


Basic information	
2016/3008(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on delayed implementation of ESI Funds operational programmes – impact on cohesion policy and the way forward Subject 4.70.01 Structural funds, investment funds in general, programmes 4.70.02 Cohesion policy, Cohesion Fund (CF)	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	REGI Regional Development	MIHAYLOVA Iskra (ALDE)	10/11/2016
		Shadow rapporteur BOTINARU Victor (S&D) ŠKRIPEK Branislav (ECR) OMARJEE Younous (GUE/NGL) ROP Bronis (Verts/ALE) D'AMATO Rosa (EFDD)	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
24/01/2017	Vote in committee		
15/02/2017	Debate in Parliament	CRE link	
16/02/2017	Decision by Parliament	T8-0055/2017	Summary
16/02/2017	Results of vote in Parliament		
16/02/2017	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2016/3008(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142-p5
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Amendments tabled in committee		PE595.758	05/01/2017	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0149/2017	15/02/2017	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0055/2017	16/02/2017	Summary
European Commission				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2017)358	31/08/2017	

Resolution on delayed implementation of ESI Funds operational programmes – impact on cohesion policy and the way forward

2016/3008(RSP) - 16/02/2017 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution tabled by the Committee on Regional Development on delayed implementation of ESI Funds operational programmes – impact on cohesion policy and the way forward.

Members recalled the late conclusion of the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) negotiations and the late adoption of the ESI Funds regulations **resulted in delays** in the process of adoption and implementation of partnership agreements and operational programmes and project implementation at local, regional and national level.

Parliament expressed concerns that further delays in the implementation of cohesion policy operational programmes will impact negatively on the achievement of these goals, contributing moreover to a widening of the differences in regional development.

Drawing attention to the fact that the current pace of implementation risks leading to large amounts of decommitments in the following years, Members emphasised that necessary measures should be taken to avoid this and called on the Commission to **indicate the actions it envisages** in this regard.

Given that in many Member States the economic crisis has brought liquidity problems and resulted in governments having less money available for public investment, the Commission and the Member States to make full use of the flexibility available under the Stability and Growth Pact.

Speeding up cohesion: Parliament called on the Commission, in close cooperation with Member States and on the basis of an objective analysis of the factors contributing to current delays, to present a "**Cohesion acceleration plan**" in the first quarter of 2017 in order to facilitate an accelerated implementation of ESI Funds operational programmes. It underlined nevertheless in this context the need to ensure low error rates, the fight against fraud, and the strengthening of administrative capacity as a pre-condition to achieve timely and successful results.

It also called on the Commission to continue providing support through the Task Force for Better Implementation and to make available an action plan of its activities to Parliament.

Concerned by the delays in the designation of managing, certifying and auditing authorities, Parliament called on Member States to **complete the designation process**, and on the Commission to deploy the **technical assistance and advisory services** needed to facilitate and speed up the implementation of operational programmes on the ground.

Preparation for the next programming period: Parliament called on the Commission to consider and develop solutions, including additional forms of flexibility such as **flexibility among priorities and among operational programmes**, in keeping with the Europe 2020 strategy objectives. It called for efforts to be increased with a view to ensuring and facilitating synergies between the EU funding opportunities, such as ESI Funds, Horizon 2020 and EFSI.

Taking into consideration the decommitment rules, Members called on the Commission to **establish an adequate payment plan up to 2023**, proposing increased payment ceilings under Heading 1b, if necessary, until the end of the current programming period.

Lastly, the resolution urged the Commission to submit the legislative package concerning the next programming period by the beginning of 2018 at the latest, and to facilitate a smooth and timely negotiation of the post-2020 MFF. The UK referendum result and the upcoming Brexit arrangements should be duly taken into consideration.