

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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*Committee on Employment and Social Affairs*

**2004/0163(AVC)**

22.6.2006

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Regional Development

on the proposal for a Council Regulation laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 (9077/2006 - C6-0192/2006 - 2004/0163(AVC))

Draftsman: Jacek Protasiewicz



## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

This proposal has been drafted as part of the cohesion legislative package. The package consists of a Regulation on the European Social Fund, a Regulation on the Cohesion Fund and a Regulation on the European Regional Development Fund. It defines the objectives to which the Structural Funds are to contribute, the criteria for Member States and regions to be eligible under those Funds, the financial resources available and the criteria for their allocation;

We consider, in the light of the above, and of the direct relevance of this general Regulation for the European Social Fund, that the procedure chosen by the Commission (AVC) unduly limits the Parliament's role. Even if it is legally correct from the point of view of the Treaties, European citizens are asking for more transparency and more participation of their representatives in the adoption of such an important legislative proposal.

We draw particular attention to the fact that the Parliament should not be made to take a decision by means of a single vote and with no possibility of tabling amendments. Our committee therefore asked the committee responsible to decide to apply article 75(3) of the European Parliament Rules of Procedure and in order to facilitate a positive outcome of the procedure adopted an opinion for the European Parliament Interim report.

The European Parliament adopted the Interim Report on 6 July 2005. On 5 May 2006 Council adopted a political agreement incorporating some EP points of views on this regulation.

Taking into account, that the Council has fully incorporated in its political agreement on the European Social Fund regulation the main concerns of our committee on this regulation, we propose that Parliament gives its assent on the General regulation laying down general provisions on the ERDF Fund, the ESF Fund and Cohesion Fund.

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The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Regional Development, as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament gives its assent.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999
<b>References</b>	(9077/2006 - C6-0192/2006 - 2004/0163(AVC))
<b>Committee responsible</b>	REGI
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	EMPL 15.6.2006
<b>Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary</b>	
<b>Drafts(wo)man</b> Date appointed	Jacek Protasiewicz 14.9.2005
<b>Previous drafts(wo)man</b>	
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	21.6.2006
<b>Date adopted</b>	22.6.2006
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 38 -: 3 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Jan Andersson, Emine Bozkurt, Iles Braghetto, Alejandro Cercas, Ole Christensen, Derek Roland Clark, Luigi Cocilovo, Jean Louis Cottigny, Proinsias De Rossa, Harlem Désir, Harald Ettl, Carlo Fatuzzo, Ilda Figueiredo, Roger Helmer, Stephen Hughes, Ona Juknevičienė, Jan Jerzy Kułakowski, Sepp Kusstatscher, Jean Lambert, Raymond Langendries, Bernard Lehideux, Elizabeth Lynne, Thomas Mann, Jan Tadeusz Masiel, Ana Mato Adrover, Maria Matsouka, Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Csaba Óry, Pier Antonio Panzeri, José Albino Silva Peneda, Kathy Sinnott, Anne Van Lancker, Gabriele Zimmer
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Mihael Brejc, Françoise Castex, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Magda Kósáné Kovács, Lasse Lehtinen, Marianne Mikko, Leopold Józef Rutowicz, Patrizia Toia
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	Małgorzata Handzlik
<b>Comments (available in one language only)</b>	...