Resolution on simplification and performance orientation in cohesion policy 2014-2020

2015/2772(RSP) - 26/11/2015 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 562 votes to 10, with 41 abstentions, a resolution on Towards simplification and performance orientation in cohesion policy 2014-2020.

Members considered that despite the reformed cohesion policy for the 2014-2020 programming period, in which simplification methods are addressed, application, management, reporting and control with respect to the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) are **still cumbersome for both beneficiaries and managing authorities**, in particular those with fewer administrative and financial capacities.

Therefore, Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to:

- introduce detailed guidelines on simplification in order to make the Member States and their regions aware of their task of eliminating, or at **least significantly reducing, the administrative burden and gold-plating** arising at national and local levels in the processes of procurement, project proposal selection and monitoring and control activities;
- provide the Member States and their regions with a **roadmap** for streamlining and simplifying control, monitoring and reporting activities;
- note the **target date of 31 December 2015** for switching to e-cohesion as a precondition for significantly cutting the application-to-grant time;
- establish and implement, in coordination with the Member States and in line with the principle of proportionality, a **light-touch approach** to data and information requirements for beneficiaries in the process of application and reporting related to EU funding under shared management, and to encourage the sharing of good practices;
- promote **simplification of the rules governing financial instruments** within ESI Funds with a view to aligning them more closely to beneficiaries' needs and ultimately improving their use;
- increase the **use of the multi-fund approach**, taking into consideration the needs of beneficiaries;

Lastly, the Commission is invited to enter into a **structured and permanent dialogue** with Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and other stakeholders on all aspects of this simplification process.