



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Industry, Research and Energy*

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**2009/2243(INI)**

19.3.2010

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Regional Development

on the implementation of the synergies of research and innovation earmarked funds in Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 concerning the European Fund of Regional Development and the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development in cities and regions as well as in the Member States and the Union  
(2009/2243(INI))

Rapporteur (\*): Jorgo Chatzimarkakis

(\*) Associated committee – Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

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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. Believes that research and innovation are crucial to addressing global challenges and that innovation can be more effectively addressed at regional or local level;
2. Is convinced that commitment by the political leadership is both a necessary precondition for research and innovation policy coherence and a tool to enhance it; with that in mind, calls for the establishment of a strategic policy framework for research and innovation adjusted in the light of progress, new information and changing circumstances and consistent with national goals and priorities for economic and social development;
3. Notes with satisfaction that, for the period 2007-2013, within the Structural Funds (SF) EUR 86 billion is allocated in support of innovation (25% of the total amount), of which the allocation for core research and technological development (R&D) amounts to EUR 50 billion, equal to the total budget of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7);
4. Believes that the impact of these earmarked funds could be further improved through complementary use of, and better coordination between, regional, research and innovation policies at EU, regional and local level; calls on the Commission to pay particular attention to such coordination and encourages Member States to take further measures for effective trans-national cooperation by developing coherent regional or national strategies for achieving synergies;
5. Believes that an administrative culture that promotes cross-sectoral co-operation and continuous dialogue between different policy communities contributes to the strengthening of policy coherence;
6. Believes – while acknowledging that Community programmes such as SF, FP7 and CIP differ in their primary focus, mechanism and administration – that diverse rules, procedures and practices unnecessarily hinder effective implementation; calls for a more harmonised approach (to eligibility rules, standard unit costs, lump sums, etc.), better coordination (of schedules of calls for proposals, themes and types of calls, etc.) and more exchange of information between the different programmes; sees a clear need for more expertise at the regional level regarding application for Community funding, administrative and financial procedures, fund management and financial engineering; in this connection, calls on the Commission to act as a facilitator and to provide joint guidance on Community funding opportunities through ex-ante guidance notes;
7. Believes – given the fact that the implementing bodies of the EU instruments concerned exist on different levels (supranational, national and sub-national) and are governed by a different rationale (e.g. cohesion vs. excellence) – that the guaranteeing of actual policy coherence constitutes a major challenge, especially ‘on the ground’ where EU instruments mix with national and regional policies;

8. Notes that actual synergies from the point of view of the direct beneficiary of funding depend on the beneficiary's organisational and strategic capacity to combine support from different EU instruments; calls on the regional actors to create regional strategies that can facilitate the combination of funding; requests the Commission therefore to evaluate the possibility of providing additional expert support through a 'user manual' as well as means for the exchange of good practices;
9. Calls on regional and local authorities to make better use of the SF to build up research, knowledge and innovation capacity in their regions, for instance by setting up research infrastructure, enabling them to take part in EU research and innovation activities; encourages regions to establish R&D priorities that are complementary with those of FP7;
10. Calls on the Commission to simplify the bureaucracy for the FP7 and CIP in order to strengthen the effects of synergies with the Structural Funds and to ensure regional-level analysis of research and innovation potential and needs as well as analysis of the inter-relations with other instruments in the evaluation studies on either of the three financing instruments in order to be able to provide joint guidance;
11. Supports stronger collaboration between national FP7 contact points, managers of R&D programmes and innovation agencies, allowing different aspects or phases of research and innovation projects to be funded from different sources; recommends closer cooperation between the Enterprise Europe Network and the Structural Funds' managing authorities and a closer link between the Lead-Market Initiative, Technology Platforms and regional technological roadmaps;
12. Calls on Member States and the Commission to earmark more funding from the SF for research and innovation - in particular sustainable innovations -, strengthen research capacities, and support particularly knowledge-intensive regional innovative clusters and the new Knowledge and Innovation Communities; calls for the sustainable development of regional research and strategic frameworks for innovation in collaboration with the private sector, universities and research institutes;
13. Points out that research and innovation, in particular as regards the development of low or zero carbon emissions and energy savings, are of critical importance for addressing global challenges, such as climate change and security of energy supplies, and also for improving competitiveness at regional and local level;
14. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the upcoming Research and Innovation Plan will be drafted with a view to strengthening the synergies between the Structural Funds and the Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation (FP7, CIP);
15. Believes that the fact that mixed financing is not allowed between Structural Funds and Framework Programmes prevents regions from using both instruments at the same time and that effective 'bottom-up' strategic processes at both regional and national level could help eliminate gaps or overlaps of funding from SF, FP7 and CIP; furthermore, calls for long-term planning at regional level in order to achieve synergies that derive from thematic complementarities between the financing instruments.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	18.3.2010
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 47 -: 0 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Jean-Pierre Audy, Zigmantas Balčytis, Zoltán Balczó, Bendt Bendtsen, Jan Březina, Reinhard Bütikofer, Maria Da Graça Carvalho, Giles Chichester, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Ioan Enciu, Adam Gierek, Norbert Glante, Fiona Hall, Jacky Hénin, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Sajjad Karim, Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš, Judith A. Merkies, Angelika Niebler, Jaroslav Paška, Herbert Reul, Teresa Riera Madurell, Michèle Rivasi, Paul Rübig, Francisco Sosa Wagner, Britta Thomsen, Patrizia Toia, Evžen Tošenovský, Ioannis A. Tsoukalas, Claude Turmes, Marita Ulvskog, Vladimir Urutchev, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Kathleen Van Brempt, Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Henri Weber
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	António Fernando Correia De Campos, Rachida Dati, Andrzej Grzyb, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Oriol Junqueras Vies, Ivailo Kalfin, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Vladko Todorov Panayotov, Silvia-Adriana Țicău, Hermann Winkler
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Britta Reimers