

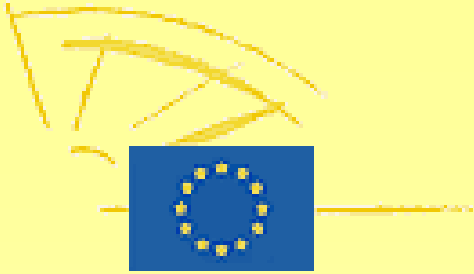


Committee on Regional Development (REGI)

**OPEN DAYS SIDE EVENT 2012
Bucharest-Ilfov Region Delivering
Results**

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Reflections on Cohesion Policy Programming Period 2014-2020



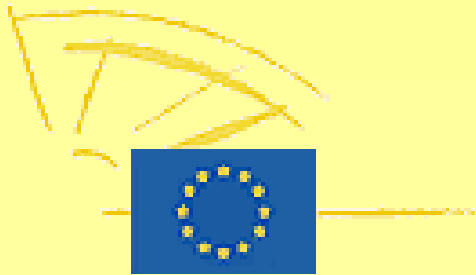
The Cohesion Policy Legislative Package

- Reinforcing Partnership and Multi-level Governance
- Reinforcing strategic programming - The Partnership Contract
- The Common Strategic Framework
- Thematic concentration - the list of investment priorities
- Stronger Focus on Results
- Conditionalities and incentive mechanisms
- Evaluation, Monitoring, Control
- The architecture of the policy - provisions for transitional mechanisms and the new intermediate category
- European Territorial Approach



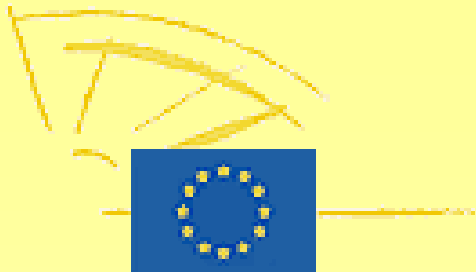
Main European Parliament Messages

- **Strong support for the Common Provisions Regulation being an "umbrella" regulation - consistency between structural, rural and fisheries funds**
- **Strong support for alignment with the EU2020 strategy - concrete and measurable contribution to the EU2020 goals for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**
- **Support for the proposed architecture – 3 types of regions**
- **Cohesion policy needs an adequate budget of at least the same level as the one agreed for the current programming period 2007-2013**



Main European Parliament Messages

- **Main Issues – Mandate 11 July 2012 :**
 - **Enhanced partnership principle**
 - **Strengthening the role given to local and regional authorities in defining and implementing programmes, through the proposed partnership agreement**
 - **Support for the European Code of Conduct (In its mandate, REGI outlines the content of the Code in great detail)**
 - **Importance of partnership in the drafting of the operational programmes and Joint Action Plans**
 - **Opening the access to technical assistance for the strengthening of the capacity and competence of the partners**



Main European Parliament Messages

- **Common Strategic Framework – overarching policy framework**
 - In favour of the CSF - a framework to coordinate and balance priorities to achieve objectives and targets of the EU2020 and to establish mechanisms for ensuring coherence and consistency of programming
 - But: the CSF part of the CPR Regulation
- **Partnership Contract**
 - Problematic wording ‘Contract’
 - Reinforcement of the territorial component
 - Thematic objectives may vary across regions;
 - Integrated approach arrangements should include different types of territories, etc).
 - New aspects - demographic challenges, needs of persons with disabilities
 - Consistency between Partnership Contracts and the National Reform Programmes



Main European Parliament Messages

- **Operational Programmes**
 - Strengthening the importance of partnership in the drafting of the operational programmes
 - Submission of programmes should follow the adoption of the Partnership Contracts with a timeframe of 3 months
 - Support for a true multi-fund approach by allowing for a priority axis to combine one or more categories of regions, or combine one or more investment priorities from different thematic objectives
 - Increasing the ceiling of cross-financing to 10 %



Main European Parliament Messages

- **Thematic Concentration**
 - **Flexibility – the key message**
 - Allowing for priorities to be combined in a more flexible way
 - **CPR - Integrating under the 4th thematic objective the sustainable transport – important for the percentages (80% - 20% for more developed and transition regions and 50% - 6% for less developed regions)**
 - **ERDF - addition of one thematic objective into the concentration - allowing for more (4 instead of 3) thematic objectives to be chosen by the regions**



Main European Parliament Messages

- **Ex-ante Conditionalities**
 - Support for the introduction of stronger incentives and ex-ante conditionalities
 - **Emphasis: ex-ante conditionalities - direct link to the effective and efficient implementation of the policy**
 - **Several adjustments to the Annex on ex-ante conditionalities – special focus on marginalised communities, groups at increased risk of early school leaving, gender equality, poverty reduction**
- **Macro-economic Conditionalities**
 - **Against macro-economic conditionality, as the policy cannot become a punishment tool for the regions**



Main European Parliament Messages

- **Results-oriented approach**
 - Support for the result oriented future cohesion policy
 - Support for the performance framework that is to ensure the monitoring of progress
 - But against the creation of a performance reserve as it is considered to be a top-down approach



Main European Parliament Messages

- **Monitoring and Evaluation**
 - Support for the simplification of management arrangements at all levels
 - Support for reporting requirements that are aligned with the timing of the performance reviews
 - **Additional EP adjustments**
 - Taking specific territorial challenges more into account in the reporting system
 - Setting deadlines that will allow the legislators to stage a proper debate on the achievements of cohesion policy, also in relation to the European Semester.



Main European Parliament Messages

- **Simplification – Management and control**
 - Support of policy simplification
 - But balance needed between effective management and controls and simplification
 - Allowing for the audit authority to be part of the same public authority or body as the managing authority, in case the Commission has reached the conclusion, in the previous programming period, that it can rely on the audit opinion of the Member State



Main European Parliament Messages

- **Territorial Approach**
 - Support for enhanced territorial focus of cohesion policy
 - Increased attention to the urban and rural dimensions
 - Support for community-led development and Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs) – increased role of partners – especially local and regional authorities
 - However - opening the application of ITIs to all 5 funds covered by the CPR
 - Better coordination with macro-regional and sea basin strategies - A new article (Article 8a of the CPR) - proposing that the Funds covered by the CPR shall contribute to macro regional strategies and sea basins strategies, where Member States and regions participate in such strategies



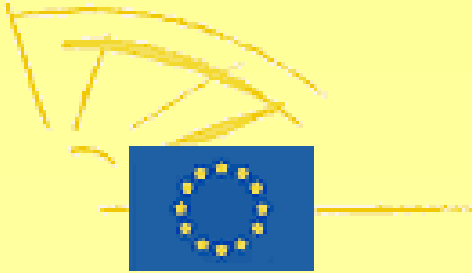
Main European Parliament Messages

- **European Territorial Cooperation**
 - The proposed allocations to the ETC goal are largely insufficient
 - EP proposal - resources for the European territorial cooperation goal shall amount to indicatively 7 % of the global resources available for budgetary commitment
 - More flexibility to the thematic concentration: the REGI mandate increases the number of thematic objectives that a cooperation programme can select
 - Support for maintaining the three strands of European Territorial Cooperation: cross-border, interregional and transnational
 - Proposal for new investment priorities for the 3 strands of ETC



Steps Forward

- **Inter-institutional Negotiations – Ordinary Legislative Procedure – First regulatory Block – Strategic Programming**
- **Tight 3 months calendar for negotiations under the Cyprus Presidency**
- **First Reading in EP Plenary**



Thank you for your attention!

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Committee on Regional Development

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