

Cohesion Fund 2014-2020 – proposed Regulation

Citizens' summary

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- There are large differences across the EU in terms of development (per-capita GDP), productivity and employment. The EU has the task of reducing these disparities.
- The Cohesion Fund has a major role to play in this – in particular by helping the least developed member countries integrate into the EU's single market, by funding key transport infrastructure and fostering compliance with environmental standards.
- Cohesion policy remains an essential element in the next [EU financial framework for 2014-2020](#) proposed by the Commission. The EU will make substantial funding available for it.
- The proposed Cohesion Fund Regulation for 2014-2020 sets out the scope of the Fund.

WHO WILL BENEFIT AND HOW?

- EU countries with a gross national income less than 90% of the EU average are eligible for support from the cohesion fund. Most of these are countries that joined the EU in 2004 and 2007.
- Transitional support will be available for countries that were eligible in 2007-2013 but who no longer qualify because their income levels have increased.
- Cohesion Fund support mainly goes to large infrastructure projects which form part of national development programmes for transport and environment.

WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE EU?

- Only action at EU level can address disparities on this scale between member countries, and the EU is mandated to do this by its Treaties.

WHAT EXACTLY WILL CHANGE?

- The scope of the Cohesion Fund will remain largely similar to the current period, with support for:
 - investment to comply with environmental standards
 - energy projects, provided they present a clear benefit to the environment, for example by promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy
 - investment in trans-European transport networks, as well as urban and low-carbon transport systems
- For the first time, part of the Cohesion Fund will contribute to the Connecting Europe facility – for a competitive and sustainable European transport system.

WHEN IS THE PROPOSAL LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?

- The Commission's proposal will now be discussed with the European Parliament and EU governments. It should enter into force in 2013.

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