



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Industry, Research and Energy*

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**2011/2195(INI)**

19.12.2011

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Regional Development

on the role of Cohesion Policy in the outermost regions of the European Union  
in the context of EU 2020  
(2011/2195(INI))

Rapporteur: Niki Tzavela

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on Regional Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the Commission's renewed strategy for the Union's outermost regions (ORs), which will address OR performance within the goals of EU 2020, namely smart, sustainable and inclusive growth; underlines the advantages of developing a neighbourhood policy focused on the emergence of proper integrated regional markets; notes that the implementation of the EU 2020 strategy should be adapted to the specific reality of the ORs;
2. Calls for a better integration of the ORs into the Union and into their geographical areas; highlights in this context the potential of the ORs to act as bridges of knowledge between Europe and third countries, and calls on the Union and the Member States to take into account the important role of the ORs when dealing with third countries;
3. Recognises the need to unlock the innovative potential and spirit of enterprise of the ORs, in particular through exchange networks; notes with concern the low participation of the ORs in the Research Framework Programme; calls for an adaption of cohesion policy and research and innovation policies to the specific needs of the ORs;
4. Underlines that the use of cohesion policy instruments should be adapted to their economies, with due regard for the importance of their small and medium-sized enterprises and for the need for competitiveness;
5. Notes with concern the effects of climate change in the ORs, most notably rising water levels; calls on the EU to address these issues in its climate change strategy;
6. Recalls that particular attention should be paid to the integration of the ORs into the digital single market; considers that wireless technologies, including satellite, could provide the citizens of the ORs with immediate ubiquitous access to broadband internet.