



vestlandsrådet

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EU Commission  
Brussels

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## Support to the EU Commission's new initiative EU 2020

The Regional Council for Western Norway acknowledges the Commission's new initiative EU 2020 as it focuses on stimulating innovation and creativity and on revising rules for public support for entrepreneurial business to make them more flexible and simpler. The Council especially welcomes the idea of changes in regulations for state aid support to businesses.

The Regional Council for Western Norway also supports the focus on broadband connections and other modern communication technologies, and the proposal to adopt the inner market in response to the current situation with ever increasing web shopping. The Council also regards the increased focus on education, training and research as important.

The Regional Council for Western Norway welcomes the Commission's view that Europe must retain sustainable rural communities also in the future. The Council expects that the revised regulations on state aid will reflect such a view.

As around 70% of public investments within the EU take place at regional level, it is also very important that the regional level is given a fair part in the implementation of the EU 2020 strategy. The Regional Council for Western Norway would like to underline this should have been more clearly indicated in the consultation paper.

Olav Bratland  
Chairman

The Regional Council for Western Norway