



Newsletter

A word from the Chair



Dear Colleagues,
Dear Friends,

We have had a busy second quarter!

First, there is STEP (Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform). I regret that modification of the closure of the 2014-2020 cohesion programming period remains included whereas it should have been dealt with separately. Our rapporteur will continue to dedicatedly work over the summer, preparing relevant amendments while taking note of the overall dynamic and being attentive to the impact on regions.

Revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is timely and necessary, though it unfortunately didn't go far enough – a real fund for climate change is still needed. The number of natural disasters, by all indicators, will continue to increase, and we need an answer for them.

When it comes to ASAP (Act in Support of Ammunition Production), I was pleased to see that the transfer from cohesion policy funds was excluded.

With all this happening, a message to our fellow actors - regional and local authorities, - I call on you to accelerate the finalization of projects by the end of the year. Use all facilities provided by the FAST-CARE and split projects if you can.

From September onwards, we will continue to undertake a number of actions to ensure the success of the cohesion policy, such as REGI's Interparliamentary meeting with 27 EU Member States on the future of the cohesion policy.

Finally, I welcome the Spanish presidency and their ambitious plans concerning cohesion policy - I wish them good luck and success.

Keep up-to-date by following us on Twitter [@EP_Regional](#) and [@younousomarjee](#).

Yours, Younous Omarjee

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Nothing is more expensive than a missed opportunity.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Last times

REGI meetings

25 May 2023

Establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's net-zero technology products manufacturing ecosystem (Net Zero Industry Act) 2023/0081(COD)



Niklas Nienass (Verts/ALE)
Rapporteur for opinion

REGI committee, as an associated committee with shared competences over Article 10(3) and Recital 45 of the proposed regulation, held an exchange of views on the [Net Zero Industry Act](#). The rapporteur took the floor to highlight that all regions should profit from this regulation, not only the rich ones. He suggested that the selection of strategically important investments should be made at Commission level, underlining the need to support all regions, especially less-developed, transition, and just transition regions.

The rapporteur also stressed the need for regular ex post evaluation and for allocation of CPR funds to smart investments. In their reply, the Commission's representative from DG GROW commented that there are safeguards to avoid biased investments in regions with better fiscal position, but acknowledged that the risk exists. The Commission also highlighted the need for ex ante verification and ex post tracking of results, whereas, with regard to CPR, concrete proposals will be included in the MFF mid-term review.

Debate on the Commission proposal for regulation on establishing the Act in Support of Ammunition Production (ASAP) (2023/0140(COD))

A debate was held on the Commission proposal for regulation on establishing the Act in Support of Ammunition Production ([ASAP](#)). The Chair, while opening the debate, expressed his wholehearted support for Ukraine, but also his personal conviction that funds should not be transferred from the cohesion policy funds for that purpose. Some of the coordinators took the floor, agreeing with the opposition to such a transfer option. During the debate, Members stressed that there is no link between the objectives of the ASAP proposal and those of the cohesion policy, and that its implementation could possibly even undermine the territorial cohesion.

The Commission reiterated the objectives of the ASAP proposal and the broader context in which it is submitted to the co-legislators, and defending the need for EU funding, including the possible financing from the cohesion policy funds. They insisted on the optional nature of the possibility of such financing from the cohesion policy, subject to choice of Member States. REGI Chair reacted reminding that it is not justified to speak of the 'unused amounts' in the context of the 2021-2027 allocations, whose implementation is only starting and as such the end of the programming period is far away in time.

Finally, the co-legislators took out the option of the transfer from cohesion policy funds in the final text of the regulation.

Presentation of the Commission report on the outcome of the 2021-2027 cohesion policy programming by Normunds Popen, Acting Director-General

Mr Normunds Popen, Acting Director General of DG REGIO, presented the [report on the outcome of the 2021-2027 programming](#). He introduced the key priorities and key figures on the amounts involved and programmes adopted, as

well as expected results, and stressed the key aspects such as, among others, the enabling conditions and the state of play as concerns their fulfillment, the place-based approach, and the implementation of the partnership principle. Finally, he discussed the individual policy objectives, as well as the Just Transition Fund and the Interreg. Concerning the latter, he underlined the introduced adaptations, namely the reinforcement of programmes of cooperation with Ukraine and Moldova, as well as the reprogramming of funds under the currently suspended cooperation programmes with Russia and Belarus.

A lively debate followed. The absorption levels and risks of delay as those that occurred for the 2014-2020 funds were discussed, in the context of difficulties experienced in the current period and touching on the related issues of the administrative capacity and the application of the n+3 rule. Cohesion in the rural areas was also addressed in the context of the EAFRD no longer included in the scope of the Common Provisions Regulation for 2021- 2027. The issue of the Interreg programmes for the regions formerly cooperating with Russian regions and Belarus also came up, and effective solutions for the concerned regions were called for.

Exchange of views with Michiel Rijsberman, Co-Rapporteur for the opinion "Do no harm to cohesion – A cross-cutting principle contributing towards cohesion as an overall objective and value of the EU"

Mr Michiel Rijsberman, representative of the European Committee of the Regions, presented the main messages included in an [opinion](#) requested by the European Parliament. He proposed a wide interpretation of the "Do no harm to cohesion" principle, covering all European policies with spatial impact as well as relevant national policies, and encompassing a requirement to respect the cohesion principles of partnership and multi-level governance.

In particular, Mr Rijsberman stressed the need for a systematic ex-ante assessment of potential differentiated territorial impacts on all types of regions of all new EU policies with a territorial dimension in their design phase as the most effective tool to put the DNHC principle into practice.

The rapporteur of the Committee of the Regions particularly recommended reinforcing the assessment of potential differentiated territorial impacts and negative effects on cohesion in the EC Better Regulation toolbox by making use of the TIA Necessity Check and by including a specific mandatory section in the explanatory memorandum.

During the debate, some Members mentioned the importance of including the principle of "do no harm to cohesion" in the reformed Stability and Growth Pact, enlarging the criteria to areas mentioned in Article 174 TFEU. Some Members asked for the inclusion of this principle in all EU policies in order to achieve the goal of cohesion and that no region is left behind, even though a distinction was highlighted between the principle of "do no harm to cohesion" and "do no harm to cohesion policy".

Exchange of views with Lylia Pavlova, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank responsible for cohesion policy

Ms Lylia Pavlova, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), presented the main instruments and initiatives to support cohesion in the European Union, as one of its main tasks is to contribute to the balanced and steady development of the internal market in the interest of the Union and fight against regional disparities.

The Vice-President explained that the role of the EIB with cohesion policy is mainly driven by 3 tools: lending, blending and advising services, as well as being focused on 3 strands: promoting the goals of the EU Green Deal; fighting against the development trap supporting innovative projects of mid-cap companies; and promoting social cohesion through housing, care projects, etc.

Ms Pavlova underlined that, as the EIB "[Orientation paper on Cohesion policy 2021-2027](#)" stated two years ago, the EIB has already achieved the goal of investing 45% of available funds in less-developed and transition regions. She underlined that the EIB was also committed to support the reconstruction of Ukraine with a "Trust Fund for Ukraine".

At the same time, the EIB is also supporting Member States, which are more affected by the Russian war in Ukraine, particularly the neighbour countries with an advisory platform for technical assistance called EMBRACE.

During the discussion, some Members asked to know more on how the EIB was promoting the available instruments on the ground, as well as which novelties there were in terms of financial instruments funded with Structural Funds and the new advisory tools to support managing authorities. Some Members mentioned the importance of balancing the role of grants with loans, as well the needs of many local and regional authorities to access finances and to increase their institutional capacity to manage them in a proper way.

Exchange of views with Laura Kövesi, European Chief Prosecutor, on frauds linked to ESI funds and on the cooperation with EU institutions

Mrs Laura Kövesi, European Chief Prosecutor, elaborated on the complementary and unique role of the EPPO in the EU anti-fraud architecture as the first transnational prosecutors' office in preventing fraud while having a deterrent effect. She mentioned also some key statistics from the [EPPO Annual report 2022](#). Investigations on expenditures on ESI funds revealed many fraudulent practices and she stressed the need for stronger tools to improve detection, emphasizing the legal obligation of all EU entities upon suspicion of fraud to report to the EPPO in a timely manner and to ensure access to information in order to minimise damages. She asked for an increased budget given the higher workload linked to the RRF and stressed the need for more national prosecutors and financial investigators. She also asked the EC for a general revision of the EU anti-fraud scheme, taking into account the particular role of the EPPO as a judicial institution.

The Chair and other Members congratulated Mrs Kövesi for the impressive work achieved in just 2 years since starting its operations on 1 June 2021. In the debate that followed, most questions concerned cooperation with national authorities and countries that are not part of the EPPO; whether they have enough resources, delegated prosecutors in each country and access to information to be able to carry out their duties.

Implementation of funds 2014-2020: Slovenia

Mr Popens, Acting Director General of DG REGIO, highlighted that Slovenia has made considerable progress in its development, but regional disparities remain prominent between its regions. With a total cohesion envelope of 3,3 billion EUR for the programming period 2014-2020, the implementation looks good and full absorption is expected.

The Permanent Representative, Ambassador Iztoc Jarc, praised the cooperation with the Commission. He underlined that cohesion policy is visible in the country, with tangible results that people can appreciate, highlighting the policy's achievements as contributing to the creation of new jobs and supporting research and improving infrastructure. The Ambassador praised in particular the contribution of Interreg programmes to his country's regional development and stressed that wildfires are one of the main challenges Slovenia is confronted with.

27 June 2023**Reshaping the future framework of EU structural funds to support regions particularly affected by challenges related to the automotive, green and digital transitions**

Susana Solís Pérez (Renew)
Rapporteur

The rapporteur, Ms Solís Pérez presented the [draft report](#), recalling the times that the REGI committee has been discussing the green and digital transitions throughout the current mandate, and that these goals are very well covered by the current European funds. She highlighted the fact that the automotive sector is also essential for the steel, chemical and textile sectors, among others. In this context, she insisted on the importance of extending the Just Transition Fund to the automotive regions beyond 2027 and called for the European support to target the entire automotive value chain, as well as for a public solution to ensure the provision of alternative fuels infrastructure in rural, remote and depopulated regions.

A discussion ensued, in which Members underlined the importance of supporting workers in the whole value chain in order to ensure a fair transition to the net-zero mobility. They called for the re-training, re-naturing and developing of a new mobility concept. Some of the Members asked for more flexibility in existing rules without reducing the ambitions of the EU climate objectives. The representative of the Commission took note of the interest of prolonging the Just Transition Fund to 2027 and she reminded that many European initiatives already target automotive regions.

Exchange of views on the 2024 budget procedure with Siegfried Mureşan, BUDG Rapporteur

Siegfried Mureşan (PPE)
BUDG Rapporteur

Following the Commission's publication of the statement of estimates 2024, Mr Mureşan, BUDG rapporteur for the [budgetary procedure 2024](#), held an exchange with REGI Members on their priorities for this year's budget and the revision of the MFF. Mr Mureşan's priority is achieving a large majority that will enable a strong EP position in the budgetary negotiations. He committed to defending cohesion policy, making sure that there are no reallocations to other programmes, and reiterated his conviction that fresh priorities need fresh money.

A discussion ensued in which Members expressed their concerns that constant transfers to new priorities could endanger the long-term objectives of cohesion policy and underlined that beneficiaries needed predictability and reliability. Some Members questioned whether a 7-year budget is still adapted to the current context, and insisted on the need to reinforce envelopes to deal with catastrophes and natural disasters and with the consequences of the war against Ukraine. In general, they agreed with the rapporteur that the effort to find new own resources must continue.

Presentation of the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) with Elisa Ferreira, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms

Commissioner Elisa Ferreira attended the REGI meeting in order to present the Commission's proposal on the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform ([STEP](#)), adopted on 20 June. It is worth noting that REGI Members attached great importance to this presentation, as the proposal amends the ERDF/CF, JTF and CPR regulations, which are of fundamental significance to the cohesion policy architecture.

The Commissioner, in her presentation, stressed that the proposal has a 'cohesion policy DNA' and insisted in particular on the related aspects. She presented the rationale behind extending the EU support under the STEP proposal to large

companies, the 30% exceptional pre-financing and the possibility to finance the projects having obtained the Sovereignty Seal directly, among others.

A lively debate followed with the REGI Chair and numerous other REGI Members commenting and asking for clarification. Several Members, while expressing, in general, their support for the STEP objectives, criticised the Commission's intention to support them mainly through existing programmes and by way of redeployment of resources; in this context, several expressed concerns for the implementation of the long-term cohesion investments planned. Another recurring topic was the opening of the EU support under STEP objectives to big companies, with questions raised on the compatibility with State Aid rules, but also more general concerns for preserving the level-playing field and the competitiveness of smaller enterprises. Clarification was also requested regarding the Commission's proposal to extend the deadline for the administrative closure for operations under the programming period 2014-2020, as requested by the REGI committee, in particular as regards the budgetary implications and links to other provisions under the STEP proposal.

Commissioner Ferreira in her concluding remarks provided clarifications and answers on issues raised, highlighting among others that Member States would not be obliged to reprogram for STEP objectives but were incentivised to do so.

Presentation of the mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 with Stéphanie Riso, Director-General, DG Budget

Ms Stephanie Riso, Director General in DG BUDG, attended the REGI meeting in order to present the Commission's proposal for a [revision](#) of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027.

In his opening remarks, the REGI Chair expressed a firm disagreement with any suggestions made by the Commission President that cohesion policy lacks projects to be implemented. In this context, he recalled the regulatory requirements under the cohesion policy framework, as opposed to flexibilities granted under some other instruments, notably the Recovery and Resilience Fund and expressing his regret as regards the lack of balance in this respect.

Ms Riso presented the proposal for the MFF revision and its background: the political context of the implementation of the current budget framework, characterised by recurring crises and the related unexpected costs borne out of the EU budget, leading to the current budgetary situation in which virtually all reserves have been depleted. She continued providing explanations on the solution proposed by the Commission, covering the Ukraine Facility, the response to the migration and external challenges, and the STEP proposal aimed at promoting the key technologies in the EU.

Questions and comments of REGI Members related to the need to preserve the appropriate level of funding for the cohesion policy, but also flexibilities under the cohesion policy fund and those under the Recovery and Resilience Fund, as well as support for regions sharing a border with Ukraine. In her closing intervention, Mrs Riso expressed, among others, her view that the proposed solutions are by no way detrimental to the cohesion policy, but rather - once more - make it part of the solution.

Study presentation by the Policy Department B on the cooperation of regions and cities from the EU with their Ukrainian partners

The [study](#) was presented by Prof. Maciej Smetkowski, Chair of the Board of the Polish Section of the Regional Studies Association. It takes a look at the benefits and barriers to the collaboration between European and Ukrainian cities and regions, as well as the role of EU programmes and instruments in supporting territorial cooperation. It suggests solutions that can promote cooperation between cities and regions and describes their potential to strengthen the capacities of self-government and to support civil society in Ukraine.

The Commission gave its perspective, agreeing with the study, that Ukraine's involvement in five ongoing Interreg cooperation programmes does provide a stable financial environment for Ukrainian local and regional authorities. They confirmed that they are currently in the final stages of adding Ukraine to Interreg Europe programme.

The Members recalled the long history and cooperation of the EU and Ukraine. They noted that it deepened, due to circumstances. From the perspective of REGI, we should share lessons learned, help improve institutional capacity and cooperation with and between authorities and export our values. This effort needs to be made now, to maximize positive outcomes and neutralize possible negative ones.

Public hearing on Entrepreneurship and SME creation in rural areas: generation of opportunities

Experts invited to the hearing were Mr Fernando RUENES, owner of the enterprise "Asturiana de Freasa" a farm specialised in the production of strawberries in Asturias; Ms Elena GARCIA, founder of "Coworking Eichsfeld e. V", a think tank addressing the needs of a new kind of entrepreneurship in Central Germany (especially digital and social entrepreneurship) and Ms Liisa ANSALA, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Lapland.

Their presentations focused on their entrepreneurial experience in their respective areas providing the audience with a general overview of their business, the ERDF targets achieved, the role of smart specialisation in rural areas, the future perspectives and sectors concerned and the challenges as consequences of the current crisis. The questions asked highlighted the importance of cohesion policy to address the current challenges, in particular the increase in energy prices and the need to guarantee the EU independence in the availability of raw materials.

Mission to Romania, 15-17 May 2023

The focus of the mission was several projects co-financed with structural funds in the departments of Cluj and Alba. The project visits and the discussions with local stakeholders allowed Members to identify several of the difficulties that are affecting implementation. Two major barriers were excessive bureaucracy including additional national rules on top of the EU requirements, and a lack of companies willing to carry out projects due to the high price of materials and the absence of qualified workers. It is imperative, according to the Members that took part in the mission, to remove all barriers so that the implementation of cohesion policy in Member States such as Romania is a success.

Mission to Marseille and to Bouches du Rhone, France, 19-21 June 2023

The main aim of the mission was essentially to assess the challenges and opportunities of the ecological transition supported by the Just Transition Fund. Members had the chance to meet local and regional authorities, to know more about concrete projects developed by big industry and SMEs entrepreneurs. They also had the opportunity to exchange with actors of the civil society on the risk of the petrochemical sites for environment and the citizens. Members concluded that the mission was very useful for their parliamentary work.

19 July 2023**Amending the proposed mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context**

Sandro Gozi (Renew)
Rapporteur

REGI committee had an opportunity to vote on a rare type of report - a legislative own-initiative report pursuant to Article 225 TFEU. This is the Committee's final attempt to relaunch the work on the creation of an instrument that would allow Member States and their border regions to overcome numerous obstacles that still hamper their economic and social development, and make it difficult for them to exercise the rights the Treaties have granted them.

Since this story began, with the initiative of the 2015 Luxembourgish Presidency of the Council and the 2018 Commission proposal, some solutions have been offered, such as b-solutions. However, all these are demonstrably not a true answer to the very real problems that citizens face daily.

Parliament is not in the business of writing legislation nonetheless, the rapporteur, Mr Gozi, did outline a possible solution upon whose basis the Commission, Council and Parliament, can continue the work and finally deliver. The new instrument would be voluntary and as such should not add additional administrative burdens nor create new structures, but should build one framework for all MS upon which a network could be created.

Implementation report on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement

Pascal Arimont (PPE)
Rapporteur for opinion

The voted [report](#) highlights the negative impact of Brexit on regions and partners involved in Interreg and cross-border cooperation projects. In addition, it identifies several areas where targeted cooperation between EU and UK regions could bring about benefits for both sides, such as energy, climate action, immigration or sustainable sea management, and urges both the EU and the UK to support initiatives for regional cooperation in those areas. In the text, REGI calls as well for the proper involvement of regional and local authorities in the TCA's governance architecture and in the scrutiny of its implementation.

Establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials and amending Regulations (EU) 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, 2018/1724 and (EU) 2019/1020



Franc Bogovič (PPE)
Rapporteur for opinion

The focus of the proposal is on non-energy, non-agricultural raw materials that are important for the EU economy, the supplies which are subject to a high level of supply risk. Unfortunately, the EU relies almost exclusively on imports for many critical raw materials that are often indispensable inputs for a wide range of strategic sectors including renewable energy, the digital industry, the space and defence sectors and the health sector. This proposal intends to ensure a secure and sustainable supply of CRMs for the EU.

The voted [opinion](#) underlines the importance of the role and the involvement of regional and local authorities in all the steps foreseen in the recognition of strategic priorities in Members States, in the preparation of planning for the development of critical raw materials projects and in the placement of facilities for the collection and exploitation of the critical raw material without reducing environmental and social requirements.

Job creation – the just transition and impact investments



Matthias Ecke (S&D)
Rapporteur for opinion

With this [opinion](#), the Committee wants to remind that cohesion policy is an essential EU investment tool to support job creation in the context of a just green transition, and to tackle the economic, demographic, skills and gender-related challenges that the transition brings with it. The opinion also acknowledges that, while social impact investment (SII) should not in any case replace public social spending, it can have a complementary role in supporting the green transition, provided it has a measurable social effect on areas such as inclusion, equality and skills.

Amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 laying down the Multiannual Financial Framework for the years 2021 to 2027



Younous Omarjee (The Left)
Rapporteur for opinion

The [opinion](#) in the form of a letter calls on the Committee on Budgets to incorporate REGI suggestions in its interim report. REGI among others, reiterates the importance of cohesion policy in reducing territorial disparities and in achieving territorial cohesion in the EU as well as its demonstrated ability to respond to unexpected challenges (COVID-19, inflow of refugees).

It emphasises that the mobilisation of cohesion policy funds for urgent needs should not negatively affect the long-term investments; cohesion policy should not undergo any transfers to other funds, which could jeopardize the cohesion funds' ability to deliver on their goals.

The opinion also welcomes the proposal to increase the budgetary ceilings for payments for the remaining years of the MFF 2021-2027. These were submitted in the context of the MFF revision, and thereby allow for a budgetary room for manoeuvre in case of unexpected needs. It calls for a revision and reinforcement of the EU Solidarity Fund and to closely monitor the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve in order to ensure adequate EU response. Emphasis was given also to the respect of the do no harm principle, gender balance, rule of law and fundamental rights.

Harnessing talent in Europe's regions



Cristina Maestre Martín de Almagro (S&D)
Rapporteur

Few are more aware than REGI of the EU's on-going demographic transitions and numerous measures with which the EU is trying to confront this multilevel issue. Among other things, the European Year of Skills put investment in a talented workforce at the core of EU policy making. The Commission has launched the 'Talent Booster Mechanism' and published a Communication trying to mainstream the issue.

According to their data, 82 regions in 16 Member States (accounting for almost 30% of the EU population) are severely affected by a decline in the working-age population, where regions have a low degree of university and higher education graduates and a negative mobility of their population aged 15-39.

This [draft report](#) aims to provide further analysis of the demographic and skills situation in the EU, as well as put forward proposals aiming to find innovative solutions. After all, cohesion policy has an important role to play when it comes to addressing these challenges.

Exchange of views on the consequences of the war in Ukraine on the border regions of Russia, with Ms Satu Sikanen, Regional Mayor of South Karelia, Finland

South Karelia, with a population of ca 125 000 inhabitants, is located in south-eastern Finland. The regional mayor Ms Sikanen was connected remotely and presented the consequences of the war in Ukraine on the EU areas bordering Russia.

The region is dedicated to decreasing greenhouse emissions and has a thriving forest industry and emerging environmental technology sector, Ms Sikanen said. The mayor stressed that Finland's border is more than 1300 km long and that cooperation with Russia has been suspended in all sectors but border security, rescue operations and customs.

Among the main challenges, Ms Sikanen cited the fact that trade with Russia practically stopped, as did incoming tourism. She also mentioned the soaring energy prices and security of supply, changes in the security environment and the risk of losing investments. Ms Sikanen also mentioned that civil society cooperation as well as academic and research cooperation has been suspended. South Karelia faces decrease of population, lack of entrepreneurial culture as the local economy was so far reliant on big industrial companies. Ms Sikanen underlined that northern sparsely-populated areas include North and East Finland but not South Karelia, advocating a reflection and possible redesign of the EU cohesion map with a focus on areas bordering Russia.

Implementation of funds 2014-2020: Portugal and Luxembourg

Portugal has four less-developed regions, one transition and two more developed. Key challenges include energy efficiency, circular economy and environmental sustainability, productive specialisation of SMEs in low-tech sectors (e.g. tourism, textile, footwear) and administrative capacity. The cohesion envelope of 23 billion euros, including REACT-EU, supported more than 40 thousand firms among others, TEN-T rail networks and household energy performance.

Ambassador Pedro Lourtie underlined the key role of cohesion policy for his country and its contribution to the green and digital transition. He praised the ability of cohesion policy to respond to exceptional and unforeseen situations, and underlined that its mission is valid today and for the future. He welcomed the STEP proposal, as there can be no industrial policy without the necessary industrial tools; he pointed out, however, that the negotiations for this MFF revision will be difficult. In addition, the Ambassador drew the attention of MEPs to two main challenges: demographic decline and climate change.

Luxembourg has the highest GDP per capita in the EU (268% of the EU average in 2021). The cohesion envelope is small, with one ERDF and one ESF operational programme. The implementation rate is, like in Portugal, exceptionally good. Notwithstanding the wealth of this Member State, there are disparities with poverty rates being higher in towns and suburbs and a significant excess mortality rate has been observed during the COVID pandemic.

*** VOTED IN THE LAST MEETINGS ***

During the Committee meetings, the following texts were adopted (for more information please follow the hyperlink):

TITLE	RAPPORTEUR
Statistics on population and housing, amending Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 763/2008 and (EU) No 1260/2013 2023/0008(COD)	Younous Omarjee (The Left)
Amending the proposed mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context 2022/2194(INL)	Sandro Gozi (Renew)
Implementation report on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement 2022/2188(INI)	Pascal Arimont (PPE)
Establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials and amending Regulations (EU) 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, 2018/1724 and (EU) 2019/1020 2023/0079(COD)	Franc Bogovič (PPE)
Job creation – the just transition and impact investments 2022/2170(INI)	Matthias Ecke (S&D)
Amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027 2023/0201R(APP)	Younous Omarjee (The Left)

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Upcoming events

Date	Event	Place	Additional info
6-7 September	11th International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD 2023)	Rome, Italy	
7 September	Next REGI committee meeting	Brussels, Belgium	
19-20 September	Meeting of the Network of Territorial Cohesion Contact Points (NTCCP)	virtual meeting	
27-28 September	Science meets Regions – advancing evidence for policy across Europe	Brussels, Belgium	
27-29 September	High-level Rural Policy Forum: Shaping the future of rural areas	El Parador, Sigüenza, Spain	
29 September	Informal meeting of ministers responsible for cohesion policy	Brussels, Belgium	

News from Policy Department and Research Projects

[Cohesion Policy Calendar \(2021-2027 and 2014-2020 Programming Periods\) July 2023 update](#)

[The impact of the gas supply crisis on the Just Transition Plans](#)

[Territorial Agenda 2030: Implementation Review](#)

[Impact of Brexit on the Development of Irish Regions and their Cross-Border Cooperation](#)

[The use of Cohesion Policy funds to support refugees from Ukraine](#)

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