

Basic information

2015/0160(COD)

COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Regulation

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), Cohesion Fund (CF), and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF): specific measures for Greece

Amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 [2011/0276\(COD\)](#)

See also [2018/2038\(INI\)](#)

See also [2018/2501\(RSP\)](#)

Subject

3.15.17 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
4.10.15 European Social Fund (ESF), Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)
4.70.02 Cohesion policy, Cohesion Fund (CF)
4.70.07 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Geographical area

Greece

Procedure completed

Key players

European
Parliament

Committee responsible

REGI Regional Development

Rapporteur

MIHAYLOVA Iskra (ALDE)

Appointed

03/09/2015

Shadow rapporteur

LEWER Andrew (ECR)

Committee for opinion

BUDG Budgets

Rapporteur for opinion

The committee decided not to give an opinion.

Appointed

EMPL Employment and Social Affairs

HÄNDEL Thomas (GUE/NGL)

03/09/2015

PECH Fisheries

The committee decided not to give an opinion.

Committee for budgetary assessment

BUDG Budgets

Rapporteur for budgetary assessment

ARTHUIS Jean (ALDE)

Appointed

03/09/2015

Council of the European Union			
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Regional and Urban Policy	CREȚU Corina	
European Economic and Social Committee			
European Committee of the Regions			

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/07/2015	Legislative proposal published	COM(2015)0365 	Summary
07/09/2015	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
17/09/2015	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
23/09/2015	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A8-0260/2015	Summary
05/10/2015	Debate in Parliament		
06/10/2015	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T8-0332/2015	Summary
06/10/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
08/10/2015	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
14/10/2015	Final act signed		
14/10/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		
15/10/2015	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2015/0160(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 2011/0276(COD) See also 2018/2038(INI) See also 2018/2501(RSP)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 177-p1
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE567.648	15/09/2015	
Specific opinion	BUDG	PE567.649	15/09/2015	
Committee opinion	EMPL	PE567.665	16/09/2015	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0260/2015	23/09/2015	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0332/2015	06/10/2015	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Draft final act	00050/2015/LEX	14/10/2015	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission document (COM)	COM(2015)0400 	15/07/2015	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2015)0365 	17/07/2015	Summary

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	ES_PARLIAMENT	COM(2015)0365	20/10/2015	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES4723/2015	08/10/2015	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), Cohesion Fund (CF), and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF): specific measures for Greece

2015/0160(COD) - 06/10/2015 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 586 votes to 87, with 21 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund as regards specific measures for Greece.

Parliament considered that the proposed amending Regulation is an exceptional measure, aimed at providing immediate support to Greece by enabling it to access and use before the end of 2015 Union funding for cohesion policy still available from the 2007-2013 programming period, and therefore its adoption is urgent.

The position adopted by the Parliament at first reading following the ordinary legislative procedure provides the following:

- in order to ensure that Greece has sufficient financial means to start the implementation of 2014-2020 programmes supported by the Funds and the EMFF in 2015 and 2016, it is appropriate to **increase the level of the initial pre-financing** paid to its operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal and to programmes supported by the EMFF through the payment of an additional initial pre-financing amount of 3.5% of the amount of support from the Funds and the EMFF for the entire programming period shall be paid to operational programmes in Greece each year in 2015 and 2016;
- in order to improve the effective use of available funding for the financing of operations under operational programmes for the Convergence and Regional competitiveness and employment objectives supported by the Funds which were adopted for the 2007-2013 period in Greece, the **maximum co-financing rates should be increased** and the **ceiling for payments to programmes at the end of the programming period raised**.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), Cohesion Fund (CF), and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF): specific measures for Greece

2015/0160(COD) - 14/10/2015 - Final act

PURPOSE: to assist Greece to optimise the use it makes of the European structural and investment funds and to improve the situation regarding lack of liquidity in order to stimulate jobs and growth.

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Regulation (EU) 2015/1839 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 as regards specific measures for Greece.

CONTENT: Greece has been affected by the consequences of the financial crisis in a unique manner. The crisis has led to persistently negative gross domestic product growth rates in Greece over a number of years, which, in turn, has caused serious liquidity shortages and a lack of public funds available for the public investment needed to foster a sustainable recovery.

This amending Regulation is **an exceptional measure, the aim of which is to provide a solution for the lack of liquidity and of public funds in Greece** for investment under programmes supported by the [European Regional Development Fund](#), the [European Social Fund \(ESF\)](#) and the [Cohesion Fund](#) and by the [European Maritime and Fisheries Fund \(EMFF\)](#).

Specifically, the amendments made to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 aim to:

1) **ensure that Greece has sufficient financial means to start the implementation of 2014-2020 programmes supported by the Funds and the EMFF in 2015 and 2016:** to this end, the Regulation increases the level of the initial pre-financing paid to its operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal and to programmes supported by the EMFF through the **payment of an additional initial pre-financing amount of 3.5%** of the amount of support from the Funds and the EMFF for the entire programming period to operational programmes in Greece each year in 2015 and 2016.

The additional initial pre-financing shall not apply to programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal nor to the specific allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative.

To ensure that the additional initial pre-financing amount is effectively used, the additional initial pre-financing amount should be repaid to the Commission if it is not followed by an adequate level of payment applications submitted to the Commission within a certain deadline;

2) **improve the effective use of available funding under cohesion policy** for the financing of operations under operational programmes for the Convergence and Regional competitiveness and employment objectives supported by the Funds which were adopted for the 2007-2013 period in Greece: for this purpose, the Regulation sets out a **maximum EU co-financing rate of 100 %** to the eligible expenditure indicated for Greek operational programmes for the Convergence and Regional competitiveness and employment objectives

ENTRY INTO FORCE : 16.10.2015.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), Cohesion Fund (CF), and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF): specific measures for Greece

2015/0160(COD) - 15/07/2015 - Document attached to the procedure

PURPOSE: to mobilise the EU budget to provide a new start for jobs and growth in Greece.

BACKGROUND: at the **Euro Summit of 12 July 2015**, the Commission was asked to help support job and growth creation in Greece in the next three to five years. It tasked the Commission to work closely with the Greek authorities to **mobilise up to EUR 35 billion** (under various EU programmes) to fund investment and economic activity, including in SMEs. The decisions reached at the Euro Summit on 12 July 2015 **testify to the willingness of the Euro area to support Greece** provided it takes the necessary steps to restore trust and credibility and return to sustainability.

EU funding has been the primary source of public investment in Greece during the crisis. The support and relief from which Greece has benefitted in recent years and will receive in coming years from the EU, Member States, other international parties and private investors amounts to more than EUR 400 billion. This represents more than 230% of Greek GDP in 2014.

The situation remains difficult in Greece at this point in time. Tight financial conditions, uncertainty about the overall economic situation, hesitations about priorities and remaining administrative bottlenecks are disrupting the investment plans of many actors, and putting into question the ability of the authorities to make good and full use of the available EU funding.

An important number of projects for cohesion policy are currently at risk of not being completed. Moreover, if the Greek authorities do not make full use of the EU funding which is still available under the 2007-2013 financing period by the end of 2015, an amount of nearly EUR 2 billion for cohesion policy, this unused funding would be lost. Moreover, for Greece to benefit from EU funding, it is also essential that basic legal requirements, in terms of respect of EU rules, sound financial management of the funds and accounting, are fully respected.

CONTENT: the purpose of this Communication is to outline a **renewed approach to the substantial means available from the EU budget** to serve as a new start for jobs and growth in Greece. This Communication will **complement the comprehensive set of reforms** and commitments which Greece is in the process of implementing and which will underpin a stability support programme for Greece under the Treaty establishing a European Stability Mechanism.

Mobilisation of EUR 35 million from the EU budget: with the support of the Commission, Greece is expected to be able to receive more than EUR 35 billion from the EU budget over the 2014-2020 financing period.

EUR 20 billion from the [European Structural and Investment Funds](#) could be mobilised to create jobs and sustainable growth, and Greek farmers should continue to benefit from direct payments of over **EUR 15 billion**.

Exceptional measures: Greece currently enjoys **preferential treatment** given its very specific circumstances. Greek programmes financed with the EU funds under 2007-2013 programming period receive a higher proportion of EU financing – and hence Greece is required to co-finance less – than many other countries.

Lately, the **lack of availability of public funds** has made it **difficult for local and regional as well as national authorities to take forward much needed investments**.

As an exceptional measure and in light of the unique situation of Greece, the Commission:

- proposes to improve **immediate liquidity** so that investments can still be funded in the 2007-2013 programming period. These will include early release of the last 5% of remaining EU payments normally retained until the closure of the programmes and applying a 100% co-financing rate for the 2007-2013 period. This would translate into immediate additional liquidity of some EUR 500 million and a saving for the Greek budget of around EUR 2 billion. This money will be available to immediately resume financing for investments supporting growth and job;
- proposes to **increase the rate of initial pre-financing for programmes for 2014-2020 in Greece by 7 percentage points**. This extra pre-financing can make an additional EUR 1 billion available to be used only for the launch of the projects co-financed under the cohesion policy.

All these measures will be implemented within the country allocations agreed in the current multi-financial framework for 2014-2020.

Technical support: Greece will also continue to benefit from technical support for reforms and implementation from the Commission's **new Structural Reform Support Service**, which began its work on 1 July and builds on the valuable experience of the Task Force for Greece and other technical assistance provided to Member States.

If requested by Greece, the Commission is ready to continue its support in designing and/or implementing structural and institutional reforms within this new technical assistance framework. One immediate task would be to **support Greece in maximising its absorption of EU funds**, ensuring the fastest possible take-off of investment and ensuring that sound financial management requirements and relevant deadlines are met. Within the EU Funds under the 2014-2020 programming period, nearly half a billion euro is available for technical assistance in the area of cohesion policy.

The Commission is also setting up a **pilot Technical Assistance Trust-Fund of EUR 1.5 million**, which is expected to be managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

The [Investment Plan for Europe](#) can play a crucial role for jobs and growth in Greece. The new [European Fund for Strategic Investment \(EFSI\)](#) will benefit commercially viable investment projects in Greece.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), Cohesion Fund (CF), and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF): specific measures for Greece

2015/0160(COD) - 17/07/2015 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to ensure that Greece has sufficient financial means to start the implementation of 2014-2020 programmes supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: Greece has been affected by the consequences of the financial crisis in a unique manner. It has led to persistently negative GDP growth rates in Greece over a number of years, which, in turn, has caused serious liquidity shortages and a lack of public funds available for the public investment needed to foster a sustainable recovery. This has created an exceptional situation which needs to be addressed with specific measures.

However, it is vital that the lack of liquidity and of public funds in Greece do not hinder investment under programmes supported by the [European Regional Development Fund](#), the [European Social Fund](#) and the [Cohesion Fund](#) (the Funds) and by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

In its Communication entitled "[A new start for Jobs and Growth in Greece](#)", the Commission proposed measures to ensure that the available EU funding from the Funds and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), is effectively used for investments on the ground and reaches beneficiaries as rapidly as possible.

CONTENT: as an exceptional measure and given the unique situation this has created in Greece, the Commission proposes to amend [Regulation \(EU\) No 1303/2013](#) on the common provisions on the European Structural and European Investment Funds as follows:

- in order to ensure that Greece has sufficient financial means to start the implementation of 2014-2020 programmes supported by the Funds and the EMFF in 2015 and 2016, the Commission proposes to **increase the level of the initial pre-financing paid to its operational programmes** under the Investment for Growth and Jobs Goal and to programmes supported by the EMFF through the payment of an additional initial pre-financing amount in those years to give an immediate boost to investment;
- in order to improve the effective use of available cohesion policy funding for the financing of operations under programmes adopted for the 2007-2013 period, it proposes to **increase the maximum co-financing rates and to raise the ceiling for payments to programmes at the end of the programming period**.

In concrete terms, it is proposed to amend Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 to allow for the ceiling for the cumulative total of pre-financing and interim payments to be 100% and to increase the co-financing rate for 2007-2013 operational programmes for the Convergence and the Regional competitiveness and employment objectives in Greece to 100%.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: the proposed consists of frontloading payment appropriations and is **budgetary neutral** over the 2014-2020 period.

The additional payment appropriations necessary to cover the immediate consequence of an increase of 2007-2013 co-financing rates and removal of the ceiling for payments are EUR 500 million in 2015 and EUR 500 million for the additional initial pre-financing in 2015.

These additional payment appropriations can potentially be covered by payment appropriations foreseen for interim payments for the 2014-2020 programmes depending on the progress of submission of interim payment applications in 2015.

The additional pre-financing of EUR 500 million for 2016 was however not foreseen in the draft budget 2016. Nor was the impact in 2016 of the increase in the maximum co-financing rates and in the ceiling for payments for 2007-2013 programmes.

The Commission is therefore likely to propose to **cover the additional payment needs through an amending letter to the 2016 draft**. The estimated impact on 2017 will be included in the next budgetary procedure.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), Cohesion Fund (CF), and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF): specific measures for Greece

2015/0160(COD) - 23/09/2015 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Regional Development adopted the report by Iskra MIHAYLOVA (ADLE, BG) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund as regards specific measures for Greece.

The Committee recommended the European Parliament to adopt its position at first reading, **taking over the Commission proposal**.

The proposed amending Regulation is an exceptional measure, aimed at providing immediate support to Greece by enabling it to access and use before the end of 2015 Union funding for cohesion policy still available from the 2007-2013 programming period. Therefore, Members consider that its adoption is urgent.