
REGI News

Newsletter from the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development

VII Legislature N. 7 - 11 February 2010



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In Focus

**on Monday 22 February 2010
15.00 - 18.30 (ASP 3 G 3)**

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Date of next meeting:
Wednesday 17 March 2010
15.00 - 18.30
Thursday 18 March 2010
9.00 - 12.30

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PART I

Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI Committee meeting on 22 February 2010

The following items will be discussed as foreseen in the [draft agenda](#).

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 issues of competence and possible application of Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure, which had been raised by EMPL, have been solved by the Conference of Presidents (CoP) at its meeting on 4 February. The CoP has followed the advice of the Conference of Committee Chairs confirming the referral to REGI as leading committee and BUDG and EMPL for opinion.

The rapporteur, Mr. Kirilov (S&D), will present to the Committee his legislative draft report including all the amendments tabled to the Commission proposal, which reflect the compromise voted by the Council on 30 November 2009. The main changes aim at introducing an additional advance for 2010 as a means to assist Member States more hit by the economic crisis and at extending of one year the deadline for the calculation of de-commitment for budget commitments incurred in 2007. Further amendments concern the simplification of some procedures ruling the Structural funds.

A deadline for amendments is set on 25 February and the vote scheduled on 17-18 March in Committee.

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: 17-18 March 2010
	Plenary: April 2010

2. 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.

<i>PROCEDURE</i>	<i>TIMETABLE</i>
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: 17-18/03/2010
Lead committee: CONT	Planned adoption in lead committee: 22 March 2010

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

Although a set of Community instruments dealing with disaster response and recovery are already in place, there is no comprehensive strategic approach at EU level for disaster prevention.

The increase in the number and severity of both natural and man-made disasters noticed in EU from 1990 confronted the Community with the need to deal with the issue of disasters prevention.

In this context, the Commission issued in February 2009 a communication (COM(2009)82) aiming at identifying measures which could be included in a Community strategy for the prevention of natural and man-made disasters. Its focus is on developing better understanding of disaster prevention policies among the decision-makers at different levels, making improvements in the disaster management cycle, improving the performance of already existing legislative and financial instruments, and reinforcing international cooperation in the field of disaster prevention.

The European Parliament decided to respond to this communication by an initiative report of the ENVI committee. Considering the regional dimension of the proposed strategy, REGI decided to contribute to the ENVI report with an opinion.

In the draft opinion prepared for REGI, the Draftsperson stresses the crucial role played by regional and local authorities in the disaster management cycle and therefore the need for their active involvement in it. In that respect, the opinion points to the necessity of fostering the cooperation on different levels (national, regional and local), and the involvement of both public and private stakeholders in the process of disaster prevention.

It proposes also to identify risk-prone areas and establish corresponding priority objectives and cooperation mechanisms, building on the already existing territorial cooperation networks. The Draftsperson believes also that the macro-regions with their functionally-oriented cooperation independent of administrative boundaries, could become effective platforms for cooperation in the field of disaster prevention. Furthermore, the Draftsperson underlines that there is a need to improve the integration of disaster prevention in the Operational Programmes for the 2007-2013 period as well as the use of the structural funds directly allocated to risk prevention.

The REGI Committee will consider this draft opinion during its meeting on 22 February with a view to vote it in April. A deadline for amendments will probably be fixed for 2 March with a view to vote at the REGI meeting in April. The ENVI committee plans to

adopt its report on 3-4 May 2010.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Viktor Uspaskich	Consideration of draft opinion: 22/02/2010
Responsible administrator: Agnieszka Kunat	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
	Planned adoption in plenary: June 2010

4. 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.

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

5. Agriculture in areas with natural handicaps: A special health check

The Committee will vote on the opinion drawn up by Ms. Estaràs Ferragut (EPP) to the report of the Agriculture Committee on the reform of the Less Favoured Areas (LFAs).

The main recommendation put forward by the opinion regards the maintenance of the 'depopulation' criterion in the 'fine-tuning' that the Member States will carry out when drawing up the maps of the intermediate disadvantaged areas.

According to the draftsman, once these maps are ready, national criteria needed to reflect the specific national and/or regional situation in each country should be taken into account.

24 amendments were tabled to this opinion, which will be voted in AGRI on 23 February. They call for attention also on the specific handicaps concerning islands in particular and on the forecast of sufficiently long transitional periods for areas in phasing out.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Ms Rosa Estaràs Ferragut	Consideration of draft opinion: 25/01/2010
Responsible administrator: Elisa Daffarra	Planned deadline for Ams: 3/02/2010
Procedure: 2009/2156(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 22/02/2010
Lead Committee : AGRI	Planned adoption in AGRI 23/02/2010
	Planned adoption in plenary: April

6. A sustainable future for transport

The Committee will vote on the opinion drawn up by Mr. Seán Kelly (EPP) to the report of the Transport Committee on a sustainable future for transport.

The report of the lead committee is to formulate Parliament's views on the Commission Communication "A sustainable future for transport: Towards an integrated, technology-led and user friendly system". The draftsman supported the Commission's initiative to outline a strategy for a future sustainable transport policy in the EU. The main recommendations were trans-border considerations to be taken into account in future transport policy, the need to ensure high quality and accessible transport services to citizens in urban areas, noting the importance of rail liberalisation, short-sea shipping as a sustainable mode of transport, and the crucial role of regional airports in the development of peripheral and outermost regions.

42 amendments were tabled to this opinion which will be voted in TRAN in March. They call for attention among others to stress the need of "greening" transport and public transport in particular, highlight the importance of road traffic for the competitiveness of regional businesses, and raise the issue of freshwater traffic on rivers and lakes

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Draftsman: Seán Kelly (EPP-DE)	Consideration of draft opinion: 25/01/2010
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Planned deadline for Ams: 2/02/2010
Procedure: 2009/2096(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 22/02/2010
Lead committee: TRAN	Planned adoption in lead committee: March 2010

7. Specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union (amendment of Regulation (EC) No 247/2006)

The Committee will vote on the legislative opinion drawn up by Mr. Nuno Teixeira (EPP) to the report of the Agriculture Committee on specific measures for agriculture in outermost regions.

The draftsman agreed with the main lines of the changes proposed by the Commission; however he proposed amendments with a view to enhancing the development of outermost regions. The main recommendations were the following:

- eliminating asymmetrical treatment between the outermost regions (Azores and Madeira) and the rest of the Community;
- reinforcing the principle of subsidiarity;
- providing for better adjustment to market realities;
- ensuring Community support for the gradual phasing out of direct-producer hybrid vine varieties in Portugal.

6 amendments were tabled to this opinion which will be voted in AGRI in March. They call for more specific changes as regards local milk production.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Draftsperson: Nuno Teixeira (EPP-DE)	Consideration of draft opinion: 25/01/2010
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Planned deadline for Ams: 2/02/2010
Procedure: 2009/0138(CNS)	Planned adoption REGI: 22/02/2010
Lead committee: AGRI	Planned adoption in lead committee: March 2010)

8. New developments in public procurement

The Committee will vote on the opinion drawn up by Mr Oldrich Vlasak to the report of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection on new developments in public procurement.

This opinion is of particular importance for the REGI Committee as the failure to respect EU procurement rules has been stated as one of the two most common reasons for excluding projects from EU financing in the field of Cohesion policy. Indeed, failure to meet specific funds' conditions and not respecting procurement rules account for about 80 % of eligibility errors and consequent financial corrections according to the Court of Auditors' Annual Report for the 2008 financial year.

The draft opinion has been presented at the Committee meeting on 25 January. 22 amendments were tabled to this opinion and will be voted on 22 February.

The vote of the report in IMCO is foreseen for the 17 March.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
	Consideration of draft opinion 25/01/2010
Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák	Planned deadline for Ams: 02/02/2010
Responsible administrator: Agnieszka Kunat	Planned adoption REGI: 22/02/2010
Procedure 2009/2175 (INI) – REGI/7/01395	Planned adoption in IMCO: 17/03/2010
Lead committee: IMCO	Planned adoption in plenary: 19/04/2010

9. Report on the first meeting of the Working Party on the Future of Cohesion Policy

The first meeting of the Working Party on the Future of Cohesion Policy (WPoFCP) took place on 4 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 first meeting Members had an exchange of views with Mr Dirk Ahner, European Commission Director-General on Regional Policy. Mr Ahner gave a detailed overview of the agenda of key actions, documents and proposals running up to create the post 2013 cohesion policy.

The WPoFCP will briefly report to REGI on the outcome of the first meeting.

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

The President of the BEI will inform to the committee on the actions of the Bank in those areas of interest for the implementation of the Union's cohesion policy. Following his intervention a debate with the Members of the committee will follow.



PART II

Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meetings held on 25 and 26 January 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 the colleagues on the possible conflict of competence- or application of Rule 50- with EMPL committee on this file.

Pending the decision, the draft report could not be presented in the Committee yet and the discussion had to be based on a working document, which nevertheless lists the amendments that the rapporteur would table.

He clarified to the colleagues that the document of reference for the draft report, to be presented on 22 February, is the Commission proposal adopted on 22 July 2009 and that he intends to support all the amendments agreed by the Council in November 2009.

2. Exchange of views with Mr Carlos Ocaña y Pérez de Tudela, Secretary of State for Finance acting as President-in-Office of the Council, on the work programme of the Spanish Presidency of the Council

Mr. Ocaña y Pérez de Tudela presented to the Committee the following priorities on cohesion policy for the semester of the Spanish presidency:

- Shaping the **future of the cohesion policy**. The main statements concerned the maintained link between the cohesion policy and the EU2020 Strategy; the role of local actors as engines for growth; the need to use at best the financial resources available; the provision of transitional arrangements for regions in phasing out from the Convergence Objective; the reinforcement of the Cooperation Objective and the identification of exit strategies to sort out from the economic crisis.
- Implications of the **territorial cohesion** principle. The debate needs to consider both the cooperation among territories and the coordination between policies. The role of urban areas is also crucial.
- **Simplification of procedures**. The management and the control system of the cohesion policy are too complex and this implies constant delays in the progress of the

implementation and problems of liquidity because of late reimbursements especially in the current situation of budget constraints in the Member States. A simplification of the procedures is needed, allowing an easier use of the funds and ensuring the soundness of the system at the same time. The modifications already carried out on the General and ERDF Regulations are important steps in this direction but further efforts are needed for the future in this field when negotiating on the next legislative package.

These three priorities will be at the centre of the debate at the informal ministerial meeting which will be held in Zaragoza on 17 February 2010. A delegation of the Parliament has been invited to participate in the event.

In the exchange of views after the presentation the coordinators and the members questioned the Secretary of State on the enhanced legislative role of the Parliament as a consequence of the Lisbon Treaty, the contribution of the cohesion policy to the post 2010 Strategy for growth and jobs and backed his view on the simplification needs.

On his side, Mr. Ocaña confirmed the MEP the intention of the Spanish Presidency to develop a strict and continuous cooperation with the European Parliament in all relevant dossiers and debates, including the ongoing modification of the General Regulation.

As regards the exit strategy from the economic crisis he declared that what is needed is not necessarily additional funds but rather a better use of the already existing resources.

Finally on indicators, he agreed with some observations coming from the audience that a debate on this issue is of utmost importance but that there are strong limitations in introducing more subjective criteria than the GDP per capita, currently in use, which at least ensures a horizontal homogeneity in all the Member States.

3. The following votes took place

- **Opinion on the Commission White Paper: "Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action"**
Draftsperson: Salvatore CARONNA (S&D)
The opinion was adopted by 31 votes in favour, 8 against and 2 abstentions.
- **Opinion on Protection of the Communities' financial interests - Fight against fraud - Annual**
Draftsperson: Erminia MAZZONI (EPP)
The opinion was adopted by 40 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.
- **Opinion on European Investment Bank (EIB) - Annual Report 2008**
Draftsperson: Constanze Angela KREHL (S&D)
The opinion was adopted by 40 votes in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention.

4. Consideration of the opinion on "Agriculture in areas with natural handicaps: A special health check"

In the debate the Members pointed out the need of taking also specific natural handicaps into account in the future reforms, in particular as regards islands and Outermost regions, for which a higher degree of flexibility should be introduced. Also the duration of the transitional period for the areas in phasing out raised some concerns.

In her final comment, the draftsperson, Ms. Estaràs Ferragut (EPP), pointed out that by her opinion she does not aim at introducing new criteria at Community level but at leaving certain flexibility to the Member States in the so called "fine-tuning" phase at national level, taking into account the territorial specificities.

A deadline for amendments was set on 02/02/2010 at 12:00.

5. Consideration of the opinion on "A sustainable future for transport"

In the debate following Mr. Kelly's (EPP) presentation, the main points raised concerned the need to emphasise the cross-border links for transport through transnational projects as well as alternative ways of transport such as inner rivers and lakes.

The specificities of the Outermost regions with reference to accessibility were recalled asking for a specific policy for these areas.

Finally some Members stressed the opportunity to reinforce the railway infrastructure as an alternative to road investments and improve the quality of the public transport.

A deadline for amendments was set on 02/02/2010 at 12:00.

6. Consideration of the opinion on "Specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union (amendment of Regulation (EC) No 247/2006)"

In the debate following Mr. Teixeira's (EPP) presentation, members stressed the need to strengthen the principle of subsidiarity and welcomed the fact that the changes will allow for better adjustments to market realities.

The need to adapt to climate change was highlighted and the relevance of the proposed changes concerning milk production in La Réunion was questioned.

A deadline for amendments was set on 02/02/2010 at 12:00.

7. Consideration of the opinion on "New developments in public procurement"

Although recognising the need of a Europe-wide regulatory framework in the field of public procurement, the rapporteur highlighted the opportunity of a better application of the framework directive in the Member States.

His colleagues MEPs backed this position confirming that the lack of a uniform framework at Community level has caused problems in terms of correct transposition at national level. More investment in training not only in national but also in regional and local administrations will be needed to ensure the transfer of the information and the correct application of the rules eliminating uncertainties or not needed over-requirements purely aimed at avoiding errors. Flexibility at the local level (e.g. small Municipalities) should be allowed though.

A deadline for amendments was set on 02/02/2010 at 12:00.

8. Exchange of views with Dirk Ahner, European Commission Director-General on Regional Policy, on 2009 Budget implementation concerning Regional and Cohesion Policy

Mr. Ahner presented to the Committee Members the data available on the level of commitments and payments for 2009 as regards the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund.

The overall claims submitted to the Commission at the end of 2009 amount to 18.4 billion € of which 9 billion € are advances and 9.4 billion € intermediate reimbursements. Further 6.2 billion € submitted in 2009 will be actually paid out in early 2010.

Despite the liquidity problems generated in the Member States by the economic crisis and the tendency of the Governments to prefer the national sources of investments to the Community funds due to their easier management, the overall figures so far seem, in the eyes of the Director General, quite promising.

The current trend should lead to a constant increase in the level of payments for the next years with the peak to be reached in 2013.

The detailed figures and punctual information answering the questions raised by the MEPs will be made available by the Commission in the form of a written note.

The questions of the MEPs centred on the actual implementation at national level of the anti-crisis measures in the housing sector, the need to verify the quality of the investments made under the current programming period in terms of sustainability and durability. Also the ways of cooperation between Commission and Parliament in the framework of the High Level Group on the future of cohesion policy raised some concerns. Mr. Ahner after having briefly reported on the contents of the last meeting reassured the Members on their involvement in the ongoing debate for instance through the work of a small inter-institutional group.

Finally, as regards EU2020, the DG confirmed that the Commission will adopt a Communication on 3 March reflecting the results of the public consultation which saw a massive participation by regional and regional associations, united in the opinion that regions must be recognised in their role of promoters of development and that the cohesion policy is the main vehicle to transpose the objective of the EU2020 on the ground and needs therefore to be taken more into account in the future strategy.

9. Exchange of views on the report "The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the role of macro-regions in the future cohesion policy"

The rapporteur, Mr. Olejniczak (S&D) recalled that the consultation on the Commission communication involved a high number of national and regional actors given that the strategy is considered as a pilot project on whose results the methodology for future macro-regions can be based, not only in the field of the cohesion policy but also in other Community policies such as the CAP, fishery or development aid to extra-EU countries.

The main challenges on which the current strategy is focussed concern the diversification of the economy, the increased mobility in the region, the population ageing and the energy issues.

Some discussions are still open, for instance on the identification of a separate budget line for the strategy, the dimension of the macro-region covering only coastal areas or the whole national territory and the possibility to transfer this model with the necessary adaptations to other potential macro-regions in Europe (Adriatic, Danube, Mediterranean).

In the following exchange of views MEPs supported the need to design the BSS as a European strategy of 27 Member States and not as a local project for a regional area; they spoke in favour to including the discussion on macro-regions in the debate on the future of the cohesion policy; to taking into due account the external dimension of the strategy especially as regards the cooperation with Russia; to setting up a dedicated budget line for this kind of cooperation avoiding to depend on the Member States' will to allocate funds; to extending the strategy to the whole territory of the States concerned and not only to the coastal areas.

The bottom-up approach, involving all local stakeholders in the design of the strategy beside than in its implementation was recognised as a key element for the success of any macro-regional strategy.

The representative of the DG REGIO, Mr. Sweet, commented that the cautiousness of the Commission on this subject is due to the will of assessing that the methodology applied in the Baltic areas works before deciding to transfer it to other areas of potential cooperation.

10. 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

The rapporteur, Mr. Van Nistelrooij (EPP) briefly informed the colleagues on a procedural issue concerning his report, which was already presented in the December meeting. Following a request of the ITRE Committee, the rule 50 of the EP internal regulation (associated committees) will be applied to this report, recognising the leading role of both committees on this dossier but with a clear division of competencies, namely on the analysis and recommendations as regards the cohesion policy attributed to REGI and the recommendations on research policy and the VII Research and development Programme to ITRE. Common competence will be the formulation of proposals for coordinating the two fields of action.

With the sole exception of the Green/EFA group, the colleagues agreed on the application of the Rule 50. The remark was made however that clear interconnection between the two policy areas must be made clear.

PART III - Other News

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

Library News

Library Briefings



<http://www.library.sso.ep.parl.union.eu/rep/09-Briefings/2009/2009-084-Demographic-Challenges-for-European-Regions-FINAL.pdf> **Demographic Challenges for European Regions: the Role of the EU's Cohesion Policy** / EP Library, February 2010 (Available on the Library website - [see the briefing](#))

The demographic structure of the EU is changing dramatically. EU regions are affected mainly by ageing, population decline and migratory movements. However, the demographic situations vary considerably across the EU and within Member States. The impacts of demographic change are pervasive. For instance, labour markets, in-frastructure, the healthcare sector or vo-ting patterns may be affected.



<http://www.library.sso.ep.parl.union.eu/rep/09-Briefings/2010/2010-002-EU-Strategy-for-the-Danube-Region-FINAL.pdf> **EU Strategy for the Danube Region** / EP Library, February 2010 (Available on the Library website - [see the briefing](#))

Foreseen for the beginning of 2011, the Strategy for the Danube Region could be the second macro-regional experiment in the EU (after the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, adopted in October 2009). According to the 18 month programme of the Council of the incoming Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies, the launching and implementation of the EUSDR will be an important priority.

Latest analysis



Regional population projections EUROPOP2008: Most EU regions face older population profile in 2030 / Eurostat, Statistics in focus, Issue number 1/2010

This publication describes the results of the 2008-based regional NUTS level 2 population projections for Europe, produced by Eurostat for the EU-27 Member States, Norway and Switzerland. The 2008-based regional population projections EUROPOP2008 show that population may increase in two out of three regions between 2008 and 2030. However, in 2030, slightly more than half of the regions are projected to continue to increase their population. The median age of the regions' population in 2030 is projected to be between 34.2 years and 57.0 years, while in 2008 the range was between 32.9 years and 47.8 years. Similarly, in 2030, the share of the population aged 65 years or over is expected to range between 10.4 % and 37.3 %. In 2008, the range was between 9.1 % and 26.8 %. Population projections are what-if scenarios that aim to provide information about the likely future size and structure of the population. Eurostat's regional population projections scenario is one of several possible population change scenarios at regional level based on assumptions for fertility, mortality and migration. (Available on the Library website - see [latest analyses](#)).



EUCO2 80/50 Vision for 2050 / METREX - The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas, 2009

In a 30-month [project](#), 21 European metropolitan regions aim to devise strategies for achieving an 80% reduction of greenhouse gases emissions by the year 2050 (See: EUCO2 80/50 [Current Position 2009](#) and EUCO2 80/50 [Vision for 2050](#)). Project participants are nine European capitals, Europe's two largest ports and ten further metropolitan regions from various climate zones. Lead partner is the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg. METREX, the organisation of Europe's metropolitan regions, is partner, too, and makes available its network [to disseminate the obtained knowledge](#) to the other European metropolitan regions. (Available on the Library website - see [latest analyses](#)).



"The European Economic Recovery Plan in Regions and Cities: One Year On": final report / Committee of the Regions, January 2010

The Committee of the Regions published its final report with results from the online survey "[The European Economic Recovery Plan in Regions and Cities: One Year On](#)". The survey - conducted by the CoR Lisbon Monitoring Platform - assesses how the European Economic Recovery Plan is being implemented at grass roots level, as perceived by the EU local and regional authorities.

The survey was conducted between October and November 2009. The results of the report were presented at the 5th Territorial Dialogue for Sustainable Growth and Jobs in Palma de Mallorca, Spain (January 18, 2010) (Source: DG Regional Policy [website](#)) (Available on the Library website - see [latest analyses](#)).

Other events



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

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

27 January	Brussels, BE	Eurocities	reception and dinner
28-29 January	Innsbruck, AT	Europäisches Forum Alpbach	Symposium "Europe: Strategies for the Future from the Actor's Perspective"
1 February	Leuven, BE	Coimbra Group	Academic session devoted to Impact of historical universities on city and region
2 February	Ulm, DE	DG REGIO	Conference - 'EU Strategy for Danube Region'
3 February	Brussels, BE	AER	AER event on the EU 2020 Strategy for Growth and Jobs
4 February	Brussels, BE	DG REGIO	20 years of community support to urban development
9 February	Strasbourg, PE	EP Danube Forum	Meeting on the importance of the Danube Region and of the EU Danube Strategy

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

19 February	Zaragoza, ES	Spanish Presidency	Informal Ministerial Meeting on Regional Policy
22-24 February	Barcelona, ES	Diputació de Barcelona and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities	European Summit of Local Governments

More information is available at the Chair's website or with the secretariat.