Basic information

2004/2257(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
The role of "Euroregions" in the development of regional policy **Subject** 4.70 Regional policy	

Key players

	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
European Parliament	REGI Regional Development	TRIANTAPHYLLIDES Kyriacos (GUE/NGL)	19/01/2005

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/01/2005	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
06/10/2005	Vote in committee		Summary
19/10/2005	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0311/2005	
01/12/2005	Decision by Parliament	T6-0448/2005	Summary
01/12/2005	Results of vote in Parliament		
01/12/2005	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2004/2257(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	REGI/6/25237

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Amendments tabled in committee		PE360.353	05/08/2005	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0311/2005	19/10/2005	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0448/2005	01/12/2005	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2005)5015	15/12/2005	

The role of "Euroregions" in the development of regional policy

2004/2257(INI) - 01/12/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Kyriacos **TRIANTAPHYLLIDES** (GUE/NGL, CY) on the role of "Euroregions" in the development of regional policy. (Please see the document dated 06/10/2005.) Parliament felt that cross-border cooperation was of fundamental importance to European cohesion and integration and must therefore be given wide support. It called on Member States to promote the use of Euroregions as one of the tools of cross-border co-operation. A Euroregion or similar structure fulfils important cross-border tasks, providing, for example:

- an information and service point for citizens, institutions and regional and local authorities;

- a focal point for common values, aims and strategies;

- a driving force for solving cross-border problems;

- a mouthpiece in all cross-border questions.

Euroregions are a turn table for all cross-border relationships, contacts, knowledge transfers and operational programmes and projects and they need certain legal status to be able to perform their tasks. Cross-border cooperation also makes a considerable contribution to the implementation of the Lisbon strategy through joint innovation and research, R&D networks across borders and the exchange of best practice. Parliament felt that it was particularly important that the microproject form of assistance, as provided for in the Commission's Communication INTERREG III, be maintained under the Structural Funds.

Parliament went on to underline the need to give priority to eliminating disparities between regions in the new Member States and in the old Member States, as well as the need to extend the concept of Euroregions and similar structures, even though they do not necessarily have the legal competencies to include multiple facets of co-operation. Possible fields of mutual interest could include promoting culture, education, tourism and economic issues as well as, where applicable, fighting organised crime, drug trafficking and fraud in partnership with relevant national institutions.

Parliament called for Euroregions and similar structures as proposed in the legal framework of the EGCC to be enabled to develop and manage cross-border programmes in the EU as well as programmes in line with the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance as from the year 2007 onwards in partnership with national institutions.

Finally, it stressed the need to support cross-border co-operation and the establishment of Euroregions, including regions in the sensitive area of the Middle East, in an effort to promote friendly relations, stability, security and economic interests in terms of mutual respect and benefit.