The COTER’s Impact on Cohesion policy Regulations

COTER meeting
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Preparation of the CoR position on Cohesion policy post-2020

- CoR study and reflection project Nov 2014 – March 2016
- Launch of the #CohesionAlliance with key partners in October 2017

⇒ Proactive role of the CoR at an early stage, in order to influence the preparatory documents of the European Commission at an early stage
Commission proposals May 2018

- 2 May 2018: MFF proposal
- 29 May 2018: Cohesion policy legislative proposals

Positive aspects of the Commission proposals:
- Budget cuts are less than initially expected
- Cohesion policy will remain available to all EU regions
- The principle of multilevel governance will be maintained
- Credible steps towards simplification, greater differentiation and more flexibility

Negative aspects of the Commission proposals:
- Removal of EAFRD from the CPR and gradual separation of the ESF+ from the other funds
- Cancellation of the Interreg Europe programme
- The continued existence of macro-economic conditionality
COTER Rapporteurs MFF & CP beyond 2020
→ opinions adopted in December 2018 (JTF: July 2020)
Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027

CoR key proposals:

• the future MFF should be set at least 1.3% of GNI;
• Against cuts in Cohesion policy;
• Final beneficiaries should be protected against MS not meeting their financial obligations in case of a breach of the Rule of Law;
• Further increase in investment in climate protection across all EU policies;
• Against N+2 rule.

Results:

• the aggregate MFF+NGEU equals 1,835 trillion EUR (67% higher than the 2014-2020 expenditure);
• CP envelope (including NGEU) 1,2% higher than for EU27 in 2014-2020 -> CP proves to be a key policy for recovery!
• MS concerned shall regularly report on compliance with their obligations towards final beneficiaries;
• 30% of (MFF+NGEU) to reach climate commitments;
• N+3 rule maintained
Common Provisions Regulation

CoR key proposals:

- Strong partnership principle + Code of Conduct;

- Action should be taken at most appropriate territorial level;

- Integrated approach to address demographic challenges;

- Maintain co-financing rates of the 2014-2020 period;

- Maintain the n+3 rule;

Results:

- Strong partnership principle maintained, Partnership Agreements remain mandatory for all Member States;

- Member States shall prepare and implement programmes at the appropriate territorial level in accordance with their institutional, legal and financial framework.

- Partnership agreements and programmes shall contain an integrated approach to address demographic challenges, where appropriate/relevant;

- Co-financing rates increased in comparison to the Commission proposal (but in most cases not to the extent that was requested by the CoR);

- n+3 rule maintained;
European Regional Development Fund Cohesion Fund (ERDF CF)

CoR key proposals:

• Thematic concentration at regional level: at least 30% to Green;

• Propose a new Article on natural and demographic handicaps;

• In favour of any increase to the urban earmarking;

• "Erasmus for local representatives" under the Urban Agenda for the EU.

Results:

• Thematic concentration at national level & category of regions: at least 30% to Green;

• Definition of demographic decline (-1% population between 2007-2017) at the level of NUTS 3;

• Increased support to sustainable urban development: from 6 to 8 %;

• The EC under the future European Urban Initiative should consider to promote the “exchange for regional and local representatives”.
European Territorial Cooperation / Interreg

CoR key proposals:
• Maintenance of maritime CB cooperation within strand 1;
• People-to-people and small-scale projects in cross-border cooperation programmes;
• Continuation of the Interreg Europe and Urbact programmes;
• Clear distinction between III and traditional territorial cooperation.

Results:
• The CB nature of maritime cooperation respected in final text.
• Importance of P2P recognized.
• Interreg Europe and Urbact maintained;
• Interregional Innovative Investments are transferred from ETC into ERDF.
Just Transition Fund

CoR key proposals:
• JTF to support investments in line with the EU climate goals
• Application of the “polluter pays” principle
• Setting up of an Annual Forum of Just Transition Regions
• Proper involvement of LRAs

Results:
• Clear commitments to the Union’s 2030 and 2050 targets
• Investments in regeneration and decontamination in accordance with the “polluter pays” principle
• Cooperation with COM in organising Multi-level Dialogue on Just Transition within the Just Transition Platform
• LRAs to be fully involved in the preparation of territorial just transition plans
Conclusions:

The CoR’s work had a significant impact on the final texts. This was achieved thanks to:

• The close cooperation between the CoR rapporteurs and their counterparts in the European Parliament, leading to a strong convergence in the position of the two institutions: REGI-COTER!

• A long-term strategy that started already in 2014 with a clear timetable and landing zones;

• Alliance building with a wide range of partners. The #CohesionAlliance that was launched with the main European territorial associations gathered more than 450 institutional partners and 14.000 signatories overall;

• Cooperation at all level of governance: EU, National and Regional/Local.
Many thanks for your attention!