



Newsletter

A word from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,
Dear Friends,



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During the last European Council on 17 and 18 October, negotiations on the future MFF re-started. The new draft prepared by the Finnish Presidency is far from the European Parliament's expectations, and the proposition for cohesion is far too low. Most EU Heads of State rejected it, and many said that this proposal could not be a start for discussions.

On the European Parliament side, we also recall, together with Jan Olbrycht from the CPMR General Assembly in Palermo, that the European Parliament will not hesitate to reject a post-2020 budget that is too low.

The MFF discussions are crucial for the future Cohesion Policy. They will determine the overall envelope for cohesion, and the so-called "negotiating box" of the Council includes many articles of the CPR and of the specific funds regulations that should fall strictly under co-decision. What's more, we can already see their practical implications in our technical meetings and trilogues.

On 2 October, we voted to open negotiations for early second reading agreement for the CPR, ERDF-CF and Interreg files, the Cross-Border Mechanism and CPR pre-financing amendment. All our rapporteurs are actively working on it. Their job is complicated but of utmost importance.

Other key events in October were the hearings of the Commissioners-designate. For our REGI Committee, the hearing of Ms Ferreira (responsible for the combined portfolio of Cohesion and Reforms) took place on 2 October. This 3-hour hearing in our Committee was full of lively discussion and tough topical questions. Almost all issues were raised, and after a demanding and thorough hearing, the coordinators unanimously validated the designation of Ms Ferreira.

For our next REGI meeting on 4-5 November, we will have an exchange of views with two important partners. Mr Lambert, President of the European Committee of the Regions, will attend the meeting and talk with us about current regional policy topics, the ongoing trilogues, MFF negotiations and will present the position of the CoR on all those key issues. Throughout the 'European Week of the Regions and Cities', we raised our convergent concerns and ambitions for cohesion with the CoR President.

"Cohesion is at the heart of the European Project and reform, with cohesion, must be at the top of our agenda."

Commissioner-designate Elisa Ferreira

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We will also hold an exchange of views with Ms Ivanova, Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible for Investment for Cohesion, Growth and Inclusion, who will take the floor to present their conclusions in the review of the 2018 EU budget. We will also have a presentation of a study entitled "Gender Dimension of the EU Cohesion Policy" that will shed light on how the gender dimension is taken into account in the EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020.

You can watch our Committee meetings live via webstreaming, and keep up-to-date on the main developments by following us on Twitter @EP_Regional.

I count on you all, throughout this month of November, to continue to campaign everywhere for cohesion,

Yours,
Younous Omarjee

Last time

REGI meeting

2 - 3 October 2019

Decision to open inter-institutional negotiations for an early second reading agreement on five legislative dossiers

At its meeting on 2 October, the REGI committee voted on holding negotiations on its five open legislative files, with a view to reaching agreements in early second reading. Rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure provides as follows: "Where Parliament has adopted its position at first reading, that position shall constitute the mandate for any negotiations with other institutions. The committee responsible may decide, by a majority of its members, to enter into negotiations at any time thereafter."

Entry into negotiations was approved by an absolute majority in all five cases. The five files are:

- Common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument – 2018/0196(COD) – co-rapporteurs Novakov and Krehl;
- European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund – 2018/0197(COD) – rapporteur Cozzolino;
- Specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments – 2018/0199(COD) – rapporteur Arimont;
- Mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context – 2018/0198(COD) – rapporteur Ghinea;
- Adjustment of annual pre-financing for the years 2021 to 2023 – 2018/0322(COD) – rapporteur Moździanowska.

Negotiations on the Common Provisions Regulation and on the ERDF-CF have already started, and work on Interreg is due to start soon. For the two other files, Parliament must wait until the Council is ready to negotiate.

Hearing of Commissioner-designate for Cohesion and Reforms - Elisa Ferreira



Elisa Ferreira is the candidate for the Cohesion and Reforms portfolio. During her three-hour hearing on Wednesday 2 October at 18:30, REGI Members had the opportunity to question her and examine her skills and qualifications.

In her opening statement, the Commissioner-designate insisted her motto would be the same as that of her predecessor, Corina Crețu: 'no region left behind'. She stressed her willingness to build a tailored Cohesion Policy for all regions and outlined the importance for Cohesion Policy to remain a top priority on the European agenda.

REGI Members had the opportunity to question Ms Ferreira on a wide range of aspects pertaining to her portfolio. Budget cuts, simplification and the fight against climate change were among the most pressing topics for the Members present.

You can read more about the Commissioners-designate [here](#), find out more about the hearings, and watch them live [here](#). For information on Ms Ferreira's hearing, click [here](#).

Joint REGI-COTER meeting

8 October 2019

Joint REGI-COTER meeting on “the current implementation of the Funds”

In the context of the European Week of Regions and Cities, REGI and the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy (COTER) of the European Committee of the Regions organised a joint meeting. Commissioner for Regional Policy, Mr Johannes Hahn, was invited to introduce the debate with an update on the current implementation of the Funds.

Considering that only around one third of the allocated funds for the current programming period have been spent, the debate focused on the necessity to create the conditions to accelerate the process. In that respect, the need for simplifying the administrative requirements (not only at EU level but also at national and regional level) for beneficiaries and managing authorities should be addressed in the current negotiations on the cohesion policy architecture for the next programming period.

The Members also restated that Cohesion Policy is the best instrument to promote the European idea amongst the citizens and called for an adequate budget and communication strategy.



Ahead of us

REGI meeting

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

4 - 5 November 2019

Exchange of views with Ms Ivanova, Member of European Court of Auditors (ECA)

Ms Ivanova, Member of ECA, will attend the REGI November meeting to give a general introduction to the work of the ECA and to present the recent reports linked to Cohesion Policy implementation, performance and allocations for 2021-2027.

The meeting will be carried out using an "exchange of views" format. Ms Ivanova will first present ECA reports followed by a Q&A session where Members will have the opportunity to exchange views and express their opinions on the matter.

You can find the latest ECA reports on their [website](#).

Exchange of views with Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions

The President of the European Committee of the Regions has been invited to a REGI committee meeting to present the work of his institution. The European Committee of the Regions recently adopted three reports on Cohesion Policy and communication, CoR recommendations for the strategies for the next programming period and on the future agenda of the territorial agenda. This meeting is meant to increase the relations between the REGI committee and the CoR.

The exchange of views that will follow Mr Lambertz's presentation will provide an opportunity to discuss the future of Cohesion Policy and the state of play of the negotiations between the EP and the Council.

Presentation of a study "Gender dimension of the EU Cohesion Policy"

At the request of the REGI committee, Policy Department B commissioned a study on "[Gender dimension of the EU cohesion policy](#)".

This study analyses how the gender dimension and the principle of gender equality are taken into account in the EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020. It provides inputs for the discussion on how to improve the promotion of gender equality and non-discrimination in the post-2020 programming period. In detail, the study considers how gender equality has been mainstreamed in ESF and ERDF in the programming, implementation, and monitoring phases with focus on eight selected country case studies. It also provides an assessment of the present and future challenges together with policy indications from relevant stakeholders at both European and national level.

The study was completed and circulated to REGI Members in February 2019. It will be presented on 4 November, by the lead researcher, Ms Manuela Samek Lodovici.



Exchange of views with Mariana Kotzeva, Director-General of Eurostat

EU_Eurostat @EU_Eurostat · Sep 12
 Just released: Eurostat Regional Yearbook 2019 #EURegions

Take a look at how your region compares to others

Accessible here: ec.europa.eu/eurostat/produ...

STATISTICAL BOOKS | eurostat

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Eurostat published the Eurostat 2019 Regional Yearbook in September. The yearbook has regional statistics on several topics - population, health, education and training, the labour market, the economy, structural business statistics, research and innovation, the digital economy and society, tourism, transport and agriculture. They are illustrated by maps, tables and infographics.

Ms Kotzeva, Director-General of Eurostat, will attend the REGI meeting to explain more about the publication and how the Members of the REGI committee can use it in their work.

You can find the publication [here](#) and read more about it [here](#).

Upcoming events

in Brussels or near to your home

Date	Event	Place	Additional info
4-5 November	REGI committee meeting	Brussels	
7-8 November	EuroPCom	Brussels	
12 November	NAT Conference on RURAL post-2020	Brussels	
28-29 November	3rd Annual Forum of the European Strategy for the Alpine Region	Milan	
4-5 December	REGI committee meeting	Brussels	

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](#)