BE	European Water Partnership	Aquawareness Policy Forum 'Water 2030 - who cares'
25 March	Brussels, BE	EurActiv	Stakeholder Workshop: 'A new regional policy for the new European Union?'
25 March	Brussels, BE	FEDARENE	European Sustainable Energy Week: 'Structural Funds - an important tool to support climate protection in cities and municipalities'
26-27 March	Warsaw, PL	Warsaw University	Conference on European Union after Lisbon Treaty-changes and challenges
8-9 April	Szczecin, PL	Forum Samorządowe / Województwo Zachodniopomorskie	International Forum of local governments
14 April	Brussels, BE	Polish Delegation in the Committee of the Regions	Meeting on Polish position on the EU 2020
15 April	EP - Brussels, BE	MEP Danube Forum	Conference " EU Strategy for the Danube Region"

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 invitations to participate (until the next REGI meeting) in the following events:

23 April	Warsaw, PL	Polish Sejm	Committee Meeting
29 - 30 April	Bucharest, RO	Polish Embassy in Rumunia	Conference "Cohesion Policy from the Lisbon Agenda to the EU 2020 Strategy: new perspectives"
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
20 May	Brussels, BE	European Commission	Conference on Regions for economic change - 'Building sustainable growth'
21 May	Seville, ES	Congreso Estudios Andaluces	Symposium 'Regions and the European Union'
1 June	Linz, AT	East-West Partnership Ltd, via donau - Österreichische Wasserstraßen GmbH and Port of Enns	5th Danube Summit
2 June	Brussels, BE	EUobserver	Regional Contribution to EU enlargement - Enlargement and neighborhood policy from a regional perspective

Delegation to Paris

As approved by the Bureau at its meeting of 14 December 2009, the REGI Committee is sending a delegation to Paris (Île de France and Tours) between 28 and 30 April 2010. Ten Members, four of them from France, are participating in the visit of this delegation, whose purpose is to monitor the implementation of cohesion policy in some French cities. The delegation will visit concrete examples of ERDF and ESF programmes in local urban communities and in particular suburban working class estates whose inhabitants are

often the first victims of the ongoing economic, social and environmental downturn. Local authorities on the ground are taking innovative measures to combat exclusion, racism, unemployment coupled with measures to deal with dilapidated buildings and difficult housing. In the context of these innovative actions the delegation will be able to see how smart investments, such as the "Eco-quartier fluvial de l'Île Saint Denis" and the urban renovation project in the north of Aulnay-sous-Bois, are easing the situation and encouraging economic growth and the resurgence of a sustainable way of life.

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

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 1, February 2010:

Rules of the Game: The Place of Institutions in Regional Economic Change / Gertler, Meric, pp. 1-15 ([full text](#) - click on IP authentication)



Regional and Federal Studies, three no a year

Regional and Federal Studies is a referred social science journal which provides an academic forum for the publication of international research on regional and federal questions. (Available in the Library - see catalogue entry [here](#))

Selected articles from vol. 20, issue 1, 2010:

EU Cohesion Policy and the Europeanization of Central and East European Regions / Scherpereel, John, pp. 45-62 (for the full text please contact the [Library](#))



Journal of European Integration, quarterly

The Journal of European Integration publishes articles with a focus on European integration and an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary perspective, thus integrating politics, European political economy, law, history, and sociology. (Available in the Library - see catalogue entry [here](#))

Selected articles from vol. 32, issue 1, 2010:

Cohesion or Confusion: A Policy Searching for Objectives / Begg, Iain, pp. ([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 4, April 2010

Efficiency on the Implementation of Structural Funds by European Regions: An Analysis of the Objective 1 Regions over the Period 2000-2006 / Juan Gómez Garica, María del Rocio Moreno Enguix, and Juan Gómez Gallego, pp. 629 - 652 (for the full text,

please contact the [Library](#)

Selected articles from vol. 18, issue 1, 2010:

Latest analysis



Cohesion policy: Strategic report 2010 on the implementation of the programmes 2007-2013, DG Regional Policy, 31 March 2010

Based on 27 reports provided by the [Member States](#), the Commission Strategic report 2010 provides an overview of progress in implementing the policy while drawing some conclusion and recommendations.

The requirement for "strategic reports" on the implementation of cohesion policy and its results and impacts is a new feature of cohesion policy in the period 2007-2013. It was introduced to increase transparency, encourage accountability and to promote discussion of the policy, particularly amongst the EU institutions. (Available on the Library website - [see latest analyses](#)).



Challenges, Consultations and Concepts: Preparing for the Cohesion Policy Debate / Bachtler J, Mendez C and Wishlade F, European Policy Research Paper, No 74, February 2010

This paper reviews the current state of the debate on EU budget and policy reform, and the developments during 2008-2009, focusing in particular on the future of Cohesion policy after 2013 (Source: Preface, p. i) (Available on the Library website - [see latest analyses](#)).

EIPASCOPE Publication

EIPASCOPE is the Bulletin of the European Institute of Public Administration. The latest EIPASCOPE issue, released begin of 2010, published an article on

"EGTC, new spaces and contracts for european integration?"

coauthored by Gianluca Spinaci and Gracia Vara-Arribas. This article is available at <http://www.eipa.eu/en/eipascope/>.