

The future of Cohesion Policy – scenarios for Mediterranean Regions

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Plan of presentation



- **Analysis on the future of Cohesion Policy for post-2020** from the point of view of Mediterranean regions
- **Views and positions** from the CPMR
- **Actions** for the future

The future of Cohesion Policy (I)



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Analysis based on EU finances reflection paper and recent contacts with DG REGIO

The 'certainties':

- There will be a - **smaller** - Cohesion Policy after 2020
- Cohesion Policy will exist in a '**supporting**' role (esp. for the European Semester)
- Appetite for **significant reform**:
differentiation, simplification, co-financing rates...
- The European Fund for Strategic Investment (**EFSI**) is here to stay, better complementarity with Cohesion Policy
- Reinforcement of some **territorial instruments** (S3, ITIs)

The future of Cohesion Policy (II)



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The 'unknowns':

- Will the policy cover **all regions**?
- **Allocation of funds** and based on which criteria?
- 5 European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds or a **single investment fund**?
- Which investment areas and **priorities**? Perhaps more on:
 - **migration**: integration measures, solidarity mechanism
 - appetite for more focus on **social issues**
 - **territorial cooperation**: support for stronger ETC, proposal to integrate cross border programmes within transnational programmes
 - more focus on **urban**



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Policy Position

June 2017

CPMR proposals for a strong and reformed post-2020 Cohesion Policy

Approved by the CPMR Political Bureau – 22 June 2017 – Stavanger (NO)

1. Introduction

This Position Paper presents the CPMR's vision for a reformed Cohesion Policy for the post-2020 period. It includes detailed proposals across the key aspects of Cohesion Policy of significant relevance for Peripheral and Maritime Regions.

At its last General Assembly meeting in November 2016, the CPMR adopted key principles underpinning Cohesion Policy, and set out initial ideas as to where the policy needed reform. Since then, the CPMR Secretariat set up Member-led discussion groups to develop proposals for the post-2020 period. These groups looked at the following issues:

- Simplification (led by Région Provence-Alpes-Côtes d'Azur, FR)
- Territorial Cooperation (led by the Provinces of Friesland and Noord Holland, NL)
- the European Social Fund (led by Regione Emilia Romagna, IT)
- Partnership and Multilevel Governance (led by Vastra Götaland region, SE)
- Financial instruments and the links with the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI) (led by Land Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, DE)

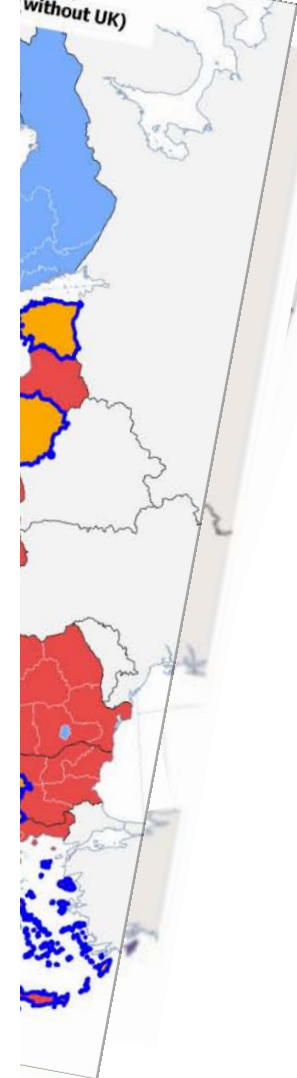
This paper is structured in two parts: Section 2 presents the vision of the CPMR for the post-2020 period, and Section 3 includes detailed proposals grouped thematically. **These proposals are specifically addressed to the European Commission** to feed in reflections ahead the expected Cohesion package for the post-2020 period.

2. A vision for a modernised Cohesion Policy for post-2020

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(without UK)



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Views and positions from CPMR (I)



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Comparison with adopted CPMR policy position on future of Cohesion Policy (22 June 2017)

We support:

- Recognition of the **limits of financial instruments** vs grants (e.g CPMR study)
- Recognition of **complementarity between EFSI and Cohesion Policy**
- Recognition of the need for more **positive incentives** vs sanctions (e.g macroeconomic conditionality)
- Some ideas on **simplification** (designation authorities, single set of rules for ESI funds...)

Views and positions from CPMR (II)



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We oppose:

- **the absence of a strategic vision** for Cohesion Policy supporting a Europe 2030 strategy
- the absence of mention of **territorial dimension** of Cohesion Policy (and specific territories such as **islands**)
- the lack of recognition of **role played by regions**
- the absence of plans for **state aids reform** to ease Cohesion Policy implementation
- the lack of a guarantee that Cohesion Policy will cover all **5 ESI funds** (and in particular the European Social Fund)

Views and positions from CPMR (III)



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We are unsure about:

- the idea of **‘Structural Reforms Contract’** (e.g better cofinancing rate if Member State implements country specific recommendations)
- a **single category of regions** for Cohesion Policy
- a **‘results-based’** payment approach
- more **concentration of priorities**
- alignment between territorial cooperation programmes and macroregional / sea basin strategies
- **the external EFSI (EIP) being fit for purpose** (involvement of regions, adequate instrument for development policy)

Next steps



By the end of 2017/early 2018:

- **Lobbying initiatives** to secure strong Cohesion Policy for post-2020, 'sell' CPMR key proposals to 'non-believers'
- Develop **technical scenarios** for post-2020 EU Budget and Cohesion Policy for the CPMR October 2017 AGM:
 - Single category of regions
 - New indicators for Cohesion Policy allocation methodology
 - Single investment fund
 - Timing of post-2020 MFF publication and agreement

Leading on the Commission proposals for post-2020 EU Budget and Cohesion Policy in 2018/2019!



Many thanks for your attention!

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