REGI-COTER: Reinforcing Cohesion through Political Cooperation

The Commission for Regional Development (REGI) of the European Parliament, and the CoR’s Committee on Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER) of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) have continued to actively cooperate throughout the mandate 2014-2019.

Through their close cooperation, the two institutions have strengthened their policy dialogue and have established a common framework that analyses and debates key policy areas, setting the stage for the implementation of the European Agenda on Territorial Development. Their discussions have focused on regional and local challenges and have resulted in an increased visibility of the work of both committees.

The cooperation between the REGI Committee and the COTER Commission has been characterized by an intensive cooperation that has complemented each other’s work in the field of regional and local development. Both institutions have shared views on the principles of partnership, multilevel governance, and democratic legitimacy.

The cooperation has been focused on key policy areas such as sustainable urban development, territorial approach, and economic conditionality. Both institutions have highlighted the importance of these areas and have supported the implementation of the new Cohesion policy package 2021-2027.

The CoR and the EP have continued to support the reinvigoration of regional and local development and have called for the simplification of Cohesion policy, the increased visibility of the work of both committees, and the creation of a model for reinforcing the cooperation between the CoR and the EP.

Furthermore, the annual REGI-COTER meetings represent one of the key political moments of every edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities.

The cooperation between REGI committee and the COTER commission has successfully filled with life the Cooperation Agreement “in order to reinforce the democratic legitimacy of the Committee of the Regions, which was signed on 5 February 2014 by the CoR and the European Parliament, and which entered into force on the 30 July 2014”.

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Concerning the negotiations on the new Cohesion policy package 2021-2027, COTER and REGI rapporteurs have continued to actively cooperate and have agreed on a number of key points, such as:

- The need for a new Cohesion policy that is more focused on territorial development and that is better aligned with the priorities of the European Union.
- The importance of maintaining and strengthening the role of the European Parliament in the design and implementation of the new Cohesion policy package.
- The need for a well-coordinated approach to the implementation of the new Cohesion policy package, including the establishment of a multi-level governance framework.
- The importance of ensuring that the new Cohesion policy package is democratic, sustainable, and effective.

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In conclusion, the CoR and the EP have continued to actively cooperate throughout the mandate 2014-2019, and have shown a commitment to reinforcing the cooperation between the CoR and the EP, and to promoting a more democratic, sustainable, and effective Cohesion policy for the future.
Within the current context of the exit from the Financial and Economic Crisis and of a globalized world, the EU needs an agenda that promotes a growth and jobs strategy that goes beyond GDP. This was the spirit of the EU Urban Agenda, which was also supported by the Cohesion policy and the Structural and Investment Funds. The European Parliament, with the rapporteurs Kari-Antti Kuusisto and Corina Creţu, and the Committee on Regional Development (REGI), focal point of Cohesion policy, have been working hard to provide an urban dimension to Cohesion policy, with the aim of a European project, cohesion policy remains a crucial tool to attain the EU goals of solidarity and economic convergence.

The Pact of Amsterdam established that the Urban Agenda for the Regions and Cities, which is the European Parliament’s strategy for better urban development, remains a crucial tool to attain the EU goals of solidarity and economic convergence. In a time of economic uncertainty and doubts on the future of the European Project, cohesion policy remains a crucial tool to attain the EU goals of solidarity and economic convergence.

Within the 7th Report on the European Week of Regions and Cities, Members of the Committee on Regional Development (REGI) and the Committee of the Regions (COTER) have emphasized the importance of a place-based approach, recognition of urban development as a European project, closer to its citizens. 

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On the 13th of October 2015, under the motto: "Investing in Partnership: creating growth and jobs in Europe’s regions" , REGI and COTER members concluded that the 2014 edition of the annual REGI-COTER meeting allowed a meaningful discussion on Cohesion policy and its role in the European project.

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