
REGI News

Newsletter from the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development

VII Legislature N. 8 - 10 March 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 17 March 2010 (15.00 - 18.30)
& Thursday 18 March 2010 (9.00 - 12.30)
JAN 4 Q 2**

- ❖ **Contribution of the Cohesion Policy to the achievement of Lisbon and EU 2020 Objectives**
- ❖ **Votes**
 - **Proposals of modifications to the Structural Funds Regulation (Kirilov report)**
 - **Discharge 2008: EC general budget (Section III - Commission)**

INDEX

PART I **17-18 March Meeting**

1. **Transparency in regional policy and its funding**
2. **Achieving real territorial, social and economic cohesion within the EU - a sine qua non condition for global competitiveness**
3. **Good governance with regards to the EU regional policy: procedures of assistance and control by the EC**
4. **Community innovation policy in a changing world**
5. **Contribution of EU regional policy towards fighting the financial and economic crisis**
6. **The EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region**
7. **Second meeting of the working party on the future of the Cohesion policy**
8. **Proposals of modifications to the Structural Funds Regulations**
9. **Discharge 2008:EC General Budget Section III Commission**
10. **Contribution of the Cohesion policy to the achievement of Lisbon objectives**
11. **Implementation of the synergies of research and innovation earmarked funds**

Date of next meeting:
Monday 26 April 2010
15.00 - 18.30
Tuesday 27 April 2010
9.00 - 12.30

PART II **22 February Meeting**

1. **Proposals of modifications to the Structural Funds Regulations**
2. **Discharge 2008:EC General Budget Section III Commission**
3. **A community approach on the prevention of natural and man made disasters'**
4. **Votes**
5. **First meeting of the Working party on the future of the Cohesion Policy**
6. **Exchange of views with the EIB**

PART III **Other news**

Info from the Library
Chair's participation on behalf of the Committee

Useful Internet links

EP Library - Info on items related to regional development
OEIL - The Legislative Observatory
Regional Policy Infoforegio
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 17 and 18 March 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. 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 rapporteur, Mr. Tremopoulos (Greens/EFA) will present his draft report, and then it will be considered by REGI Committee.

The deadline for amendments will be most probably set for the 24 March, and the report

is to be voted in April.

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

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

During the March meeting of the REGI Committee, the Rapporteur will present a working document to launch a debate on "Achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion - a sine qua non for global competitiveness?"

The rapporteur's view is that the programming period 2007-2013 has shown, through the priorities established by the beneficiary countries of cohesion policy, that infrastructures are seen by the twelve new Member States as a sine qua non for boosting economic competitiveness. The areas for which EIB loans have been requested are infrastructures, the environment and social and economic development. The rapporteur further considers that there is still a need for more investment in infrastructures, especially in the present circumstances in which those Member States' regions have been the most affected by the crisis, while also being those most vulnerable to globalisation. Development can only occur in those regions if they acquire the infrastructures needed to ensure accessibility and social and educational facilities of the standards common to all citizens of the Union. Close attention will be paid to the means of ensuring continued protection of the environment and sustainable development.

Following this first exchange of views, the Rapporteur will prepare a draft report to be presented on 26-27 April.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Petru Constantin Luhan	Consideration of working document: 17/03/2010
Responsible administrator: Agnieszka Kunat	Consideration of draft report: 26-27/04/2010
Procedure: 2009/2233(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 03/06/2010
	Planned adoption in plenary: July 2010

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

The rapporteur, Ms. Manescu (ALDE) will present her working document, which describes the two complementary axes, on which the report will be structured.

In its first part the draft report is meant to analyse the White Paper of Multi-level governance adopted in June 2009 by the Committee of the Regions and to make some assessment and recommendations as regards the proposals included there, in particular on:

- the horizontal and vertical dimension of multi-level governance intended as cooperation and synergies between policies and actors of different levels and types,
- the definition of the partnership principle to facilitate the setting up of real partnerships with regional and local authorities,
- the added value of linking the debate on territorial cohesion to the debate on

multilevel governance; the need to fully exploit the potential of the objective of territorial cooperation and the role of the EGTC in facilitating cross-border cooperation;

- the implementation of the Erasmus programme for local and regional representatives;
- the setting up of a EU Charter on multi-level governance and the need to adopt an Action plan related to it with concrete measures to implement it;
- the simplification of rules for Structural Funds as precondition for better governance in the cohesion policy.

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 governance system in the implementation of Programmes.

The main recommendations towards improved governance 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 2010 by the Commission will serve as a basis for recommendations, in particular on how to:

- reinforce Commission's assistance to Managing Authorities;
- 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

The draft report will be presented and discussed in the REGI meeting on 2-3 June 2010.

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

4. Community innovation policy in a changing world

In September 2009 the Commission published a communication entitled "Reviewing Community innovation policy in a changing world", which outlines the progress made on EU innovation policy since 2005 and tries to identify areas that should be tackled in more detail in the future 'Action plan for innovation'.

The Communication takes stock of the progress achieved:

- the improvement in framework conditions for innovation (modernisation of state aid rules, service directive, etc.);
- the legislative tools stimulating markets (ETS directive, REACH, standardisation),
- the enhanced financial support for research and innovation (FP7 enhanced budget, earmarking of structural funds, EIB, etc.)

- the synergies that has been built through the European Research Area, new public private partnerships, etc.

Then the Commission broadly identifies main challenges, areas of action and bottlenecks, such as:

- fostering a policy and regulatory framework that promotes competitive EU industries,
- strengthening and modernising the role of public authorities,
- enhancing cooperation between research communities and industry on national, regional and EU level,
- enhancing governance of the EU innovation system

The report of ITRE committee analyses the above communication and sets out to put forward ideas and key points for the Commission that are to be taken on board in the Action plan.

In case the timetable of REGI cannot be harmonised with that of ITRE, REGI might provide (if the committee agrees) its views on the future Action Plan in the form of a letter by Ms Danuta Hübner and sent to the Chair of the ITRE Committee.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Draftsperson: Ramona Nicole Manecu (ALDE) tbc	Consideration of draft opinion 17/03/2010
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Planned deadline for AMs: tbc
Procedure: 2009/2227(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 26-27/04/2010 tbc
Lead committee: ITRE	Planned adoption in lead committee: 7 April 2010

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

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.

The deadline for amendments will probably be fixed at 24 March.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Ms Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou	Exchanges of views: 22/02/2010
Responsible administrator: Christian Chopin	Consideration of draft report : 17/03/2010
	Planned deadline for AMs: 24/03/2010
Procedure 2009/2234(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 26-17/04/2010
	Plenary: June 2010

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

Following a resolution of the European Parliament (P6_TA(2006)0494) and the adoption of a communication by the European Commission (COM(2009)248), the European Council adopted the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, on the 29/30 October 2009.

The Strategy aims at coordinating actions undertaken by Member States, regions, the EU, pan-Baltic organisations, financing institutions and non-governmental bodies to address common challenges and promote a more balanced development of the region.

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 implication of civil society.

At this point, it is still too early to build on the results of the Baltic Sea Strategy, as the first assessment will most probably not be available before 2011. However, the Rapporteur expresses the great hopes linked with this Strategy and therefore calls on the Commission to prepare a set of indicators and assess carefully the achievements, so as to give answers on the future development of regional policy.

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.

During the REGI meeting on 18 March, the MEPs will consider the draft report prepared by the Rapporteur. The deadline for amendments will be most probably set for the 24 March.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Wojciech Michał Olejniczak	Exchange of views and consideration of working document: 25/01/2010
Responsible administrator: Agnieszka Kunat	Consideration of draft report: 18/03/2010
Procedure n. 2009/2230 (INI)	Planned deadline for Ams: 24/03/2010
	Planned adoption REGI: 26/04/2010
	Planned adoption in plenary: 17/05/2010

7. Report on the second meeting of the working party on the future of the Cohesion policy

The second meeting of the REGI Working Party on the Future of Cohesion Policy

(WPoFCP) took place on 23 February 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 second meeting Members had an exchange of views with Mr. Nicola de Michelis Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Hahn, and Mr Eric von Breska, Deputy Head of Unit, Unit C1 (Conception, forward studies, impact assessment), DG REGIO. Mr de Michelis reported on the central points of discussion of the Informal Ministerial Meeting on the 19 February in Zaragoza and discussed those with the member of the WPoFCP.

8. 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

The REGI Committee will vote on this draft report aiming at simplifying some administrative rules of the Structural Funds General Regulation and at ensuring frontloading of funds for Member States particularly hit by the economic crisis.

8 amendments were tabled to this report, which added up to the 19 original amendments of the rapporteur, Mr. Kirilov, make a total of 27 amendments to the Commission proposal.

As well, 30 amendments were tabled in the EMPL Committee (draftsperson Ms. Bastos) and 10 amendments in the BUDG Committee (draftsperson Mr. Godmanis).

They will be put to vote respectively on 16 and 17 March 2010.

The plenary vote for this report is foreseen on 19-22 April 2010 in Strasbourg.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Evgeni Kirilov	Exchanges of views: 03/09/09, 06/10/09, 04/11/09, 2/12/2009
Responsible administrator: Elisa Daffarra	Exchange of views on 2nd WD: 25/01/10
Procedure 2009/0107(AVC)	Consideration of draft report : 22/02/2010
Rapporteur: Evgeni Kirilov	Planned deadline for Ams: 25 February 2010
	Planned adoption REGI: 18 March 2010
	Plenary: April 2010

9. Discharge 2008: EC general budget - Section III - Commission

13 amendments and two oral amendments have been tabled to the opinion . The vote will take place in the morning of the 18 March.

In his opinion the draftsman points to the fact that most of the Court of Auditors' comments concern the 2000-2006 period and that interim payments for the 2007-2013 period account for only 32% of expenditure. A majority of the errors remarked upon were either procedural, particularly in the area of public procurement rules, or concerned deficiencies for which the European Commission was already taking remedial action. Of particular significance was the Court's observation that for the 2007-2013 period control provisions are strengthened and the respective responsibilities of the Commission and Member States clarified. In this context the draftsman draw attention to the forthcoming publication of the Commission's communication on the impact of the action plan which

should be published this month.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Draftsperson: Jan Olbrycht(EPP-DE)	Consideration of draft opinion22/02/2010
Responsible administrator: Christian Chopin	Planned deadline for Ams: 01/03/2010
Procedure: 2009/2068(DEC))	Planned adoption REGI: 18/03/2010
Lead committee: CONT	Planned adoption in lead committee: 22 March 2010

10. Contribution of the Cohesion policy to the achievement of Lisbon and EU2020 objectives

This report, whose title has been adapted in order to cover also the reflection on the EU2020 recently adopted proposal, is structured in two parts.

In the first part it analyses the relationship between the cohesion policy and the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs focussing in particular on the effectiveness of the earmarking system.

Data available so far concern only the level of programme allocations. Data on actual expenditure will be included in the Strategic report due by the Commission by 1 April 2010, which for time reasons is not taken into account in this report.

In its second part the draft report focuses on the role of the cohesion policy in helping delivering the EU2020 objectives included in the Commission proposal of 3 March 2010.

In particular the following aspects are analysed:

- improved governance system in the EU2020 according to the multi-level governance principle so to ensure a stronger involvement of local and regional authorities and stakeholders from the civil society.
- coordination of objectives and instruments between EU2020 and the cohesion policy;
- synergies between the cohesion policy and sectoral policies according to an integrated approach;
- consistency of the financial resources allocated to the sectoral policies and EU2020 priorities;
- embedding the objective of territorial cohesion in the EU2020 Strategy;
- added value of the Objective of territorial cooperation in the delivery of the EU2020 goals;
- harmonising rules and procedures of Structural-funded programmes in view of a simplified delivery system.

The draft report will be voted in the REGI meeting on 26-27 April and is meant to be debated in the May plenary in time useful for the June European Council, where the EU2020 Strategy is due to be adopted.

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

11. 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 initiative report is an implementation report: which is a report on the transposition of EU legislation into national law and the implementation and enforcement thereof in Member States.

In the context of cohesion policy, the 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.

The rapporteur, Mr. van Nistelrooij (EPP) will present his draft report, and then it will be considered by REGI Committee.

The deadline for amendments will be most probably set for the 24 March, and the report is to be voted in April.

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: 26-27/04/2010
Procedure: 2009/2243(INI)	Planned adoption in plenary: June 2010



PART II

Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meetings held on 22 February 2010

1. 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

The rapporteur, Mr Kirilov (S&D) informed Members of the REGI committee, that the conflict of competence has been solved, and REGI remains the lead committee with BUDG and EMPL committees delivering an opinion.

Mr Kirilov presented his draft report, explaining that the reference document is the original Commission proposal, presented in July 2009. The suggestions presented in the working document were already discussed through the working document in the January REGI meeting. The main proposed modifications concern two issues: financial rules for frontloading Structural funds and simplification of rules governing these funds.

The rapporteur drew the attention to the fact that the original aim of this proposal was to help member States benefit more from Cohesion Policy in the time of crisis, and in order to avoid further delay no further changes should be presented. The rapporteur added that this amending regulation is considered to be the last change of the current legislative framework.

A deadline for amendments was set for the 25 February 2010.

2. Consideration of the opinion 'Discharge 2008: EC general budget - Section III - Commission'

In his opinion the draftsman points to the fact that most of the Court of Auditors' comments concern the 2000-2006 period and that interim payments for the 2007-2013 period account for only 32% of expenditure. A majority of the errors remarked upon were either procedural, particularly in the area of public procurement rules, or concerned deficiencies for which the European Commission was already taking remedial action. Of particular significance was the Court's observation that for the 2007-2013 period control provisions are strengthened and the respective responsibilities of the Commission and Member States clarified. In this context the draftsman draw attention to the forthcoming publication of the Commission's communication on the impact of the action plan which should be published this month.

In the debate the draftsman pointed out that Parliament has now received the European Commission's communication on the impact of the action plan to strengthen the Commission's

supervisory role under shared management of structural actions which shows a significant increase of financial corrections applied in 2008 and 2009 and also contains the results of the first audit carried out by the Commission for a sample of the projects implemented in respect of the 2007-2013 programming period; It also gives the result of the audit showing a preliminary error rate of 5% that reflects the positive result of the simplification introduced for the 2007-2013 programming period. Members also expressed their view that in some Member states and in particular the new Member states, there should be more control of the quality of the audits undertaken by national audit authorities and the quality of the programmes.

3. Consideration of the opinion 'on the Report on the Commission communication: A community approach on the prevention of natural and man made disasters'

In his presentation, the draftsman, Mr Uspaskich (ALDE) stressed, that natural disasters are not limited to the administrative boundaries of regions, and highlighted the role played by regional and local authorities in the disaster management cycle. He highlighted the importance of cooperation between different levels (national, regional and local), and added that it should build upon already existing territorial cooperation networks. He underlined the need to improve the integration of disaster prevention in the Operational Programmes for the 2007-2013 period.

In the unfolding debate members agreed that cooperation in this field is very important, and Member States should step up efforts in exchanging information about their interventions. Some Members stressed that more emphasis should be put on prevention. Some members suggested that the EU level should act as a facilitator and coordinator, while others raised the idea whether the EU should take a more active role.

A deadline for amendments was set for the 01 March 2010.

4. The following votes took place:

- **Opinion on Agriculture in areas with natural handicaps: A special health check**
Draftsman: Rosa Estaràs Ferragut (PPE)
The opinion was adopted by 39 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- **Opinion on A sustainable future for transport**
Draftsman: Seán Kelly (PPE)
The opinion was adopted by 36 votes in favour, 5 against and 2 abstentions.
- **Opinion on Specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union (amendment of Regulation (EC) No 247/2006)**
Draftsman: Nuno Teixeira (PPE)
The opinion was adopted by 38 votes in favour, 0 against and 2 abstentions.
- **Opinion on New developments in public procurement**
Draftsman: Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)
The opinion was adopted by 40 votes in favour, 1 against and 0 abstentions.

5. Report on the first meeting of the Working party on the future of the Cohesion Policy

The discussions of the first meeting were briefly presented, including the idea that REGI should be active on the EU2020 Strategy. It was explained that the Chair would send a letter to the CCC and ECON expressing the concerns of the Committee in this regard, and seeking an answer and prompt reaction from committees concerned with regard to this important

issue.

6. Exchange of views with Philippe Maystadt, President of the European Investment Bank on the activities of the Bank concerning Regional and Cohesion Policy

Mr Maystadt wrapped up the role of the EIB concerning regional policy, stressing that this policy area was one of the priority areas of the Bank, which contributes to funding projects in less developed regions, primarily in the European Union. The President explained that the allocations granted by the EIB are well balanced across all Member States, with a sectoral focus on energy and transport, but also research and innovation.

On one hand EIB contributes to cohesion policy via "structural program loans", that help member States cover the necessary own contribution to Structural Funds (in convergence regions). On the other hand, there are more advanced forms of EIB contribution to this policy, such as the "4Js":

- JASPERS: 240 projects have been prepared so far, 130 in 2009, with the technical assistance provided through this initiative (in the field of transport, environment and energy). Experience showed that these projects are faster accepted by the Commission.
- JEREMIE: ten funds, with the aim of creating revolving financial products from grants, have been established covering a value of 1,08 billion euro.
- JESSICA: this initiative promotes sustainable investment in urban projects; it has contributed to the creation of 8 urban development funds so far with a total of 900 million euro included.
- JASMIN: this initiative provides technical assistance to creating microfinance institutions.

Other initiatives mentioned were ELENA (European Local ENergy Assistance), and the risk-sharing financial facility (for research).

In the unfolding debate, the constraints set by the Financial Regulation (no multiannual commitments are allowed) and their implications to some innovative initiatives, the fight against the economic crisis and the steps taken by EIB, the future of the "4J" initiatives as well as involvement of REGI in the discussions on the future of these instruments were elaborated.

PART III - Other News

Here you will find the latest news related to Committee activities and cohesion policy issues

Library News

Information files

EP Library prepares thematic files on specific topics related to the EP activity which contains links to selected documents of European institutions, as well as to other documents from stakeholders concerning that topic.

Future of Cohesion policy after 2013 / EP Library, March 2010



Cohesion Policy aims at helping reduce disparities between the levels of development of the various regions - thereby laying the ground for the balanced and sustainable economic, social and territorial development. This remains important for the future. At the same time, it is also an important tool for the implementation of the single market and the single currency.

The Presidencies [Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian] will strive to develop a wide-ranging and in-depth debate on regional policy after 2014 (Source: [Draft 18 month programme of the Council](#) / The future Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies, 16771/09, Brussels, 27 November 2009). (Available on the Library website - [see the information file](#))

Latest analysis

OECD Regional Typology / Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, 22 February 2010

The OECD regional typology is applied only to regions at Territorial Level 3 (TL3) and to Non-Official Grids (NOGs) and it is based on criteria of population density and size of the urban centres located within a region.

Regions of OECD member countries have been classified into Predominantly Urban, Intermediate and Predominantly Rural to take into account geographical differences among them. Comparing the socio-economic performance of regions of the same type (whether urban or rural) across countries is useful in detecting similar characteristics and development paths. This typology has been used by the OECD in its analytical work (see, for example, the series OECD Regions at a Glance), as well as in analysis carried out by other institutions, such as National Statistical Offices and the European Commission. (Available on the Library website - [see latest analyses](#)).

Regions Matter: Economic Recovery, Innovation and Sustainable Growth / OECD, December 2009

OECD work suggests that there is no one-size-fits-all answer to regional growth policy. Rather, regions grow in very varied ways and the simple concentration of resources in a place is not sufficient for long-term growth.

This report draws on OECD analysis of regional data (including where growth happens, country-by-country), policy reviews and case studies. It argues that it is how investments are made, regional assets used and synergies exploited that can make the difference" (Source: OECD) (Available on the Library website - [see latest analyses](#)).



City Responses to the Recession – a snapshot / EUROCITIES, 10 February 2010

The document "provides a snapshot of just a handful of what are hundreds of city responses aiming not only for economic recovery, but also the building of foundations for sustainable societies in the future. These interventions show how cities have worked alone and also in partnership to improve the lives of workers and businesses, often through coordinated, partnership based activity" (Source: Eurocities). (Available on the Library website - [see latest analyses](#)).

Other events



Chair's participation to other events on behalf of the Committee

Informal Meeting of Ministers of Regional Policy in Zaragoza

Last 19 February 2010 the Spanish Presidency organised an Informal meeting of Ministers competent on Regional Policy in Zaragoza. The Presidency presented an Orientation Document for the Debate on the Future of Cohesion Policy. This paper and a document with a summary of the different interventions has been distributed by the Presidency and can be found at the REGI's website.

As it is customary, the EP was represented by the Chair of the Committee. Other two members of the committee, M Van Nistelrooij and M Cortés Lastra participated also at the meeting as part of the REGI's Delegation.

The Chair's full intervention on simplification of the policy but also on several points regarding its future can be found at committee's website.

* * *

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

22-24 February	Barcelona, ES	Diputació de Barcelona and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities	European Summit of Local Governments
24 February	Brussels, BE	The Adriatic Euroregion	"An Adriatic Strategy towards European Integration"
1 March	Brussels	National Assembly for Wales	Seminar on inquiry into the future of EU Cohesion Policy post 2014

3 March	Brussels, BE	EESC	Meeting of the ECO section for Economic and Monetary Union and Economic and Social Cohesion of the EESC
----------------	---------------------	-------------	--

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

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 Samorzadowe / Wojewodztwo Zachodniopomorskie	International Forum of local governments

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