

-REGI NEWS-

Newsletter from the European Parliament
Committee on Regional Development

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This newsletter will provide a monthly update on parliamentary debates and votes in the field of regional and cohesion policy.

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http://www.europarl.eu.int/comparl/regi/newsletter/default_en.htm

At its constituent meeting, REGI members elected Mr **Gerardo Galeote Quecedo (PPE-DE, ES)** as their chairman. First vice-chairman: Mr Evgeni Kirilov (PSE, BG); Second vice-chairman: Mr Jan Marian Olbrycht (EPP-DE, PL); Third vice-chairman: Ms Filiz Husmenova (ALDE, BG); Fourth vice-chairman: Mr Rolf Berend (PPE-DE). The REGI committee will consist of 57 Members and 51 Substitutes.

The co-ordinators in the REGI committee are:

- Mr Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE-DE, NL)
- Ms Constanze Krehl (PSE, DE)
- Mr Jean-Marie Beaupuy (ALDE, FR)
- Mr Mieczysław Janowski (UEN, PL)
- Ms Elisabeth Schroedter (Verts/ALE, DE)
- Mr Kyriacos Triantaphyllides (GUE/NGL, CY)
- Mr Vladimír Zelený (IND/DEM, CS)
- Mr Dimitar Stoyanov (ITS, BG)
- Ms Jana Bobosikova (NI, CS)

Deputy:

- Mr Markus Pieper (PPE-DE, NL)
- Mr Oldřich Vlasák (PPE-DE, CS)

REGI Committee meeting

2 May 2007, Brussels

Exchange of views

❖ **Preparation of the European Commission's 4th Report on Cohesion**

❖ **Legislative programme 2008**

- with Commissioner for Regional Policy Ms Danuta Hübner

The Commissioner informed the committee that the 4th Cohesion report would be adopted by the Commission on 30 May and that she would present it to the committee at its meeting of 7th June 2007. As well as analysing regional disparities the report discusses the contribution of community policies to cohesion in the EU. As requested on many occasions by the EP, the cohesion analysis has been based on a whole series of indicators including, inter alia, GDP, population decline, population changes (ageing), migration, energy, sustainability and environment. The report also seeks to assess the contribution of synergies between European regional policy and other Community policies on the one hand, and between European regional policy and different national structural policies on the other.

The overall picture presented was that cohesion was functioning and that underdeveloped regions were steadily moving towards the EU average. However, challenges remained, and the enlarged EU was confronted with new problems. Thus many of the regions of EU's recently joined Member States were facing population decline and their economies, often based on traditional industries, were the ones most affected by globalisation (e.g. textile or leather industries). A further problem was generated by the concentration of leading economic regions in a relatively small area as this often resulted in high levels of pollution, skill shortages, overcrowding and housing problems.

According to the Commission report, the climate change was also of major concern to many regions which are likely to experience its negative effects within a short period of time. The situation was exacerbated by the fact that national budgets were restricted and public investment declining. The policy has therefore shifted emphasis to job creation, addressing social exclusion and developing the knowledge based economy. However, the Commissioner was pleased to inform those present that the global picture of the effect of Cohesion policy was clearly positive, in terms of socio-economic development as in terms of public

governance. The adoption of the report by the Commission will represent the beginning of the consultation process, including a "Cohesion Forum" on 27th and 28th September.

Concerning the Commission's programme for 2008, the Commissioner pointed out that 5 countries' National Strategic Reference Frameworks had at this date been approved by the Commission (Austria, Malta, Greece, Denmark and Lithuania); it was likely that also the programmes for Hungary, Germany and Poland would be approved soon. Those of France, UK and Italy were delayed. The delay was partially to be explained by the heavy consultation procedures undertaken in certain Member States such as the UK. Nevertheless the Commissioner expressed hope that all the programmes would be adopted by July - there was little chance that delays, such as those experienced in implementing the 1999-2006 programmes, would recur. The Commissioner also announced a new monitoring procedure aiming at assessing structural change of investment, based on more than 100 categories of investment.

Moreover, the Commission's annual policy strategy 2008 confirms the important role cohesion policy plays for achieving prosperity and solidarity within the Union. The importance of this policy will be reflected in a debate at the European Council during spring 2008 on how the cohesion policy contributes to achieving the Lisbon objectives.

In terms of new initiatives, the Commission is set to publish a Communication on the territorial dimension of cohesion policy, in order to address issues such as how the territorial dimension is taken into account and to look at the new challenges for cohesion policy due to the territorial specificities of EU regions. The Commission will also organise a conference on the new instrument 'the European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation' (EGTC) in 2008.

Stock taking of the previous programming period will start with the launch of the ex-post evaluations and the follow-up actions of the cohesion forum taking place in September 2007.

In the debate that followed Members put forward the fundamental link between a well prepared 2008 work programme and the mid-term financial review. The relation between Cohesion policy and the Lisbon Strategy should be further reinforced, since EU's Structural Policy had a crucial role to play in enhancing competitiveness.

Members raised the following points which were asked to particularly be addressed by the Commission in the initial implementation phase of the cohesion policy:

- The necessity for coordinating operational programmes on site, thus avoiding, for example the regeneration of a town quarter without the necessary accompanying transport infrastructure.
- The need to reinforce the administrative capacity of the local and regional authorities so as to ensure their capacity to handle and manage the assistance.
- The necessity to ensure the respect of environmental aspects of development.
- The inclusion of gender mainstreaming in operational programmes.
- The more intensive support of regional clusters in respect to the Lisbon strategy.
- The better inclusion of sub regional authorities.

Finally, the Committee agreed with the Commissioner that the 2008 work programme has to be closely linked to the preparation of the mid-term financial review.

Hearing

- Presentation of a study on the Possibilities for success of the Sustainable Communities - method and its implementation

The external study under the management of the Parliament's Policy Department B (Structural and Cohesion Policies) was presented by Professor John

Shutt, Professor of regional development and Director of the European Regional Business and Economic Development Unit at Leeds Business School, with the participation of Mr Vitas Matuzas (Mayor of Panevėžys, Lithuania), Mr Michel De Bievre (Chief Executive Officer, Tour Taxis) and Ms Gillian Taylor (Chief Executive Officer, Academy for Sustainable Communities, ASC)

Professor Shutt reminded the REGI Members that the Bristol Accord defined sustainable communities as 'Places where people want to live and work, now and in the future'. In reviewing existing studies dealing with this question the authors underlined that the European Commission's promotion of a 'Europe of the Regions' had been a productive starting point. Of particular importance had also been the development of a more integrated spatial development framework for the whole of the European Territory and the European Spatial Development Prospective (ESDP). The study pointed to the differences in Member States' initial reaction to the 2005 Bristol Accord. It was likely that different reasons were behind the limited formal responses so far, however, many Member States had developed National Development Plans Strategies incorporating many of the policy themes which will be renewed at the European Council in December 2007.

A more theoretic part of the hearing was balanced by the practical insights provided by key local actors and practitioners. Firstly, a video presented the Valdespartera project known as Ecocity on the urban area of Zaragoza. This was an example of innovative sustainable development seeking to address the challenges of social inclusion as well as implementing a good environmental design while making use of best practice in sustainable building.

Mr Matuzas presented innovative methods of democratic and responsible civic participation with positive economic and environmental effects in the city of Panevėžys. Lastly with regard to the case studies presented, Mr de Bièvre highlighted the development potential of the site Tour and Taxis and invited the REGI Members to personally visit the site.

While taking the floor, Ms Gill Taylor emphasised the importance of the year 2007 for the promotion of sustainable communities and called for the organisation of a next meeting to follow Leipzig in order to further discuss the implementation of the Leipzig Charter.

In the debate that followed, Members agreed with Professor Shutt concerning the inadequacy of the EUROSTAT indicators for regional studies. There were, furthermore, a clearly need to:

- increase the exchange of best practices through networking;
- put in place multi-disciplinary teams to develop technical skills;
- adopt an integrated approach of urban sustainable development;
- ensure a pragmatic approach in project development as well as in preparing strategic plans.

Representative of the European Investment Bank (EIB) drew attention to the implication of the EIB in supporting urban development (restructuring of urban areas, renovation works, including social housing, urban transport, etc.). At the same time, the close cooperation with the Commission led to the success of, inter alia, both the JASPERS and the JESSICA initiatives. Furthermore, the EIB was said to be willing to develop three areas of action:

- support to projects specific to building sustainable communities, aiming at developing more tailor made solutions for cities;
- step up networking in order to exchange best practices and information and develop common indicators in support of future development;
- further develop JESSICA.

Commission official from DG REGIO insisted on the potential of peer-learning between municipal actors. She also underlined the importance of the Urban Audit regrouping key indicators on living conditions in 258 cities within the EU. The Audit contains almost 300 statistical indicators (on demography, society, economy, environment, transport,

information society and leisure), which gives the possibility to compare the situation in different European cities and to obtain detailed socio-economic portraits of individual urban areas.

Consideration of draft opinion

❖ **A roadmap for renewable energy in Europe**

- Draftsperson: Marian Harkin (ALDE)

In presenting the draft opinion, the draftsperson highlighted the conclusions of the European Council of 9 March 2007 that, until a global and comprehensive post 2012 agreement is concluded, the EU should make a solid commitment to achieve at least a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas by 2020 compared to 1990 and the highly ambitious quantified targets on energy efficiency, renewable energies and the use of bio-fuels. The draftsperson welcomed the fact that the 'New Energy Policy for Europe' fully respected Member States choice of energy mix and their sovereignty over primary energy sources.

Further to the presentation of a draft opinion, the Commission was asked to come forward with its proposed directive on renewable energies as soon as possible and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the regions and local authorities in policy implementation. According to the draftsperson, of importance for the Member States was a prompt proceeding, if not yet done, with the implementation of the Directive on Energy Performance in Buildings. In this regard, the regions and local authorities were asked to insist systematically on the need for new constructions and buildings to be carbon neutral and to simplify and speed up the administrative procedures required for the development of renewable sources of energy.

Regional and local authorities, as well as NGOs, could benefit of funding under FP7 to promote Renewable Energy technologies and the use of Bio-fuels. Investments in new technologies were also important to encourage in order to promote

environmental sustainability and enhancing business competitiveness, not at least when considering the challenges coming from the climate change.

In the following debate between the REGI Members, the key role played by the regional level for the EU to be able to reach the targets on renewable energy set by the Council in March was underlined. Also, the need to for the EU to act with together with its neighbours was highlighted; the issue could not be treated by the Union alone. A strategy and proper cooperation with surrounding countries were, therefore, held as crucial.

The unique characteristics of many EU regions called for renewable energy policies to be tailored to meet these differences. On the need to develop and come forward with new technology, certain Members asked for information to be made available for all regions and local authorities. Members also urged for red tape to be reduced and administrative procedures to be simplified in order for processes in implementing policies in the area to be efficient. In this regard, best practices in the field were mentioned as important to disseminate among the concerned authorities. One Member put forward the way energy utilisation-rational could act, mentioning that the constructional aspect in regional/city planning could be further developed (with intelligent buildings for example).

Concerning the financial aspect, investments were further needed, also with the perspective that the costs will be paid of in the long term. Different conditions could maybe be elaborated in this regard, to permit more regions to invest in energy saving technologies.

Moreover, conveying young people the efficient way of energy use could also serve the Union in the long term towards achieving targets on energy efficiency, renewable energies and the use of bio-fuels.

While taking the floor, the Commission representative recalled the regional aspect's importance for the coming work on developing accurate energy policies for the EU; cross-border thinking being a prerequisite. The Members were

reminded that the Commission will publish legislative proposals at the end of 2007.

The deadline for tabling amendments has been set to 9 May, and the draft opinion is planned to be voted in the REGI committee on 7 June 2007.

❖ **A renewed EU tourism policy:
Towards a stronger partnership for
European Tourism**

- Draftsperson: Stavros Arnautakis (PSE)

(COM(2006)0134)

Fond : TRAN

In introducing the draft opinion, the REGI draftsperson held that tourism has a concrete impact on the economic, social and territorial cohesion of all Member States, and for some areas in the Union tourism is a primary resource. Historic and cultural heritages linked with the preservation of the environment were, accordingly, essential for building Europe's competitive advantage in the field of tourism while guaranteeing sustainable development of European regions, cities and countryside. The draftsperson put forward that better use could be done from community funds such as the European Social Fund as well as national instruments, in promoting vocational training and lifelong learning to better certify the quality of products and services in order for the sector to expand.

Furthermore, the role of SMEs for the economic development of the tourism sector was crucial, but there was an urgent need to improve their access to information on how they can benefit from available financial schemes (such as FP7, IST programmes, PPP, Structural Funds programmes, JEREMIE).

At the same time Member States should be encouraged to adopt the 'Tourism Satellite Accounts' for updating statistics and information, which would contribute to a better understanding of the real size and value of the tourism industry.

The recently set up 'Local and Regional Authorities Network for Social and Fair Tourism' was welcomed as a concrete tool to promote new forms of tourism regardless of age, welfare and health conditions.

An integrated approach was also asked for in developing the policy, as well as an efficient coordination of national and community measures which have an impact, direct or indirect, on tourism. Aspects relating to infrastructures, facilitating access to finance as well as legislative and fiscal harmonization at European level were all stressed as means towards stable governance for the sector worldwide.

In the following debate, Members held that the cultural and historic heritage in the EU regions should be taken into account; linkages needed to be established. With regard to the finances, grants or subsidies from Community funds could be made available to further support the social side in a European policy on tourism. Points on vocational training and life long learning were indispensable as far as tourism was concerned. New forms of tourism could also be further looked at according to one Member.

The Commission representative present during the meeting found the draft opinion well in line with the Commission's approach in the field. Especially the sustainability aspect is to be addressed, and the Commission is very much working on how to offset additional values of the sector.

Deadline for tabling amendments has been decided to the 15th May, and the draft opinion will be voted in the REGI committee on 7 June 2007.

Adoption of draft opinions

❖ **Protection of the Communities
financial interests - Fight against
fraud - Annual report 2005**

- Draftsperson: Jan Březina (PPE-DE)

Protection of the Communities' financial interests and the fight against fraud is an area in which responsibility is shared between the Community and

the Member States. Each year the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, produces a report setting out the new measures taken to satisfy these obligations, in accordance with Article 280 of the EC Treaty.

The Commission is stating in its communication that five years after the launch of the overall strategic approach, a positive assessment can be made of the actions undertaken with significant progress being achieved in each of the main strategic guidelines for the protection of the European Communities' financial interests. However, the enhancement of the criminal judicial dimension is said to have slowed down. Further according to the Commission, of all the actions planned for the programming period, 75% were carried out in full prior to 31 December 2005, while 9% were partially carried out within the stipulated timeframe and are ongoing, 14% were postponed to 2006, and 10% have been provisionally or definitively suspended, largely for reasons outside the Commission's control.

During earlier meeting the REGI draftsman has made a presentation of a draft opinion noting the increasing number of irregularities over the previous year. The draftsman has also urged for a greater number of projects to be audited so that the conclusions obtained permit the formulation of clear recommendations for improving financial management.

An inherent complexity existed in the legislative framework contributing in part to irregularities on the part of Member States; this should consequently encourage the Commission to continue simplifying the governing rules. Furthermore, the draft opinion holds that one solution for this could be, given that project closure procedures including ex post audits can be very long, that the Commission reviews and simplifies its procedures so that project closure for the 2000-2006 period could be undertaken without undue delay, whilst the highest standards of financial management are ensured. Member States, on their part, should ensure the adequacy of their financial control mechanisms. The draftsman has proposed that the Commission could suspend

interim payments to Member States in cases of serious irregularity.

9 amendments were tabled before the vote, and the draft opinion was adopted, with 47 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

❖ **Accomplishment of the internal market of Community postal services**

- Draftsman: Richard Seeber (PPE-DE)

In the 1990s the EU began a process of gradually opening the market in postal services. According to this draft opinion put to the vote in the REGI draftsman, market opening should be an instrument to improve the efficiency and quality of the postal sector. In this way the EU may stimulate growth in the postal services sector which will boost cross-border trade, particularly in new forms such as e-commerce.

The draftsman has stressed in earlier discussions that a functioning universal service was particularly important with regard to social and territorial cohesion. In easily accessible areas with a high population density, it was likely that increased competition could lead to lower prices for postal services. New competitors were likely to concentrate on these attractive segments of the market. However, market opening according to the draftsman, must not take place at the expense of the remote, more thinly populated areas of the EU, which also tended to be those which are economically less developed.

In discussing the proposal at earlier meetings Members have stressed the link between improved regional cohesion and functioning postal services. In this regard, certain critical voices have been raised towards the Commission proposal which has been said to be too oriented towards privatisation of services. On the other side, since the work had already started on liberalising the market, this being the last step left; to open up the market for items under 50g, other Members have urged for the need to firmly proceed with the opening up of postal services.

Issues covering the regional dimension of the proposed Directive such as density of access and contact points and the impact of new measures on social and territorial cohesion have been put forward by the Members. In addition, points concerning consumer protection were held as important to rise in the opinion. Furthermore, the committee asked for studies and reports to be produced by the Commission in order to analyse and assess the effectiveness of the proposed changes.

107 amendments were tabled before the vote. The draft opinion was adopted with 28 votes in favour, 13 against and 6 abstentions.

❖ **Community Statistical Programme, 2008-2012**

- Draftsperson: Mieczysław Edmund Janowski (UEN)

(COM(2006)0687 final)

Fond : ECON

(2006/0229(COD))

The REGI committee has decided to make an opinion on the Commission proposal not at least since the availability of reliable statistics, as comprehensive as possible, is an essential precondition for effective monitoring and assessment of regional policy measures.

Given the scope and complexity of regional policy and the massive financial resources brought to bear, it has been essential according to the draftsperson, to establish effective means of monitoring progress in the implementation of structural policy at regional level and of assessing the effectiveness of the action taken. From the standpoint of cohesion policy and structural fund implementation, the provision of statistics enabling summaries to be drawn up at Community, Member State and regional level has furthermore been underlined as of essential importance.

Also during earlier meeting the draftsperson has stressed that the statistics must not only be

accurate and comprehensive but must also cover all parts of the EU and a sufficiently long period of time, with due attention being paid to the need for continuity of provision, so as to enable the situation in individual regions to be compared and trends in the processes under way in the regions to be assessed.

Information generated by the statistical analysis methods currently used in the regional policy field, based on the NUTS statistical units in force, has been said to lack reliability. Bearing this in mind, efforts have therefore been urged for by the draftsperson to ensure that the statistics give a true picture of the situation.

Moreover, Members have insisted on the need to ensure reliable data in order to properly follow regional development. In this regard, regional authorities should be given greater responsibility for the collection of reliable data. A clear correlation between less developed regions and inefficient methods of data collection have, furthermore, been said to exist.

The Members voted in favour of 19 amendments, and the draft opinion was adopted with 46 votes in favour, 44 against and 2 abstentions.

❖ **Prospects for the internal gas and electricity market**

- Draftsperson: Brigitte Douay (PSE)

The draft opinion concerns the communication of the European Commission on Prospects for the internal gas and electricity market, adopted on the 10th January 2007.

Since 1999-2000 an internal market for gas and electricity has been implemented across the European Union and comparative benchmarking reports are carried out annually to measure implementation progress. If the basic concepts of the internal energy market have been applied to the legal frameworks, institutional arrangements and the physical infrastructure such as IT equipment, customers still do not really have the possibility to

choose any other supplier. The Commission has identified main objectives in order to complete the implementation of gas and electricity directives of 2003:

- Ensuring non-discriminatory access to well developed networks;
- Improving regulation of network access at national and EU level;
- Reducing the scope for unfair competition;
- Providing a clear framework for investment;
- Resolving issues relating to households and smaller commercial customers.

The draftsman has earlier presented the draft opinion addressed to the committee on Industry, Research and Energy, reminding that the main objectives of an internal market of gas and electricity should be securing the best price for individuals and companies, satisfaction of customers, security of supply, insurance of a high level of public service, environmental protection and economic, social and territorial cohesion. While focusing on regional development, the draftsman has emphasised the necessity to take into account the specific problems of cross-border regions and the outermost regions. Certain instruments have been put forward to achieve the goals of the internal market of gas and electricity according to the draftsman; an efficient level of regulation as well as the provision of satisfactory information on the origin of electricity - notably of electricity stemming from renewable energies. The question of unbundling has not been dealt with in details in the draft opinion. That goes without saying that the question should still take into account the specific characteristics of national and regional markets.

During discussions, certain Members have highlighted the existence of local and regional energy productions that could provide a greater independence from big fossil energy productions and contribute to job and partnership creations on local level.

13 amendments were tabled before the vote, and the draft opinion was adopted with 43 votes in favour, 2 against and 0 abstentions.

❖ **Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European Vision for the Oceans and Sea**

- Draftsman: Yiannakis Matsis (EPP-ED)

On 7 June 2006, the European Commission adopted a Green Paper on a Future Maritime Policy for the European Union, based on the observation that the time has come to integrate policies concerning maritime transport, industry, tourism, coastal regions, offshore energy production, fisheries, marine environment and socio-economic cohesion. It thus fulfils its 2005-2009 strategic objective of developing an all-embracing EU maritime policy which stimulates the maritime economy and the full potential of sea-based activities in an environmentally sustainable manner. This Green Paper is the result of a wide consultation with stakeholders, identifying gaps between sea-related sectoral policy areas and attempting to adopt best practice. With this Green Paper, the Commission recognises the key role oceans and seas play in the quality of life of European citizens living and working as well as what concerns the tourism in coastal regions.

In earlier meeting, the draft opinion has been presented and discussed. The draftsman has particularly welcomed the all-embracing, integrated and realistic approach adopted in the Green Paper and the consultation process launched by the Commission.

While focussing on regional aspects, the draftsman has highlighted the necessity to improve the quality of life in coastal regions by making them more attractive and ensuring a better cover of services of general interest. The economic dynamism of coastal regions could be bolstered by the creation of networks including local authorities, NGOs and private actors and by measures supporting enterprises competitiveness and technological innovation. The draftsman has also stressed the key contribution of the tourism sector to the sustainable development of coastal regions, drawing his colleagues' attention to the necessity to assess and control the impact of tourist flows on the maritime environment and economy. Accordingly,

the impact of economic activities in these regions should be controlled by the provision of specific studies and statistical data.

In the opinion, the draftsman calls for the implementation of an integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) policy and of measures preventing and managing risks related to natural phenomena and human activities. On the governance question, the useful contribution of territorial cooperation is highlighted.

During debates, some Members have drawn their colleagues' attention to the potential of local partnerships between stakeholders and particularly the one including private actors, in order to achieve an integrated vision of maritime questions. Regarding the instruments mentioned in the Green Paper, it has been proposed to intensify the exchange of good practices between coastal regions by using already existing instruments of territorial cooperation.

80 amendments were tabled before the vote, and 11 compromise amendments had been elaborated by the draftsman. The draft opinion was adopted with 42 votes in favour, 1 against and 0 abstentions.

Reports and opinions

The list shows the attribution of new Commission proposals to the groups/rapporteurs and to the REGI administrator responsible:

Initiative Reports:

- The consequence of future enlargements on the effectiveness of cohesion policy: **MARKUS PIEPER (PPE-DE)**, REGI administrator: Mr Lutz
- The contribution of the future regional policy to the innovative capacity of the EU: **MIECZYSLAW EDMUND JANOWSKI (UEN)**, REGI administrator: Ms Kunat
- The impact and consequences of structural policies on EU cohesion: **FRANCISCA PLEGUEZUELOS AGUILAR (PSE)**, REGI administrator: Mr Lutz

- The role and effectiveness of cohesion policy in reducing disparities in the poorest regions of the EU: **LIDIA JOANNA GERINGER DE OEDEMBERG (PSE)**, REGI Administrator: Ms Stuesson

- Regulation amending the former regulation on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) following the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the EU: **GERARDO GALEOTE (PPE-DE)**, REGI Administrator: Ms Stuesson

- 4th report on Cohesion: **AMBROISE GUELLEC (PPE-DE)**, REGI Administrator: Mr Chopin

- The impact of cohesion policy in the integration of vulnerable communities and groups: **(PSE)**, REGI administrator: Ms Kunat

Opinions:

- Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: **YIANNAKIS MATSIS (PPE-DE)**, REGI Administrator: Mr Chopin

- A renewed EU tourism policy: Towards a stronger partnership for European tourism: **STAVROS ARNAOUTAKIS (PSE)**, REGI administrator: Ms Kunat

- Protection of the financial interest of the Communities - Fight against fraud - Annual report 2005: **JAN BREZINA (PPE-DE)**, REGI administrator: Mr Chopin

- Decision of the EP and of the Council on the Community Statistical Programme 2008-2012: **MIECZYSLAW EDMUND JANOWSKI (UEN)**

- Internal market aspects of the strategic review of Better Regulation: **ELSPETH ATTWOOLL (ALDE)**, REGI administrator: Ms Stuesson

- L'avenir démographique de l'Europe: **ELISABETH SCHROEDTER (VERTS/ALE)**, REGI administrator: Mr Lutz

- Accomplishment of the internal market of Community postal services: **RICHARD SEEBER (PPE-DE)**, REGI administrator: Mr Lutz

- Equality between women and men: **ZITA GURMAI (PSE)**, REGI administrator: Ms Kunat

- Airport charges: **ANTONIO DE BLASIO (PPE-DE)**, REGI administrator: Ms Stuesson

- Prospect for the internal gas and electricity market: **BIRGITTE DOUAY (PSE)**, REGI administrator: Ms Stuesson
- A roadmap for renewable energy in Europe: **MARIAN HARKIN (ALDE)**, REGI administrator: Mr Chopin
- Strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy: **TUNNE KELAM (PPE-DE)**, REGI administrator: Mr Lutz
- Population and Housing censuses: **(UEN)**
- Budget 2008: **WOJCIECH ROSZKOWSKI (UEN)**, REGI administrator: Mr Chopin
- Conventional energy sources and energy technology: **FRANCISCA PLEGUEZUELOS AGUILAR (PSE)**, REGI administrator: Mr Lutz
- Airport capacity and ground handling: towards a more efficient policy: **(UEN)** REGI administrator: Ms Kunat
- A Black Sea Regional Policy Approach: **(PPE-DE)**, REGI administrator: Mr Chopin
- Action Plan for Energy Efficiency: Realising the Potential: **TIBERIU BARBULETIU (ALDE)** REGI administrator: Ms Stuesson

**REGI Committee meetings
Brussels 2007**

Thursday	7	June	3 pm - 6.30 pm
Monday	25	June	3 pm - 6.30 pm
Tuesday	26	June	9 am - 12.30 pm
Tuesday	17	July	3 pm - 6.30 pm
Wednesday	12	Sept.	3 pm - 6.30 pm
Thursday	13	Sept.	9 am - 12.30 pm
Wednesday	3	Oct.	3 pm - 6.30 pm
Thursday	4	Oct.	9 am - 12.30 pm
Tuesday	20	Nov.	9 am - 12.30 pm
Tuesday	20	Nov.	3 pm - 6.30 pm
Monday	17	Dec.	3 pm - 6.30 pm
Tuesday	18	Dec.	9 am - 12.30 pm