Basic information

2017/2225(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Impact of EU cohesion policy on Northern Ireland **Subject** 4.70.02 Cohesion policy, Cohesion Fund (CF) **Geographical area** United Kingdom	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
REGI Regional Development	VAUGHAN Derek (S&D)	07/09/2017
	Shadow rapporteur NOVAKOV Andrey (PPE) FLACK John (ECR) PAET Urmas (ALDE) ANDERSON Martina (GUE/NGL) REINTKE Terry (Verts/ALE) D'AMATO Rosa (EFDD)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	VAUGHAN Derek (S&D)	07/12/2017

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Regional and Urban Policy	CREȚU Corina

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
26/10/2017	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/06/2018	Vote in committee		

27/06/2018	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0240/2018	Summary
10/09/2018	Debate in Parliament		
11/09/2018	Decision by Parliament	T8-0323/2018	Summary
11/09/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
11/09/2018	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2017/2225(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Implementation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	REGI/8/11295

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE620.793	11/04/2018	
Committee opinion	CONT	PE620.996	15/05/2018	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE622.106	16/05/2018	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0240/2018	27/06/2018	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0323/2018	11/09/2018	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2018)829	11/03/2019	

Impact of EU cohesion policy on Northern Ireland

2017/2225(INI) - 27/06/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Regional Development adopted the own-initiative report by Derek VAUGHAN (S&D, UK) on the impact of EU cohesion policy on Northern Ireland.

Underlining the positive contribution of EU cohesion policy to Northern Ireland, particularly in terms of assisting the recovery of deprived areas and of building cross-community contacts in the context of the peace process, Members welcomed the **commitment to future funding in the Commission's draft multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2021-2027.**

They pointed out that in addition to the more general cohesion policy funds, Northern Ireland has benefited in particular from special cross-border and inter- and cross-community programmes, particularly the **PEACE Programme** (more than EUR 1.5 billion since 1995), which has decisively contributed to the peace process in Northern Ireland, supports the Good Friday Agreement and continues to support the reconciliation of communities. More than EUR 1 billion in EU financial assistance will be spent on economic and social development in Northern Ireland and the neighbouring regions in the **current financing period**, of which:

- EUR 230 million will be invested in the Northern Ireland PEACE Programme (with a total budget of almost EUR 270 million) and
- EUR 240 million in the Interreg V-A programme for Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland (with a total budget of EUR 280 million).

The committee believed that the special EU programmes for Northern Ireland are of key importance for **sustaining the peace process**, as they foster cross-community trust-building measures, and measures for a peaceful coexistence. The funding is seen as ‘neutral money’ in Northern Ireland and the committee feared that an end to these programmes would endanger cross-border and inter- and cross-community trust-building activities and, as a consequence, the peace process;

In addition to the Commission’s intention to propose the continuation of the PEACE and Interreg programmes in its proposal for the MFF 2021-2027, Members noted the **UK position paper** on the future of Cohesion Policy of April 2018, in which the UK states its willingness to explore a potential successor to PEACE IV, as well as Interreg V-A, for the post-2020 period with the Northern Ireland Executive, the Irish Government and the EU, in addition to its engagement to honour commitments to PEACE and Interreg under the current MFF.

Members went on to stress that the Northern Irish reconciliation process is a positive example for other areas in the EU which have experienced conflict, and good practices with cohesion funding and the **PEACE Programme should be taken as the EU model** and promoted in order to overcome mistrust among communities in conflict and to achieve lasting peace in other parts of Europe and even worldwide.

Lastly, Members felt that more must be done to **inform the general public** about the impact of EU-funded projects for the peace process and the economic development of the region.

Impact of EU cohesion policy on Northern Ireland

2017/2225(INI) - 11/09/2018 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 565 votes to 51, with 65 abstentions, a resolution on the impact of EU cohesion policy on Northern Ireland.

The important role of cohesion policy: underlining the positive contribution of EU cohesion policy to Northern Ireland, particularly in terms of assisting the recovery of deprived areas and of building cross-community contacts in the context of the peace process, **Parliament welcomed the commitment to future funding in the Commission’s draft multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2021-2027**.

It pointed out that in addition to the more general cohesion policy funds, Northern Ireland has benefited in particular from special cross-border and inter- and cross-community programmes, particularly the PEACE Programme (more than EUR 1.5 billion since 1995), which has decisively contributed to the peace process in Northern Ireland, supports the Good Friday Agreement and continues to support the reconciliation of communities. More than EUR 1 billion in EU financial assistance will be spent on economic and social development in Northern Ireland and the neighbouring regions in the **current financing period**, of which:

- EUR 230 million will be invested in the Northern Ireland PEACE Programme (with a total budget of almost EUR 270 million) and
- EUR 240 million in the Interreg V-A programme for Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland (with a total budget of EUR 280 million).

Post 2020: funding is considered "neutral" in Northern Ireland and Members expressed concern that the end of these programmes may endanger cross-border and inter- and cross-community trust-building activities and, as a consequence, the peace process.

Without prejudice to the negotiations between the Union and the United Kingdom, Parliament considered it essential that Northern Ireland be able to participate in **certain special Union programmes beyond 2020**, such as the PEACE programme and the Interreg V-A programme for Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland. It also requested, in the context of the post-2020 MFF, that all relevant financial instruments be implemented to enable the objectives of cohesion policy to be pursued.

Parliament noted the Commission’s intention to propose the **continuation of the PEACE and Interreg programmes** in its proposal for the MFF 2021-2027. It also took note of the UK position paper on the future of Cohesion Policy of April 2018, in which the UK states its willingness to **explore a potential successor to PEACE IV, as well as Interreg V-A**, for the post-2020 period.

In addition, Members considered that it is essential that the people of Northern Ireland, and in particular young people, should continue to have access to economic, social and cultural exchanges across Europe, particularly to the **Erasmus+ programme**.

Lastly, Parliament stressed that good practices with cohesion funding and the PEACE Programme should be taken as the **EU model** and promoted in order to overcome mistrust among communities in conflict and to achieve lasting peace in other parts of Europe and even worldwide.