



# inforegio | news

## Strategic guidelines, 2007–13

The public consultation on the 'Community strategic guidelines for cohesion, 2007–13' closed on 30 September. The results will be reflected in the final version of the guidelines that will be communicated by the Commission to the Council. To find out more:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/2007/osc/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2007/osc/index_en.htm)

## New website for calls for tender

Inforegio is launching a new website dedicated to calls for tender by open procedure issued by the Regional Policy DG. It includes all the information and documents needed to submit a tender. These pages also provide access to other sites relating to the Commission's public procurement.

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional\\_policy/tender/tender\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/tender/tender_en.htm)

## State aid for innovation: public consultation

The Commission is launching a consultation on improvements to be made to Community rules governing State aid for innovation. For more information see MEMO/05/333 and the full text of the communication, both of which are available at the following address:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/state\\_aid/others/action\\_plan/](http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/state_aid/others/action_plan/)

Observations should be sent with the reference 'Consultation State aid for innovation' by e-mail to: [stateaidgreffe@cec.eu.int](mailto:stateaidgreffe@cec.eu.int) or by post to Competition DG, State Aid Greffe, SPA 3, Office 6/5, B-1049 Brussels.

## Risk management

In cooperation with the ESPON network, the Interact Qualification and Transfer Contact Point is organising, in Valencia (Spain) on 29 and 30 November, a conference to permit an exchange of experiences between the Interreg initiative players on risk management and environmental disasters.

To find out more:  
[www.interact-eu.net](http://www.interact-eu.net)

To register: [ip.qt@interact-eu.net](mailto:ip.qt@interact-eu.net)

## Financing growth and cohesion in the enlarged Union

**A conference on 'Financing growth and cohesion in the enlarged European Union', organised by the European Commission in cooperation with the Presidency of the Council (the United Kingdom), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and other international financial institutions (IFIs), is to be held in Brussels on 24 November 2005.**

'Sustainable financing is more vital than ever to strengthen growth and cohesion in the enlarged European Union,' declared Commissioner Danuta Hübner on announcing this one-day conference aimed at key players in regional development and the banking and finance sector from the 25 Member States, Bulgaria and Romania: presidents of the regions, representatives of European associations and institutions, and representatives of the IFIs. 'The introduction of sound financial engineering can be supported by consolidating cooperation between the European Commission and the international financial institutions, as well as by strengthening capacity building at national and regional level,' explained the Commissioner, inviting debate on these questions with a view to achieving progress towards 'our common objective, which is to make Europe a more attractive place for investments and jobs.'

During the morning session, the European Commission and the EIB will present two joint initiatives.

- First, an agreement to create a new structure — JASPERS (Joint assistance to support projects in the European regions) — able to help the authorities in the Member States who can potentially

benefit from Cohesion Fund support to identify and prepare high-quality projects (in the sense of the Structural Funds regulations) with a view to submitting them to the Commission.

- Second, a proposal for facilitating access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises and micro-enterprises (including one-person enterprises). The aim of JEREMIE (Joint European resources for micro to medium enterprises) is to promote the development of this important sector which often has the most difficulty in accessing finance from traditional commercial sources.

This morning session will focus on the contribution of the IFIs to regional development and more particularly to developing public-private partnerships, as well as prospects for their reinforced cooperation with the Structural Funds and instruments. The afternoon will be given over to three parallel workshops on best practice and the exchange of experience on financing regional policy projects. Finally, a plenary session will conclude the various debates.

To find out more:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional\\_policy/events/ifi/index.cfm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/events/ifi/index.cfm)

## Regional competitiveness and territorial cooperation: the 2007–13 objectives on the agenda

**The future of the 'Regional competitiveness and employment' objective was the central topic debated at a seminar organised by the European Commission in cooperation with the Italian authorities, on 15 and 16 September in Turin. As to the 'European territorial cooperation' objective, this was the subject of a conference organised by Interact and held in Brussels on 28 and 29 September.**

Fifty regions from eight Member States discussed issues relating to innovation and sustainable development. Speakers highlighted the vital role of regional policy in growth and employment in the regions eligible for the future 2007–13 programmes and took stock of the challenges that lie ahead.

The European Commission presented the ERDF's contribution to achieving the Lisbon strategy along

the three main lines set out in the 'Community strategic guidelines for 2007–13' adopted by the Commission in July: making Europe and the regions more attractive places to invest and work, placing knowledge and innovation at the heart of growth, and creating more and better job opportunities.

Participants included representatives of the national authorities as well as presidents, regional

and provincial ministers and over 200 high-ranking officials responsible for programming and implementation of the ERDF in the Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Hungary, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Commissioner Danuta Hübner took note of the favourable opinions on the EU's regional policy objectives expressed by the participants. 'The Commission,' she said, 'will continue its efforts to support the future "competitiveness" regions in their desire to obtain from the Structural Funds a volume of aid that is able to make a positive contribution to the modernisation and adaptation of their economies, in accordance with the priorities of the Lisbon strategy. Further reductions in the EU financial perspectives for 2007–13 could bring into doubt the significance of a regional competitiveness objective as we would be failing to provide effective support for the realisation of these priorities.'

The debate concentrated on the impulse the Structural Funds should give to regional economies and their substantial contribution to attaining the renewed Lisbon strategy. In this respect, the authorities in a number of Member States expressed concern about the current state of play in negotiations on the EU financial perspectives for 2007–13, considering that the process for the preparation and timely implementation of regional development strategies could be jeopardised.

The meeting gave the regions their first opportunity to exchange views on the content and structure of a national strategic reference framework for the period 2007–13, focusing in particular on the interoperability of regional, national and Community action. Participants were also able to share their

experiences during two workshops on innovation and sustainable development.

### Territorial cooperation

For its part, the Interact secretariat, which is coordinating implementation of the Interreg initiative, held a conference in Brussels on 28 and 29 September on the new generation of European territorial cooperation programmes for the period 2007–13. Present on this occasion were representatives of the managing authorities, joint technical secretariats and other players with a direct interest in preparing these programmes.

Speakers included Georg Schadt of the Austrian Federal Chancellery (Interact managing authority) and, for the Commission, Danuta Hübner (Commissioner responsible for regional policy), Jean-Charles Leygues (Deputy Director-General of the Regional Policy DG) and Elisabeth Helander (Director of territorial cooperation at the Regional Policy DG). The event was attended by some 300 people from all over Europe, most of them representatives of the Interreg managing authorities. A series of workshops were held on the principal challenges facing cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation programmes, as well as questions of follow-up, management and financial control.

### To find out more:

Turin conference: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1154&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Brussels conference: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/557&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## XIth Conference of Presidents of the Most Remote Regions

**Regional Policy Commissioner Danuta Hübner, who is also responsible for coordinating issues relating to the most remote regions for Community policies as a whole, spoke at the XIth Conference of Presidents of the Most Remote Regions, held in Saint-Denis, Réunion, on 3 and 4 September 2005.**

The Commissioner stressed that 'the most remote regions represent first of all an opportunity for Europe' and confirmed the Commission's commitment to taking into account the specificities of these regions in the framework of a strengthened partnership<sup>(1)</sup>.

Danuta Hübner presented recent actions by the Commission in favour of the most remote regions (Azores, Canary Islands, Madeira, Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana and Réunion) and cited the most important issues for the future of these

regions: cohesion policy reform, common organisations for the sugar and banana markets, fisheries, State aid for regional policy and neighbourhood policy issues, research and development, and information and communication technologies.

The Commissioner also attended a conference on 'the maritime dimension of the EU and the contribution of the most remote regions' that contributed to preparing the European Commission Green Paper on maritime policy.

To find out more: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional\\_policy/themes/rup\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/themes/rup_en.htm)

<sup>(1)</sup> Note that a recent European Parliament report, presented by Sergio Marques, argues in favour of this strengthened partnership and supports the Commission's proposal to grant the most remote regions specific aid of EUR 1.1 billion for the period 2007–13.

### 2007–13: Preparing the next generation of programmes with the Inforegio site

The Member States and regions are beginning to prepare the upcoming 2007–13 programming period. The Inforegio site presents extensive information and important documents of interest to all the players interested in the process. The aim is to facilitate exchanges between these players and at the same time inform the general public of the progress made. Do not hesitate to address your questions and contributions to the Regional Policy DG.

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional\\_policy/funds/2007/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/funds/2007/index_en.htm)



**European Commission**  
Directorate-General for Regional Policy