

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Regional Development

2008/2063(INI)

30.5.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on Parliament's new role and responsibilities implementing the Treaty of
Lisbon
(2008/2063(INI))

Draftsman(*): Gerardo Galeote

(*): Procedure with associated committees – Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Regional Development calls on the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the fact that, as regards economic, social and territorial cohesion, the Lisbon Treaty puts the European Parliament on an equal footing with the Council by replacing the assent procedure, which applied, notably, to the adoption of the general regulation on the Structural Funds, by the so-called ordinary legislative procedure, the co-decision procedure, significantly increasing Parliament's legislative powers and the competence of the Committee on Regional Development, a change which will be especially significant as regards the Structural Funds in the period after 2013, and thus enhancing transparency and increasing Parliament's accountability to citizens;
2. Believes that the inclusion of territorial cohesion as an objective of the Union complements the objectives of economic and social cohesion and will increase the competence of Parliament and of the Committee on Regional Development to assess the territorial impact of key EU policies; emphasises the importance of the introduction of shared competence for the EU and Member States in the field of territorial cohesion and, in order to make rapid progress towards achieving this objective, recommends that the Committee on Regional Development be fully involved in all relevant activities in this field;
3. Calls on the Council and Commission to define more precisely, together with Parliament, the concept and objective of territorial cohesion (including the relevant indicators, methodology, and instruments) and, bearing in mind that definition, take better account without further delay of the territorial impact of all EU policies having a strong territorial dimension; stresses, in this context, the importance of territorial cohesion notably when considering European spatial planning, the establishment of a polycentric and balanced urban system and the creation of a new urban-rural relationship;
4. notes the important role that the Committee on Regional Development will play in defining territorial cohesion and in creating synergies between the financing instruments of cohesion policy for achieving it; urges, furthermore, the Member States to demonstrate the necessary political will to incorporate the objective of territorial cohesion in national legislation;
5. Notes positively that the Lisbon Treaty provides a more precise and exhaustive definition of regions, such as regions in rural areas, regions confronted with demographic challenges and ultra-peripheral and cross-border regions, to which the Community, in pursuit of its cohesion policy, should pay particular attention;
6. Notes positively that the special status of the outermost regions is confirmed by Articles 349 and 355 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and is now also referred to in specific provisions concerning state aid;
7. Notes that cohesion policy attracts one of the largest shares of the EU budget; firmly

believes that the changes in the budgetary procedure, notably the convening of the conciliation committee in the event of Parliament adopting amendments at first reading, will necessitate strengthened co-operation between the Committee on Regional Development and the Committee on Budgets, notably through representation of the Committee on Regional Development in conciliation committee meetings;

8. Welcomes the extension of the principle of subsidiarity, especially with regard to local and regional authorities, and the inclusion of the 'early warning mechanism' that should enable national parliaments to better assess the consistency of Community legislative proposals with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality; draws attention, in this connection, to the need to strengthen relations between the Committee on Regional Development and national parliaments, for instance, via the development or consolidation of specific channels of communication; believes in this regard that the involvement of local and regional authorities and parliaments in relation to subsidiarity could be an important element and recalls that such involvement depends on national provisions;
9. Notes positively the shared values of the Union as regards services of general economic interest laid down in the Protocol on services of general interest, and emphasises in particular the essential role and wide discretion of national, regional and local authorities in this context;
10. Stresses the importance of the Committee on Regional Development in relations between Parliament and the Committee of the Regions;
11. Calls on the Committee of the Regions to send the Committee on Regional Development an opinion on the impact of the Lisbon Treaty upon regional policy and in its area of competence.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	29.5.2008
Result of final vote	+: 44 -: 3 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Emmanouil Angelakas, Stavros Arnaoutakis, Jean Marie Beaupuy, Rolf Berend, Jana Bobošíková, Victor Boştinaru, Wolfgang Bulfon, Bairbre de Brún, Gerardo Galeote, Iratxe García Pérez, Eugenijus Gentvilas, Zita Gurmai, Gábor Harangozó, Mieczysław Edmund Janowski, Tunne Kelam, Evgeni Kirilov, Constanze Angela Krehl, Florencio Luque Aguilar, Sérgio Marques, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Markus Pieper, Pierre Pribetich, Wojciech Roszkowski, Elisabeth Schroedter, Grażyna Staniszevska, Catherine Stihler, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, Oldřich Vlasák, Vladimír Železný
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Bernadette Bourzai, Jan Březina, Den Dover, Emanuel Jardim Fernandes, Fernando Fernández Martín, Francesco Ferrari, Louis Grech, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, Francisca Pleguezuelos Aguilar, Zita Pleštinská, Samuli Pohjamo, Christa Prets, Jürgen Schröder, Richard Seeber, Bart Staes, László Surján, Manfred Weber
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Manuel Medina Ortega, Nicolae Vlad Popa