

Basic information	
2019/2837(DEA) DEA - Delegated acts procedure European Social Fund: standard scales of unit costs and lump sums for reimbursement of expenditure by the Commission to Member States Supplementing 2011/0268(COD) Subject 4.10.15 European Social Fund (ESF), Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)	Procedure completed - delegated act enters into force

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	<div style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">EMPL</div> Employment and Social Affairs			

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/09/2019	Non-legislative basic document published	C(2019)06861	
27/09/2019	Initial period for examining delegated act 2.0 month(s)		
09/10/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/12/2019	Delegated act not objected by Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2019/2837(DEA)
Procedure type	DEA - Delegated acts procedure
Procedure subtype	Examination of delegated act
	Supplementing 2011/0268(COD)
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed - delegated act enters into force
Committee dossier	EMPL/9/01443

Documentation gateway			
European Commission			
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	C(2019)06861	27/09/2019	

European Social Fund: standard scales of unit costs and lump sums for reimbursement of expenditure by the Commission to Member States

2019/2837(DEA) - 24/04/2012

The Council reached agreement on a **partial general approach** concerning the EU cohesion policy for the 2014-2020 period.

The Council's partial general approach is aimed at strengthening results orientation and improving the quality of cohesion spending. It also seeks to contribute to the integration of cohesion policy in the economic governance of the EU.

The partial general approach does not prejudice the outcome of negotiations on other elements of cohesion policy or on the EU's multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2014-2020 or the Financial Regulation.

(1) The Council's compromise text: this covers some of the more technical features of the future cohesion policy. Work on the more political elements will continue. Some of these are dealt with in the negotiations on the MFF.

More concretely, the partial general approach includes the following elements:

Programming: [common programming rules](#) are envisaged for the five funds covered by a common strategic framework, namely: (i) [the European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#); (ii) [the European Social Fund \(ESF\)](#); (iii) [the Cohesion Fund \(CF\)](#); (iv) the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD); (v) the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

Each programme has to specify how it contributes to the EU's 2020 strategy for jobs and growth. The question as to whether the link between the EU strategy for jobs and growth on one hand and cohesion policy on the other should be assured through country-specific recommendations or national reform programmes has been left open. The Council will come back to it in June.

Ex ante conditionality: certain conditions must be met before funding may start. It is aimed at improving cohesion policy performance.

Management and control: the partial general approach provides for specific rules for the management and control of funds disbursed.

Monitoring and evaluation: this part of the partial general approach makes sure that the implementation of the cohesion policy programmes is duly monitored and evaluated.

Eligibility: the financing of already completed projects, which is possible under the current rules, would be excluded under the partial general approach.

Major projects: the Council's compromise text would facilitate the deployment of "upstream" quality reviews by independent experts of major projects. This is considered to be more effective than the existing approvals "downstream" by the Commission.

Further discussions will be held at Council level in the coming months. The new cohesion policy rules are closely linked to the MFF negotiations. They are only expected to be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council once an agreement on the MFF has been reached.

(2) Multiannual financial framework 2014-2020: the Council discussed, in public session, for the first time on the basis of the negotiating box, certain areas of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) including cohesion policy and the provisions relating to the five funds belonging to these policy fields.

During the debate, a number of delegations voiced concerns about the **proposed overall level of expenditure** in times of fiscal consolidation and asked for cuts to be made in all headings.

Cohesion policy: some Member States considered the proposed amount for cohesion policy as a minimum, whereas others viewed the amount proposed for the common agricultural policy as a minimum.

Several Member States expressed concerns relating either to the new category of transition regions or to its scope. A number of delegations opposed the proposed level of capping, limiting the level of transfer to each Member State to a certain percentage of its gross domestic product. Some Member States objected to the so-called reversed safety net, which would limit the scope of support to a certain percentage as compared to its level during the 2007-2013 period. Some Member States argued for co-financing rates of 85% for less developed regions, whereas others pleaded for reducing the rates.

The rules governing the five funds under the common strategic framework: some Member States stressed the importance of macro-economic conditionality. Others were sceptical about it, unless it was extended to other types of expenditure.

The General Affairs Council of 29 May will hold a first discussion on a comprehensive version of the negotiating box covering all elements of the MFF negotiating package.

Ministers for European Affairs will continue their work on the MFF at an informal meeting in Horsens (Denmark) on 10 and 11 June.

The European Council will discuss the MFF for the first time on 28 and 29 June.

European Social Fund: standard scales of unit costs and lump sums for reimbursement of expenditure by the Commission to Member States

2019/2837(DEA) - 26/06/2012

The Council agreed a **second partial general approach** on the new rules for EU cohesion policy for the 2014-2020 period.

The partial general approach agreed **complements** the partial general approach on six rather technical elements (programming; ex ante conditionality; management and control; monitoring and evaluation; eligibility; major projects) agreed on 24 April 2012. **Care has been taken to ensure that the partial general approach does not prejudge the outcome of negotiations on other elements of cohesion policy or on the EU's multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2014-2020 or the financial regulation.** It may therefore be subject to change as a result of these other negotiations.

The partial general approach agreed today covers the **four following thematic blocks**:

1. **Thematic concentration** : the funds are concentrated on a limited number of thematic objectives, reflecting the 2020 priorities of the EU and taking into account the level of development of the different regions. Minimum shares of cohesion policy expenditure are set for employment, social inclusion and education.
2. **Financial instruments** : the five funds covered by a **common strategic framework** (CSF) (European Regional Development Fund (**ERDF**), **European Social Fund** (ESF), Cohesion Fund (**CF**), European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)) may be used to support financial instruments such as loans, guarantees, equity investments or other risk-sharing instruments as long as these instruments address specific market needs.
3. **Net revenue generating operations and public-private partnerships** : this part of the partial general approach applies to operations which generate net revenue after their completion such as the construction of infrastructure (e.g. roads) for the use of which charges are levied. The Council agreed to reduce the eligible expenditure of a project to be co-financed by the EU by taking into account the project's potential to generate net revenue. The partial general approach also includes provisions on the use of the five funds covered by the CSF to support operations implemented within a public-private partnership.
4. **Performance framework** : this includes provisions setting out the rules on the possibility of suspension and cancellation of funds in the event of serious underachievement of certain targets.

As regards whether the **link between the EU strategy for jobs and growth and the cohesion policy** should be ensured via country-specific recommendations or national reform programmes, the Danish presidency decided to await clarification on the macroeconomic conditionality within the discussion on the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2014-2020.

Further discussions will be held at Council level in the coming months under the Cypriot Presidency with a view to reaching **another partial general approach**. The new cohesion policy rules are closely linked to the MFF negotiations; they are only expected to be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council once an agreement on the MFF has been reached.