Basic information

2009/2232(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Transparency in regional policy and its funding **Subject** 4.70 Regional policy 4.70.03 Community initiatives, Community support frameworks	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	REGI Regional Development	TREMOPOULOS Michail (Verts/ALE)	06/10/2009
		Shadow rapporteur DEUTSCH Tamás (PPE) WESTPHAL Kerstin (S&D) GODMANIS Ivars (ALDE) VLASÁK Oldřich (ECR) ANGOURAKIS Charalampos (GUE/NGL)	
European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**	
	Regional and Urban Policy	HAHN Johannes	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/12/2009	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
27/04/2010	Vote in committee		Summary
05/05/2010	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0139/2010	
15/06/2010	Decision by Parliament	T7-0201/2010	Summary
15/06/2010	Results of vote in Parliament		
15/06/2010	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2009/2232(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	REGI/7/01791

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE439.304	26/02/2010	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE440.029	29/03/2010	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0139/2010	05/05/2010	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0201/2010	15/06/2010	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2010)6508	27/10/2010	

Transparency in regional policy and its funding

2009/2232(INI) - 15/06/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 629 votes to 6, with 26 abstentions, a resolution on transparency in regional policy and its funding.

The resolution stipulates that the European Transparency Initiative (ETI) was adopted by the Commission and that the Green Paper was published in 2006 with the aim of improving the transparency, openness and accountability of EU governance. Information on beneficiaries of EU funds is managed at Member State level, however, in the absence of a specific EU obligation or a strong ‘steer’ from the Commission, the level to which such information is made public differs substantially from Member State to Member State, making an EU-wide comparison difficult.

Parliament considers that transparency in respect of cohesion policy and its programming cycle, allocation of expenditure and access to information for potential beneficiaries of the Structural Funds are key prerequisites for achieving the overall objectives of cohesion policy, and that transparency should therefore be introduced as a **guiding cross-sectoral principle** in the cohesion programming and decision-making processes.

Disclosure of data on beneficiaries of cohesion funding: Members note with satisfaction that, in compliance with the ETI requirements, interactive maps providing links to the lists of ERDF and Cohesion Fund beneficiaries available on the respective national or regional websites are published on the website of the Commission’s Directorate General for Regional Policy. They call on the Member States to **promote DG REGIO's website** with a view to facilitating the widest possible access to that database.

The resolution stresses that the **usefulness of the data provided on beneficiaries needs to be improved** in terms of both content and presentation. Parliament calls, therefore, on the Commission to define a more detailed and prescriptive format specifying the structure, form and content of the information to be provided. It also calls for additional essential information to be provided when publishing the lists of beneficiaries and where needed the lists of stakeholders, such as location, summaries of approved projects, types of support and a description of the project partners.

Transparency and shared management:Parliament invites theCommission to **clarify how the ETI principles should be put into practice in operational terms** at the level of operational programmes and their communication plans. It stresses the need to introduce clearer rules regarding the disclosure of information on the beneficiaries of funds under shared management.

Parliament underlines the need to formulate regulations and implementing rules in such a way that procedures are transparent, provide better access to the Structural Funds for potential beneficiaries and reduce administrative burdens for participants. It calls on the managing authorities in the Member States to **present, in transparent fashion, all stages of projects financed by the Structural Funds**.

Noting that **cross-border and transnational programmes** face specific difficulties due to the different administrative culture, national regulations and languages being used in Member States, Members consider that development of specific rules regarding transparency in coordination and cooperation among different managing authorities would be most important.

The resolution underlines that, according to the EP's study on the ETI and its impact on Cohesion Policy, non-compliance with ETI minimum requirements relates to a **lack of administrative capacity** on the part of Managing Authorities rather than reluctance to provide such data. It stresses the need to assure that the **provision of additional data and information does not result in an additional administrative burden for potential beneficiaries**. The resolution also points out that the requirement for additional information and data has to be matched, on the part of the European Commission, by the provision of **additional technical support** to potential beneficiaries which do not have the necessary technical capacity.

Moreover, auditors are urged to take a tougher line on communication and information requirements, including 'naming and shaming' - particularly if a governmental actor is involved - and the use of financial corrections in confirmed cases of fraud.

Transparency and partnership: Parliament reiterates the view that partnership is a prerequisite for transparency, responsiveness, efficiency and legitimacy in all the phases of cohesion programming and implementation. It calls on the Member States and managing authorities fully to **involve regional and local authorities and other relevant partners more closely in all the phases of cohesion programming and implementation**, including through an internet platform at national level.

Members call for more guidance from the Commission on how to put the partnership clause into practice under current programmes, and for **sufficiently binding rules** on partnership in future regulatory texts, particularly as regards the involvement of regional and local authorities.

The resolution calls for the provision of better-targeted and regular and timely information to partner organisations and for enhanced use of technical assistance to support partnership, inter alia by giving partner organisations the opportunity to take part in **training events** organised for delivery bodies. These training events to be accessible in multimedia versions in order to broaden the target audience (e.g. to outermost regions) and to allow ex-post consultation by partner organisations.

Improving transparency in respect of EU funding of major projects: Parliament calls on the Commission to publish online information in good time, and to guarantee direct access to project documentation on major projects, as soon as possible after the Commission receives an application for funding from a Member State and before it takes any decision on financing.

Lastly, the resolution calls for information on major projects approved or submitted for approval in the 2007-2013 programming period to be published on the internet with retroactive effect.