

European Neighbourhood Instrument 2014-2020

2011/0405(COD) - 06/12/2013 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the report by Eduard KUKAN (EPP, SK) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).

The committee recommended that the European Parliament's position at first reading, following the ordinary legislative procedure, should amend the Commission proposal.

The main amendments were as follows:

General objective: the objective of the ENI II should be to ensure shared prosperity and good neighbourliness involving the Union and the countries and territories listed in **Annex I** to this Regulation by developing a special relationship founded on cooperation, peace and security, mutual accountability and shared commitment to universal values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights in accordance with the Treaty on European Union.

Union funding may also be used for the purpose of enabling Russia to participate in Cross-Border Cooperation and in regional cooperation with Union participation and in relevant multi-country programmes, including in cooperation on education, in particular student exchanges.

The Union should **promote the values of democracy through dialogue and cooperation with third countries**. Accordingly, funding under this Regulation shall comply with these values and principles, as well as with the Union's commitments under international law, taking into account relevant Union policies and positions.

Specific objectives: a series of new specific objectives have been added to the programme including:

- the fight against discrimination in all its forms;
- the better organisation of legal migration and cross-border cooperation;
- the reduction of social exclusion;
- the promotion of innovation;
- the **enhancement of regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations**.

Differentiation, incentive measures, performance indicators: Union support provided to each partner country should be incentive-based and differentiated in form and amounts, taking into account all the elements listed below, reflecting the partner country's commitment to and progress in building deep and sustainable democracy and absorption capacity and the potential impact of Union support.

The incentive-based approach shall not apply to support to civil society, people-to-people contacts, including cooperation between local authorities, support for the improvement of human rights, or crisis-related support measures. In the event of serious or persistent regression, such support may be increased.

The incentive-based approach under this Regulation will be the subject of regular exchanges of views in the Council and in the European Parliament.

Follow-up of progress made and reconsideration of support: partner countries' progress shall be regularly assessed, notably by means of European Neighbourhood Policy progress reports which include trends as compared to previous years. Support may be **reconsidered in the event of serious or persistent regression**.

General framework of assistance: assistance under this Regulation should be provided in accordance with the European Neighbourhood Instrument (notably the Eastern Partnership and the Union for the Mediterranean) and also relevant **European Parliament resolutions**.

Impact of civil society: the objectives of this Regulation should be pursued with an appropriate involvement of external action partners, including civil society organisations, in preparing, implementing and monitoring Union support. The ENI should also support the strengthening of the capacity of civil society organisations to guarantee effective domestic accountability and local ownership, and to be full actors in the democratisation processes.

Implementation: provisions have been included to clarify the technical implementation of the ENI II in terms of its strategic planning and programming.

Financial envelope: in accordance with the agreement on the Financial Framework, the financial envelope for the implementation of this Regulation for the period from 2014 to 2020 is set at **EUR 15 432 634 000**. Up to 5% of this amount should be allocated to cross-border cooperation programmes.

It is also stated that the Union should seek the most efficient use of available resources in order to optimise the impact of its external action. This should be achieved through coherence and complementarity between Instruments for external action.

Delegated acts: in order to take account of changes in the enlargement policy framework or of significant developments in the beneficiary countries, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 on the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in respect of adapting and updating the thematic priorities for assistance listed in **Annex II of the future Regulation**. Following the publication of the Mid-term report and based upon the recommendations contained in the mid-term review report, the Commission shall adopt a delegated act amending Annex II to this Regulation **by 31 March 2018**.

Annexes: the future Regulation should comprise of 2 annexes:

Annex I lists the beneficiary countries of the ENI II: - Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya The Republic of Moldova, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine.

Annex II defines the priorities for Union support under this regulation including support at cross-border and multi-country levels.

It should be noted that the amended draft Regulation is accompanied by a series of joint, bilateral or unilateral statements from the EU institutions including:

- a European Parliament statement on the **suspension of assistance** granted under the financial instruments for foreign policy, particularly in cases where a beneficiary country fails to observe the basic principles enunciated in the respective instrument and notably the principles of democracy. (It is stated that the European Parliament considers that any suspension of assistance under these

instruments would modify the overall financial scheme agreed under the ordinary legislative procedure. As a co-legislator, the European Parliament is therefore entitled to fully exercise its prerogatives in that regard, if such a decision is to be taken).

- a Commission declaration on the use of implementing acts for the setting of the provisions for the implementation of certain rules in the European Neighbourhood Instrument and the [IPA II](#);
- a Commission declaration on the strategic dialogue with the European Parliament prior to its programming.