# Report 2010 on the implementation of the cohesion policy programmes for 2007-2013

2010/2139(INI) - 21/02/2011

The Council held a **policy debate** and adopted conclusions on a Commission report, presented in November 2010, on economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU.

The Council conclusions highlight the following points:

(1) the need for **continued pursuit of the objective of reduced disparities** between the development levels of the various regions of the EU and underline the contribution cohesion policy has made towards the EU's competitiveness and growth objectives;

(2) that cohesion policy should focus on a **limited number of priorities**, in line with the Europe 2020 strategy, while maintaining sufficient flexibility to allow for regional needs.

The conclusions call for further discussions on the following Commission suggestions:

- the creation of a "**development and investment partnership contract**", which outlines an investment and development strategy addressing the priorities established under the Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and growth;
- a list of priorities on which EU and national resources should focus;
- conditionalities and incentive mechanisms linked to cohesion policy.

Comments made during the Council debate will provide input to the Commission in its preparation of a legislative package for structural funds after 2013, which is due to be published before the summer.

The Council also adopted without discussion conclusions on a special report by the European Court of Auditors concerning the effectiveness of structural measures spending on the supply of water for domestic consumption, set out in document *6490/11*.