

Hearing on first findings of ex-post evaluation Objectives 1 and 2

23 June 2009

Berlaymont Building (Schuman room)

The first results of the evaluation of Cohesion Policy between 2000 and 2009 are now available and this Hearing will bring together the evaluators, Member States representatives and academics to debate the findings. This is the start of a series of discussions and debates on the performance of the policy which will continue in the second half of 2009 and throughout 2010 and 2011. The discussions will be based on evidence from evaluations on the effects of the programmes supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund and the Instrument for Pre-Accession.

This Hearing will focus on three evaluations: on the management and implementation of Cohesion Policy programmes, the unit costs of the biggest infrastructure projects, and the possibilities for the ERDF to support regions in adapting to demographic change. Some questions to reflect on:

- How can Member States and regions balance the need to spend the resources of Cohesion Policy correctly and ensure that the impact of that expenditure is maximised?
- How can good performance be incentivised - and are there disincentives in how the policy is structured?
- How can we make sure that the ERDF tackles the real challenges facing regions, such as demographic change?

9h30 **Registration**

10h00 **Opening**

- Welcome by moderator, Jacki Davis
- Introduction by Commissioner Danuta Hübner

10h30 – 12h30 **WP 11 - Management and implementation**

- Daniel Tarschys, University of Stockholm: New public management – what does it mean for cohesion policy?
- John Bachtler, European Policies Research Centre, Glasgow (evaluator):
Can differentiated requirements for different Member States be defended?

Discussion

Discussants: Piotr Zuber, PL, Ministry of Regional Development
Roland Arbter, AT, Bundeskanzleramt
Danielle Bossaert, European Institute for Public
Administration

12h30 – 14h00 **Reception + Buffet**

14h00 – 15h15 **WP 10 – Major projects as a special case of project management between Member States and Commission**

- Bent Flyvbjerg, Oxford University: Why do major projects exceed timetables and cost estimates? Project class forecasting as a new method.
- WP 10, Hugh Kelly, RGL Forensics, London (evaluator): Unit costs of major projects – data, use and right incentives.

Discussion

Discussants Adam Kullmann, HU, National Development Agency
Anthony Dernellis, GR, Ministry of Economy and Finance
Gines de Rus, ES, University of the Canary Islands

15h15 – 16h15 **WP 7 - The demographic challenge**

- Prof Charlotte Höhn: The demographic challenge – and what public politics can (not) do about it.
- Manuela Samek Lodovici, Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale, Milano (evaluator): Findings and recommendations of the evaluation.

Discussion

Discussants Holger Keune, DE, Saxony State Chancellery
Ian Kernohan, UK, Scottish Government
International Division
Prof. Tony Warnes, Sheffield University

16h15 – 16h30 **Conclusions**

Dirk Ahner, Director-General

Languages

EN, FR, DE, ES, PL, GR, IT