

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Industry, Research and Energy*

**2008/2183(INI)**

21.1.2009

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Regional Development

on the implementation of the Structural Funds Regulation 2007-2013: the results of the negotiations on the national cohesion strategies and the operational programmes  
(2008/2183(INI))

Rapporteur: Atanas Paporizov

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on Regional Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the strong link between the new cohesion policy for 2007-2013 and the Lisbon agenda; notes with satisfaction that of the EUR 347 billion reserved for cohesion policy, more than 65% is "earmarked" for Lisbon-related expenditure, such as innovation, research and human capital;
2. Welcomes the fact that Member States have prioritised investments in research and development (R&D) and innovation, leading to a total amount of EUR 86 billion; stresses the importance of the regional dimension for innovation; welcomes the fact that more than half of the total amount will be invested in improving the innovative capacity of businesses;
3. Expresses serious concern about the relatively limited amount of funds reserved for actions to tackle climate change and to improve energy efficiency and renewable energies; is convinced that much more investment is required in this area; considers that, in the light of the mid-term review of the implementation of the Structural Funds, stronger EU guidelines and increased financial resources must be allocated to serve these objectives and specifically that at least 5% of structural funding should be required to be spent on improving the energy efficiency of existing homes; in this respect, calls on the Commission to follow up on the Conclusions of the Competitiveness Council of 9 and 10 October 2008 on energy efficiency; underlines the key role and development potential that renewable energies represent for EU regions, both to create jobs and to foster sustainable local development; calls on the Commission to consider all possibilities to finance the construction of up to 12 demonstration plants with carbon capture and storage by 2015 and to present its proposals timeously;
4. Considers the financial resources earmarked for the trans-European energy networks insufficient, since they are vital for the completion of the internal energy market;
5. Believes that industrial policy has to be supported through the Structural Funds in order to increase the competitiveness of Member States and the EU; therefore, supports the priority in the cohesion policy to unlock business potential, particularly that of SMEs;
6. Stresses the need to take into account the specific need of new Member States to invest in basic infrastructural development as a prerequisite for reaching the Lisbon goals;
7. Considers that the development of poles of competitiveness under the Structural Funds is essential, since they offer considerable potential for creating well-paid jobs and generating growth, but also for reducing pressure on large conurbations; in this respect welcomes the continuation of the URBAN programme, taking the view that the revitalisation of urban areas and the rehabilitation of ageing urban infrastructures are required;

8. Stresses the importance of consolidating capacities for cooperation and effective absorption of the funds available, using all possible means, including exchange of best practices, information campaigns, common actions, exchanges of new technology and development of partnerships, since this will contribute to the efficient implementation of the cooperation programmes under way and in particular an increase in the absorption capacity of the new Member States;
9. Stresses the importance of devising and applying special programmes in regions where the dominant industrial activities are in decline, with a view to supporting economic reconstruction activities that are liable to significantly increase the weight of the tertiary sector in the economy;
10. Stresses the need also to target cohesion policy on rural areas, since territorial cohesion can only be achieved by developing an urban/rural balance;
11. Believes that population issues represent a key challenge for the Member States, in the context, for the great majority of them, of a declining and ageing population; stresses that this aspect is not dealt with sufficiently in the Commission communication COM(2008)0301;
12. Considers that transparency in the allocation of funding and administrative simplification facilitating the access of potential beneficiaries of the Funds to information are key preconditions for achieving the overall objectives of cohesion policy.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	20.1.2009
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+:           46 -:           1 0:           0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Šarūnas Birutis, Jan Březina, Jerzy Buzek, Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Giles Chichester, Dragoş Florin David, Den Dover, Lena Ek, Nicole Fontaine, Adam Gierek, Norbert Glante, Fiona Hall, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Mary Honeyball, Ján Hudacký, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Werner Langen, Anne Laperrouze, Pia Elda Locatelli, Patrick Louis, Eluned Morgan, Angelika Niebler, Atanas Paparizov, Aldo Patriciello, Francisca Pleguezuelos Aguilar, Anni Podimata, Miloslav Ransdorf, Vladimír Remek, Herbert Reul, Teresa Riera Madurell, Mechtild Rothe, Paul Rübig, Patrizia Toia, Catherine Trautmann, Claude Turmes, Nikolaos Vakalis, Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Dominique Vlasto
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Pilar Ayuso, Juan Fraile Cantón, Matthias Groote, Françoise Grossetête, Edit Herczog, Vittorio Prodi, Esko Seppänen, Silvia-Adriana Ţicău, Vladimir Urutchev