


Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	2011/0274(COD) Procedure completed
Cohesion Fund 2014-2020 Repealing Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 2004/0166(AVC)	
Subject 4.70.02 Cohesion policy, Cohesion Fund (CF)	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	REGI Regional Development		21/06/2011
		S&D BOȘTINARU Victor	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		PPE MAZZONI Erminia	
		ALDE MĂNESCU Ramona Nicole	
		Verts/ALE CHRYSOGELOS Nikos	
		ECR VLASÁK Oldřich	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		06/02/2012
	S&D COZZOLINO Andrea		
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		08/11/2011	
	PPE GUTIÉRREZ-CORTINES Cristina		
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy		15/11/2011	
	S&D TOIA Patrizia		
TRAN Transport and Tourism		24/11/2011	
	Verts/ALE CRAMER Michael		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3285	16/12/2013
	General Affairs	3259	30/09/2013
	Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	3228	07/03/2013
	General Affairs	3192	16/10/2012
	General Affairs	3180	26/06/2012
	General Affairs	3160	24/04/2012
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Regional and Urban Policy	HAHN Johannes	
European Economic and			

Key events			
06/10/2011	Legislative proposal published	COM(2011)0612	Summary
25/10/2011	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
24/04/2012	Debate in Council	3160	Summary
16/10/2012	Debate in Council	3192	
07/03/2013	Debate in Council	3228	
10/07/2013	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
18/07/2013	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A7-0270/2013	Summary
30/09/2013	Debate in Council	3259	Summary
19/11/2013	Debate in Parliament		
20/11/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		
20/11/2013	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T7-0486/2013	Summary
16/12/2013	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
16/12/2013	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/12/2013	Final act signed		
20/12/2013	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2011/0274(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Repealing Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 2004/0166(AVC)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 177-p1
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	REGI/7/07462

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(2011)0612	06/10/2011	EC	Summary

Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2011)1138	06/10/2011	EC	
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2011)1139	06/10/2011	EC	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE491.027	06/06/2012	EP	
Committee opinion	TRAN	PE486.019	20/06/2012	EP	
Committee opinion	ITRE	PE486.189	21/06/2012	EP	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE488.058	21/06/2012	EP	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE487.713	22/06/2012	EP	
Committee draft report		PE486.124	03/06/2013	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE514.690	24/06/2013	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE514.834	02/07/2013	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0270/2013	18/07/2013	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0486/2013	20/11/2013	EP	Summary
Draft final act		00082/2013/LEX	17/12/2013	CSL	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2014)87	30/01/2014	EC	
Follow-up document		COM(2016)0812	20/12/2016	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		SWD(2016)0447	20/12/2016	EC	

Additional information

National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act

Regulation 2013/1300 OJ L 347 20.12.2013, p. 0281 Summary Final legislative act with provisions for delegated acts

Cohesion Fund 2014-2020

PURPOSE: to define the next framework for cohesion policy for the period 2014-2020 (Cohesion Fund Regulation).

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

BACKGROUND: in its [proposal for the next multi-annual financial framework for the period 2014-2020](#), the Commission decided that cohesion policy should remain an essential element of the next financial package and underlined its pivotal role in delivering the Europe 2020 strategy. It proposed a number of important changes to the way cohesion policy is designed and implemented. Concentrating funding on a smaller number of priorities better linked to the Europe 2020 Strategy, focusing on results, monitoring progress towards agreed objectives, increasing the use of conditionalities and simplifying the delivery are among the major hallmarks of the proposal

This proposal is part of a package of legislative measures relating to the Cohesion policy 2014-2020. This package includes:

- an [overarching regulation](#) setting out common rules governing the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). This will allow for the better combination of funds for a stronger impact of EU action;
- three specific regulations for the [ERDF](#), the [ESF](#) and the [Cohesion Fund](#);
- two regulations dealing with the [European territorial cooperation](#) goal and the European grouping of territorial cooperation ([EGTC](#));
- two regulations on the European Globalisation Fund ([EGF](#)) and the [Programme for Social Change and Innovation](#);

- a communication on the European Union Solidarity Fund ([EUSF](#)).

The Cohesion Fund helps Member States whose GNI per inhabitant is less than 90% of the EU27 average in making investments in TEN-T transport networks and the environment. Part of the Cohesion Fund allocation (EUR 10 billion) will be ring-fenced to finance core transport networks under the "Connecting Europe" Facility. The Cohesion Fund can also support projects related to energy, as long as they clearly present a benefit to the environment, for example by promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: options were assessed in particular in relation to the Cohesion Fund contribution to investing in basic infrastructure in transport and environment. Various ways of making funding conditional on a sound macro-fiscal framework were assessed, including: (i) the status quo, with a weak ex-post conditionality which has never been applied; (ii) a strengthened ex post conditionality; (iii) ex ante conditionality, which would require the fulfilment of preconditions before the adoption of the programmes.

An evolution of the current system best fulfils the criteria of ownership, transparency and predictability, while at the same time ensuring that the effectiveness of growth-enhancing investments is not undermined by the pursuit of unsound fiscal policies. Such a procedure implies suspension of part or all of commitments in the case of repeated breaches.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 177 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: the proposed Regulation determines the scope of intervention of the Cohesion Fund. It includes an article on scope defining the general areas for intervention within the area of transport and environment. The scope of intervention is also defined by a negative list of activities which will not be eligible for support, and a list of investment priorities.

Environment: the Cohesion Fund will support investment in climate change adaptation and risk prevention, investment in the water and waste sectors and the urban environment.

Energy: investment in energy is also eligible for support, provided it has positive environmental benefits. Therefore investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy are also supported.

Transport: the Cohesion Fund will contribute to investments in the Trans-European Transport Network, as well as low-carbon transport systems and urban transport.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: the Commission's proposal for a Multiannual Financial Framework includes EUR 376 billion for cohesion policy for the period 2014-2020. The proposed budget (in billion euros) is broken down as follows:

- Less developed regions EUR 162.6
- Transition regions: EUR 38.9
- More developed regions: EUR 53.1
- Territorial cooperation: EUR 11.7
- Cohesion fund: EUR 68.7
- Extra allocation for outermost and sparsely populated regions: EUR 0.926.
- Facility for transport, energy and ICT: EUR 40 billion (with an additional EUR 10 billion ring-fenced inside the Cohesion Fund).

Cohesion Fund 2014-2020

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.

Cohesion Fund 2014-2020

The Committee on Regional Development adopted the report by Victor BOȚINARU (S&D, RO) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Cohesion Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006.

It recommended that the European Parliaments position at first reading under the ordinary legislative should be to amend the Commission proposal as follows:

Subject-matter of the Cohesion Fund: Members noted that a Cohesion Fund was established for the purpose of strengthening the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the Union in the interests of promoting sustainable development.

Investment priorities: the scope of the Cohesion Fund was broadened to include:

- support for energy efficiency and renewable energy use in the housing sector;
- support for high efficiency district heating and cogeneration of heat and power;
- support of investment for adaptation to climate change including eco-system based approaches;
- investing in the waste sector and in the water sector, not only to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis but to address needs identified by the Member States;
- soil protection and restoration and promotion of ecosystem services including through NATURA 2000 and green infrastructures;
- actions for the revitalisation of cities, regeneration and decontamination of brownfield sites (including conversion areas), and promotion of noise-reduction measures;
- environmentally-friendly (including low-noise) and low-carbon transport systems including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure.

A reference was maintained in relation to the support that might be granted by the Cohesion Fund to the [Connecting Europe Facility's](#) transport infrastructure projects in Cohesion Member States.

Scope of application: Members foresaw the explicit exclusion of support for the manufacturing, processing and marketing of tobacco and tobacco products, and for undertakings in difficulties as defined under Union State aid rules.

Indicators: the Commission shall be empowered to adopt a delegated act to amend the list of common output indicators in the Annex to this Regulation, in order to make adjustments, where justified to ensure effective assessment of progress in programme implementation.

Cohesion Fund 2014-2020

The presidency informed the Council about the state of play in the ongoing trilogue discussions with the European Parliament and the Commission on the [EU's cohesion policy package for 2014-2020](#) on the basis of an issue paper (see Council doc. [13796/13](#)).

The Council exchanged views and provided guidance to the presidency for finalising the negotiations with the European Parliament.

All Member States considered that a timely agreement was urgently needed in order to allow the new cohesion policy programmes to be implemented as from 1 January 2014. Member States reminded the significant concessions which the Council had already made to the European Parliament. They reiterated their willingness to continue working in a constructive spirit on this file.

With regard to the outstanding political issues, the discussion went along the following lines:

- Several Member States opposed any dilution of the macro-economic conditionality. They stressed its importance for making sure that the five European structural and investment funds (the European regional development fund ([ERDF](#)), the European social fund ([ESF](#)), the cohesion fund ([CF](#)), the European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD) and the European maritime and fisheries fund (EMFF)) were not undermined by unsound macro-economic policies.

- Many Member States objected to any change to the performance reserve and the pre-financing which could have an impact on the payments' profile, seen as a core element of the MFF agreement.
- Some Member States resisted to any modification to co-financing, reminding that national cofinancing was essential to guarantee the ownership of the different programmes on the ground.

Cohesion Fund 2014-2020

The European Parliament adopted by 617 votes to 39, with 31 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Cohesion Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006.

The European Parliaments position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amended the Commission proposal as follows:

Subject-matter of the Cohesion Fund: Parliament noted that a Cohesion Fund was established for the purpose of strengthening the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the Union in the interests of promoting sustainable development.

Investment priorities: the scope of the Cohesion Fund was broadened to include:

- support for energy efficiency and renewable energy use in the housing sector;
- promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas;
- support for high efficiency district heating and cogeneration of heat and power;
- support of investment for adaptation to climate change including eco-system based approaches;
- investing in the waste sector and in the water sector, not only to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis but to address needs identified by the Member States;
- soil protection and restoration and promotion of ecosystem services including through NATURA 2000 and green infrastructures;
- actions for the revitalisation of cities, regeneration and decontamination of brownfield sites (including conversion areas), and promotion of noise-reduction measures;
- environmentally-friendly (including low-noise) and low-carbon transport systems including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure.

A reference was maintained in relation to the support that might be granted by the Cohesion Fund to the [Connecting Europe Facility's](#) transport infrastructure projects in Cohesion Member States, and this for an amount of EUR 10 000 000 000.

Scope of application: Parliament foresaw the explicit exclusion of support for the manufacturing, processing and marketing of tobacco and tobacco products, and for undertakings in difficulties as defined under Union State aid rules.

Indicators: the Commission shall be empowered to adopt a delegated act to amend the list of common output indicators in the Annex to this Regulation, in order to make adjustments, where justified to ensure effective assessment of progress in programme implementation.

Cohesion Fund 2014-2020

PURPOSE: to define the next framework for cohesion policy for the period 2014-2020 (Cohesion Fund Regulation).

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) No 1300/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Cohesion Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006.

CONTENT: the Regulation is part of a package of measures relating to the cohesion policy comprising the following Regulations:

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1303/2013](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council sets out the provisions common to five European structural and investment funds (ESI Funds) i.e. the European regional development fund (ERDF), the European social fund (ESF), the cohesion fund (CF), the European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD) and the European maritime and fisheries fund (EMFF);
- the Regulations specific to the five funds for the [ERDF](#), the [ESF](#), the Cohesion Fund, the European Territorial Cooperation and the European grouping of territorial cooperation ([EGTC](#)).

This Regulation establishes a Cohesion Fund for the purpose of strengthening the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the Union in the interests of promoting sustainable development. It lays down the tasks of the Cohesion Fund and the scope of its support with regard to the Investment for growth and jobs goal referred to in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

Scope of support from the Cohesion Fund: the Cohesion Fund shall, while ensuring an appropriate balance and according to the investment and infrastructure needs specific to each Member State, support:

- investment in the environment, including areas related to sustainable development and energy which present environmental benefits;
- TEN-T, in compliance with the guidelines adopted by [Regulation \(EU\) No 1315/2013](#).

The Cohesion Fund shall not support: (i) the decommissioning or the construction of nuclear power stations; (ii) investment to achieve the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from activities listed in Annex I to Directive 2003/87/EC; (iii) investment in housing unless related to the promotion of energy efficiency or renewable energy use; (iv) the manufacturing, processing and marketing of tobacco and tobacco products; (v) undertakings in difficulty, as defined under Union State aid rules; (vi) investment in airport infrastructure unless related to environmental protection or accompanied by investment necessary to mitigate or reduce its negative environmental impact.

In order to accelerate the development of transport infrastructure across the Union, the Cohesion Fund should support transport infrastructure projects of European added value provided for in [Regulation \(EU\) No 1316/2013 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility](#) for a total amount of EUR 10 000 000 000.

The Cohesion Fund shall support the following investment priorities:

Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors by: (i) promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources; (ii) supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector; (iii) developing and implementing smart distribution systems that operate at low and medium voltage levels; (iv) promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas; (v) promoting the use of high-efficiency co-generation of heat and power based on useful heat demand.

Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management by supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches and addressing specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems.

Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency by: (i) investing in the waste and water sector; (ii) protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure; (iii) improving the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites; (iv) promoting noise-reduction measures.

Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures by: (i) supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area; (ii) developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low-noise) and low-carbon transport; (iii) developing and rehabilitating comprehensive, high quality and interoperable railway systems, and promoting noise-reduction measures.

Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to the implementation of the Cohesion Fund.

Results-based approach: the Regulation lays down, in an annex, a series of common output indicators in order to make adjustments, where justified to ensure effective assessment of progress in operational programme implementation.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 21.12.2013.

DELEGATED ACTS: the Commission may adopt delegated acts in respect of the amendment of the list of common output indicators set out in Annex I to this Regulation. The power to adopt delegated acts shall be conferred on the Commission from 21 December 2013 to 31 December 2020. The European Parliament or the Council may object to a delegated act within a period of two months from the date of notification (this period can be extended for two months). If the European Parliament or the Council make objections, the delegated act will not enter into force.

Cohesion Fund 2014-2020

This Commission report is the first in a series of annual reports to the EU institutions on the implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds). It provides an overview of the 2016 annual implementation reports on the 533 programmes submitted by Member States and regions for the 2014-2015 period and summarises the available evaluations of these programmes.

The late adoption of the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014-2020 has had an impact on the adoption of legislation governing the ESI Funds. By the end of 2014, 220 programmes had been adopted. However, the majority (313) of programmes were finalised in 2015 181 of which were completed only in the second half of the year.

Progress in implementation: on the basis of the 2016 annual implementation reports covering 2014 and 2015, it appears that the total volume of projects selected for support from the Funds amounted to EUR 58.8 billion, or 9.2% of the total volume of investment planned for the 2014-2020 period. The EUs contribution to the selected projects is estimated at EUR 41.8 billion.

- According to the most recent financial data submitted up to the autumn of 2016, implementation has accelerated significantly in terms of the volume of project selection. The total financial volume of selected projects more than doubled in nine months, from EUR 58.8 billion at the end of 2015 to EUR 128.8 billion (20.2% of planned investments).
- By the end of 2015, the Member States and regions had selected 989 000 projects ranging from investments in heavy infrastructure to individual support to farms. A total of 274 000 businesses benefited from the selected operations, representing approximately 13.6% of the target of supporting 2 million businesses by the end of the period.
- At the time of the adoption of the programmes, about 75% of all conditionalities to ensure investment effectiveness (ex ante conditions) were met.
- The implementation of programme structures and procedures to ensure the robustness and quality of investments throughout the programme life cycle has been important for the successful launch of the programmes.
- Lastly, more than two-thirds of the country-specific recommendations adopted in 2014 in the context of the European Semester concerned investments under the ESI Funds and were therefore integrated into the priorities of the Member States programmes.

Implementation by theme: the report provides an overview of the financial volume and the selection rate of projects for the ESI Funds by thematic objective at the end of 2015.

At the end of 2015, an amount of over EUR 20 billion was already allocated to specific projects in the fields of the low-carbon economy (EUR 2.3 billion), climate change (EUR 6.6 billion), the environment and transport (EUR 7.6 billion), and energy networks (EUR 4.1 billion), representing around 9% of the total amount across all the funds contributing directly (ERDF, Cohesion Fund, EAFRD and EMFF);

As regards investment in strategic networks, significant investments are planned in the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and other transport areas under the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund.

At the end of 2015, the projects selected totalled EUR 4.1 billion (6.2% of the planned amount). Among the projects carried out in the field of transport, the report cites in particular the following examples:

- projects for reconstruction or renovation of nearly 150 km of TEN-T railway lines in Estonia and almost 140 km in Poland have already been selected for funding;
- in Poland, almost 320 km of new TEN-T roads will be built as part of the selected projects.

The Commission now considers it vital that the implementation of the new programmes is accelerated throughout the European Union.

Recent data show a more uniform state of advancement in most Member States and themes. The evolution of these trends will be further

evaluated in the 2017 reporting cycle, which will provide a more comprehensive picture of implementation and allow for better reporting on a qualitative level.