



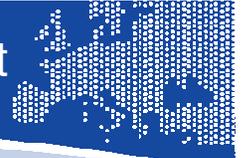
Future of the cohesion policy

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European Commission

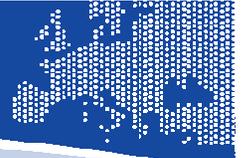
Directorate-General Regional Policy

Kiel, 16 September 2010



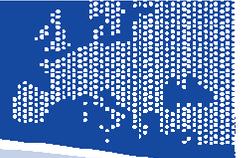
Future of the Cohesion Policy

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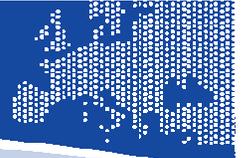
Main stages of the debate

1. **4th Cohesion report** (2007), consultation, results summarised in the **5th progress report** (2008)
2. Report « **Regions 2020** » (December 2008), main challenges: **globalization, ageing of population, climate change, energy supply**
3. Danuta Hübner: « **Reflection paper** on future cohesion policy » (April 2009)
4. **Barca report** (April 2009)
5. « **Green paper** on territorial cohesion » (2009), consultation, results summarised in the **6th progress report** (June 2009)
6. Pawel Samecki: « **Orientation paper** on the future cohesion policy » (December 2009)



Main **issues** of the debate

1. Improving the way regional and local **resources** from all territories **are used**, so that they all contribute to the competitiveness of all Europe
2. More **focus on results** so that its impact can be measured
3. Continue **simplifying the process** used to implement the policy, at the same time ensuring it remains **effective**
4. Focussing the policy towards the **future** and helping regions deal with **challenges**



Next steps of the debate

1. **Budget review** (October 2010) and **financial proposals** (early 2011)
2. **5th Cohesion report** (10.11.2010) and the **Cohesion forum** (31.1-1.2.2011)
3. **New legislative package** (first half 2011)
4. **Negotiations** with European Parliament and Council
5. **Adoption** of new legislative package (2012-2013)
6. **Entry into force** (2014)



High Level Group (informal advisory group on future of the Cohesion policy)

1. **Members:** one representative for each Member State, Commission assumes presidency, provides secretariat and can invite additional experts
2. **Tasks:** discuss future policy directions, ensure transparency, offer a possibility to exchange views between Member States
3. **Meetings:** Brussels, at least twice under each Presidency, round table discussing questions raised by the Commission
4. **Mandate:** expires at the end of 2010



High Level Group – discussions on European Territorial Cooperation - I

1. **Five meetings** held so far (first on 2.10.2009), the sixth meeting is scheduled for 23-24.09.2010
2. The **ETC** was discussed during the two last sessions
3. 4th meeting – 25-26.03.2010: macro-regional strategies:
 - focus on **flagship project** status/separate funding pot,
 - **links** between **macro-regional strategies** and **transnational programmes**: strategies to replace transnational cooperation versus strategies to be better integrated into transnational programmes



High Level Group – discussions on European Territorial Cooperation - II

4. 5th meeting – 7-8.06.2010:

Architecture

- **regulatory framework:** ETC to be strengthened in the context of the Structural Funds regulation or to have a separate regulation/fund
- **structure:** to reduce/merge the number of cooperation strands or to keep current structure
- **allocation of funds:** to be made by MS or by programme (without national shares)



High Level Group – discussions on European Territorial Cooperation - III

Delivery

- **general implementation:** automatic de-commitment rule, EU-wide eligibility rules, more flexible involvement of partners from outside the eligible area/UE, TA limits, aid schemes, financial engineering
- **financial management:** proportionality, simplified costs
- **demonstration of results:** strict selection criteria, financial incentives for flagship projects, limited number of indicators, meaningful presentation of results
- **cooperation at external borders:** lack of coherence in funding instruments (ENPI, EDF, IPA)



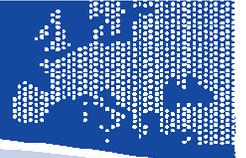
Committee of the Regions

1. Committee of the Regions' Outlook Opinion on future cohesion policy adopted unanimously on 14 April 2010
2. The paper was presented during the fifth meeting of the HLG
3. Main messages:
 - Cohesion policy is the only EU policy linking **Europe 2020** goals with regional and local authorities;
 - Cohesion policy should support **all regions** but the **focus on the lagging behind** + transitional support for regions no longer eligible for the Convergence objective
 - **ETC** has a high **added value** and should remain as an objective.



Interact

1. Autumn 2009 – Interact developed a **platform** for involving ETC programmes in the debate
2. Two expert **working group meetings** were held (April and May 2010) in Brussels
3. The main points were summarised in a **discussion paper** (available online)
4. **Consultation:** written contributions and a consultation event held in Brussels on 1-2.06.2010
5. Outcome: **Position Paper** (1st part – **strategic**/political approach, 2nd part – **implementation** issues) available online.



5th Cohesion report and Cohesion forum

1. 5th Cohesion report should be adopted and published on 10.11.2010 but its conclusions are still under internal discussions. After adoption a « **tour des capitales** » will be organised to present the Report to all the Member States
2. Cohesion forum to discuss the 5th Cohesion report should be organised on 31.1-1.2.2011.



Budget review - background

- The December 2005 Council asked the Commission **to review all aspects of EU spending and sources of income** by 2009. It would include the future of cohesion policy, of CAP and of all rebates.
- 2009: EP, Council and Commission agree to **postpone budget review** for a number reasons: not for an outgoing commission to proceed, budget review should incorporate future commission's political programme, not sure whether Lisbon Treaty would be ratified by all.
- **Main aims** of the exercise: to bring budget in line with **new priorities** + to devise a **more flexible** budget to enable EU to react quicker to developments.



Budget review - content

1. The Commission will present the budget review in **October 2010**
2. The Commission's proposal will include a **set of options** on what the sources of income could be in future.
3. A number of possible **new sources** of income will be included, with **pros and cons** for each of them.
4. All Commissioners were consulted and expressed their views on the proposal.
5. Furthermore, Commissioner Lewandowski discussed the issue with the **European Parliament**, with many **Member States** and **stakeholders** such as small and medium enterprises or representatives of local and regional authorities.
6. Until **29 September**, no specific details available as work is still going on.
7. **The European Parliament** set up a new special **Policy Challenges Committee**, which is to prepare Parliament's work on the EU's next long-term budget. Its report should be approved by Parliament before July 2011.



New legislative proposals I

1. Commissioner Hahn has established **five working groups** (Cabinet and DG REGIO) to prepare the new legislative package concerning the cohesion policy:
 - Thematic priorities and programming
 - Effectiveness, evaluation and monitoring
 - Financial management and audit
 - **Territorial cohesion, macro-regional strategies (ETC), urban/rural questions**
 - Financial engineering
2. Each group has prepared a report which will be a basis for the new legislative package



New legislative proposals II

3. Main issues discussed in the « ETC working group »:

links with Europe 2020, Commission Strategic Guidelines, National Strategic Frameworks, Convergence and Competitiveness programmes; **budget allocations; number of strands; maritime/external UE cross-border cooperation;** capitalisation of good practice; proportionality (control); simplified cost system; **N+3 rule; technical assistance; EGTC**



Useful contacts

1. The cohesion policy of tomorrow:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/future/index_en.htm
2. Committee of the Regions opinion nr 210/2009:
<http://coropinions.cor.europa.eu/CORopinions.aspx>
3. Interact: http://www.interact-eu.net/downloads/2152/ETC_beyond_2013_Position_Paper_July_2010.pdf
4. Budget review:
http://ec.europa.eu/budget/reform/index_en.htm



Thank you for your attention