



Newsletter

A word from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,
Dear Friends,

On 10 July, the REGI Committee held its constitutive meeting and elected me as its new Chair. I would like to thank all the colleagues who gave me their trust. This is the first time that the REGI Committee will be chaired by an MEP from an outermost region. I am honoured.



I will fight to maintain a strong cohesion policy that leaves no region behind, and be a strong voice in favour of cohesion. I will also make the fight against poverty and for employment and ecological transition my priority.

Cohesion Policy is at the heart of the European project, and is one of the most important EU policies, with € 351.8 billion set aside for 2014-2020: almost a third of the total EU budget.

We already have a busy agenda ahead, with all the legislative files linked to the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). We must resume as soon as possible the trilogue negotiations on the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR), which started in spring. We must also start the trilogue negotiations for the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund, Interreg and the Cross-Border Mechanism dossier.

We will also need to quickly raise a strong voice to defend a good budget for cohesion in the MFF negotiations. Economic, social and territorial cohesion is an objective of the Treaty. To achieve it, we need a strong budget. We all know that without a policy of solidarity, without a project of economic and social cohesion at the scale of the European continent, there can be no possible common political construction.

Our first ordinary meeting will take place on 23 July. We will hold a debate with Ms Katri Kulmuni, Minister of Economic Affairs, who will present the Finnish Presidency work programme and the priorities for cohesion. We will also debate the draft EU budget for 2020 and see if we can already define a common negotiating position for our Committee.

All the work of the REGI Committee is published online, and all our meetings are web-streamed on our website. You can also find us on Twitter @EP_Regional.

I look forward to working closely with all of you.

Yours,

Younous Omarjee

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"Cohesion policy should have a stronger focus on promoting growth and competitiveness throughout Europe"

[Finnish EU Council presidency programme](#)

In Focus

Update on legislative files

Common Provisions Regulation 2021-2027

At the end of the last parliamentary term, the Committee on Regional Development closed consideration of the Common Provisions Regulation for the 2021-2027 period in first reading. Three trilogues took place, as well as a number of meetings at staff level to prepare those trilogues.

Discussions have so far focused on 'block 1' as defined by the Council, covering in particular the partnership principle and partnership agreements, technical assistance and horizontal principles. A certain amount of progress was made, but it was not possible to conclude negotiations on these very complex issues in the short time available before the elections.

Negotiations will therefore resume after the summer break, once parliamentary work is truly underway. Intense negotiations are expected throughout the autumn and into next year.

You can find more information on the file on [the legislative observatory page](#).

European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund

The Parliament adopted its first reading position on the ERDF-CF dossier on 27 March 2019 with 475 votes in favour, 93 against and 53 abstentions. In June 2019, the Council finalised its partial mandate on this file and, therefore, interinstitutional negotiations are expected to start after the summer break.

You can find more information on the file [on the legislative observatory page](#).

European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg)

The Parliament adopted the REGI report with no further amendments on 26 March 2019 and, as the Council was not ready to start the negotiations, concluded its first reading. Inter-institutional negotiations will begin after the election recess and the confirmation of the 1st reading by the newly-elected Parliament.

You can find more information on the file [on the legislative observatory page](#).

Cross-border mechanism (ECBM)

REGI adopted its report on 22 November 2018. On 12 December 2018, a decision to enter into inter-institutional negotiations was confirmed by the plenary (Rule 69c). However, the Council was not in a position to negotiate, and therefore the first reading was concluded in Parliament on 14 February 2019. The legislative report was adopted as submitted by the REGI Committee, with no changes. The work on the file is expected to resume in the autumn.

You can find more information on the file [on the legislative observatory page](#).

Last time

REGI meeting

10 July 2019

Constitutive meeting

The REGI Committee held its constitutive meeting on 10 July 2019, and elected Younous OMARJEE (GUE/NGL, French) as its new Chair, by acclamation. REGI also elected its 1st Vice-Chair, Krzysztof HETMAN (EPP, Polish), by acclamation. The election of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Vice-Chair will take place soon.

You can find more information on this on [the REGI website](#).

The full list of REGI Committee members and substitutes is available [here](#).



Ahead of us

REGI meeting

(*) agenda of the forthcoming meetings might be changed after publication of the Newsletter

23 July 2019

Presentation of priorities of the Finnish Presidency of the Council



EU2019FI
@EU2019FI

Following

Sustainable Europe – Sustainable Future.

Finland's Presidency of the @EUCouncil. +
#EU2019FI



4:23 PM - 2 Jul 2019

The Finnish Minister of Economic Affairs [Ms Katri Kulmuni](#) will attend the REGI meeting on 23 July to present to the Committee the priorities of the Finnish presidency.

This is the third time Finland holds the rotating Council Presidency, the previous times were in 1999 and 2006. The motto of the 6 months is "Sustainable Europe – Sustainable Future".

The main priorities for the Presidency are to strengthen common values and the rule of law, to make the EU more competitive and socially inclusive, to strengthen the EU's position as a global leader in climate action, and to protect the security of citizens comprehensively. The Presidency programme also mentions that "cohesion policy should have a stronger focus on promoting growth and competitiveness throughout Europe".

You can read more about the Finnish priorities [here](#) and about the

trio programme with Romania and Croatia [here](#).

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Calendar of meetings 2019

The next meeting of the REGI Committee will take a decision about whether or not to confirm the provisional calendar of meetings for the second half of the year already agreed by the outgoing Committee. If it decides to confirm the provisional calendar, Committee meetings will take place on 3 September, 2-3 October, 4-5 November and 4-5 December. Depending on its workload, the Committee may also decide to hold additional meetings in Brussels or in Strasbourg.

More information on this can be found on [the REGI website](#).

Draft general budget of the EU for the financial year 2020

The European Commission adopted the draft EU annual budget for 2020 on 5 June. This budget will be the last one under the 2014-2020 Multi-Annual Financial Framework – the long-term EU budget. The Council adopted its position on 10 July and now the Parliament must give its response, very probably in the October plenary session in Strasbourg.

One of the first tasks of the REGI Committee will be to appoint a rapporteur for the REGI opinion on the draft budget. Newly-elected members have already sent five proposals for Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions (PPAs) to the Commission for initial assessment. This is in addition to the seven such proposals for PPAs drawn up by members of the outgoing Committee. The members of the new Committee will now also consider how they wish to respond to the Council's position, especially on the budget lines which are devoted to cohesion policy.

There will be an initial exchange of views on the draft budget 2020 in the next Committee meeting in July. Members will return to this item of business in the meetings on 3 September and 2-3 October.

Upcoming events

in Brussels or near to your home

Date	Event	Place	Additional info
3 September	REGI Committee meeting	EP, Brussels	
2-3 October	REGI Committee meeting	EP, Brussels	
7-10 October	European Week of Regions and Cities	Brussels and Member States	

Useful links

[REGI Website](#)

[EP studies Website](#)

[EP Library - Info on items related to regional development](#)

[OEIL - The Legislative Observatory](#)

[EUR-Lex](#)

[EC Regional Policy - InfoRegio](#)

[European Committee of the Regions](#)