

Questions for the CoR stakeholder consultation on:

"A macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian region"

10 September 2019, 11:00-12:00, Committee of the Regions, room JDE53

Rapporteur: Mr Władysław Ortyl (ECR/PL), President of the Podkarpackie Region

Macro-regional strategies represent an essential aspect of coordination between EU policy and funding instruments. At the same time, they represent a true multi-level governance and place-based approach to regional policy.

They also play an important role in the integration of regions facing similar challenges due to their geographical situation. A macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian region could facilitate the initiation of cross-border activities in relation to economic, cultural, educational, tourist and environmental cooperation in this mountainous area.

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) has decided to prepare an own-initiative opinion to facilitate this bottom-up initiative to establish this fifth EU Macro-regional strategy and has appointed Mr Władysław Ortyl (ECR/PL), President of the Podkarpackie Region, as rapporteur.

The rapporteur and his expert would like to consult stakeholders for the drafting of the opinion and would like to focus on the following questions (beyond these questions, please feel free to share with us any additional views that you consider important to feed the opinion):

1. What are your views on the **achievements of the Cohesion Policy** in the pursuit of the cohesion of the European Union, in particular in the territorial dimension? Your views are significant in relation to the objective of **European Territorial Cooperation**. How can cohesion of the Union be achieved in the **cross-border dimension**?
2. Which **cross-border cooperation instruments** are particularly effective and bring the greatest benefit? Do you see differences in the scope and effectiveness of these instruments in the cross-border arrangements of the **new and old Member States of the Union**?
3. What role should macro-regional strategies play, bearing in mind the **experience of implementing the existing strategies**? What are their **strengths** and what are the **limitations**? What **needs to be changed** in order to make a greater contribution to achieving cohesion in cross-border areas?
4. What should be the **main reasons for establishing macro-regions**? Which objective criteria (geographical, morphological, cultural, economic, natural resources) should be taken into

account, and to what extent subjective criteria (sense of community of history, community of fate, political, efficiency, achieving the goal)?

5. What should be the **main objective for the Carpathian region**, taking into account their common resources and potentials as well as **existing barriers**? Should we use the experience gained so far in e.g. the Alpine macro-region?
6. How do you see the practical prerequisites for an initiative aimed at creating a macro-regional strategy? How to understand **the bottom-up nature of the initiative** and how to conduct a **dialogue involving authorities at different levels**, specialised institutions and socio-economic partners?
7. How can a **system of multi-level governance in cross-border cooperation** be shaped, taking into account the differences resulting from the **existing administrative systems and the historical experience of the participating countries**, and taking into account the diversity of initiatives and activities undertaken as well as the significant number of parties involved?
8. What is your opinion on the **interaction between existing macro-regional strategies which are geographically overlapping**, e.g. the Danube and the Alpine or the Adriatic and Ionian Region and the Alpine strategies? What conclusions can be drawn from the relation between the **Danube and the Carpathian strategies**?