

**Quotes from the chair of the Committee on Regional Development and lead MEPs on the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund (ERDF-CF), European Territorial Cooperation Goal (Interreg) and the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR):**

Regional Development Committee Chair, [Younous Omarjee](#) (The Left, FR): “Europe cannot survive without cohesion and solidarity. But Europe can overcome the present difficulties we face through more cohesion and more convergence. This is the objective of these structural funds, which have helped Europe to build itself and which will help Europe to rebuild.”

[Andrea Cozzolino](#) (S&D, IT), lead MEP on ERDF-CF: "From tourism to social housing, it is a regulation that offers enormous opportunities and equips member states to face critical international challenges, such as the covid-19 pandemic, the migration crisis or climate change. The EU cohesion policy is an unprecedented set of tools to fight inequalities and leave no one behind."

[Pascal Arimont](#) (EPP, BE), lead MEP on Interreg: "For border regions and regions cooperating across borders, the Interreg programme is an indispensable tool that we want to strengthen for the future. With the result of the negotiations, cross-border cooperation becomes even easier to carry out in practice. The benefits for society will be even bigger as projects must meet certain targets, such as climate protection goals or more health sector cooperation. Moreover, smaller organizations that want to cooperate across borders should be supported by Interreg. We have firmly anchored this approach in the final text, with up to 20% of the resources able to be spent on these smaller projects."

[Constanze Krehl](#) (S&D, DE), co-rapporteur on the Common Provisions Regulation - “The new funding period sets clear priorities for innovation and fighting climate change. I am very happy we could modernise cohesion policy and make it better capable of improving the lives of citizens across EU regions.”

[Andrey Novakov](#) (EPP, BG), co-rapporteur on Common Provisions Regulation - “EU cities and regions will receive their first payments from the new cohesion policy in 2022. Every euro makes a difference. We worked to a tight deadline for a deal and, as a result, member states are currently preparing their cohesion programmes, and I hope for a quick approval by the European Commission. This will enable the investment of 330 billion euro in road, rail, urban, digital infrastructure, SMEs, energy transition, employment, education and training.”