

# SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC

----- 17th PARLIAMENTARY TERM -----

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## **RESOLUTION OF THE 14TH STANDING COMMITTEE (European Union Policies)**

*(Rapporteur: Giovanni MAURO)*

*Approved at the sitting of 18 December 2014*

ON THE

**COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS  
"SIXTH REPORT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL  
COHESION: INVESTMENT FOR JOBS AND GROWTH" (COM(2014)  
473) (COMMUNITARY ACT NO 47)**

*Pursuant to Article 144(1), (5) and (6) of the rules of procedure*

**Communicated to the President's Office on 18 January 2015**

The Committee, having examined the Community act,

whereas this is the sixth report on economic, territorial and social cohesion, in which the Commission summarises the results of funding in favour of cohesion granted over the previous programming period and describes the main reforms to cohesion policy for the period 2014-2020 (adopted on 16 December 2013) and the trends emerging from the negotiations on the operational programmes currently being conducted by the Commission and the Member States;

whereas, on 29 October 2014 in Brussels, the Partnership Agreement with the European Commission for the programming period 2014-2020 was approved. That Agreement relates to four European structural and investment funds focusing on eleven thematic objectives: research and innovation, information and communication technologies, competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, low carbon economy, combating climate change, the environment and efficient use of resources, sustainable transport, employment and mobility, social inclusion, more effective education and training, more efficient public administration;

whereas, over the period 2014-2020, the cohesion policy will have more than 450 billion euros available (including national co-funding);

whereas, in the analyses of the Partnership Agreements and operational programmes, the European Commission has raised, inter alia, the importance of administrative modernisation and the quality and efficiency of the justice system as key factors for competitiveness, growth and employment, and will be presenting a new report in 2017 on the progress made by the Member States in meeting the objectives laid down in the relevant programmes ;

having heard the representative of the Government;

having examined the observations made on 11 November 2014 by the Legislative Assembly of the Marche Region;

having examined the observations made on 10 November 2014 by the Legislative Assembly of the Friuli Venezia-Giulia Region,

hereby issues a favourable opinion, within its area of competence, with the following comments:

shares the analysis made by the European Commission in the Report in question, it reiterates that, in drawing up the operational programmes to implement the Partnership Agreement approved on 29 October 2014, the Government and the Regions need to use, as the policy framework of reference, the Council recommendation on Italy of 8 July 2014 (2014/C 247/11), issued in the context of the European Semester, also taking into account the procedures which may lead to suspension of financing from the European Structural Funds, within the meaning of Article 23 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 and the relevant guidelines issued by the European Commission (COM(2014) 494);

considers it necessary to take into account Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014 of 7 January 2014 on the European code of conduct on partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds, in order to overcome the management and administrative limitations which have arisen in Italy over the previous multiannual periods, in particular with regard to the need for greater coordination and synergies between all national stakeholders involved in cohesion policy and the need to draw up a clear strategic vision geared to the achievement of pre-established outcomes and the in-depth *ex post* verification of their achievement;

considers it essential for the Agency for territorial cohesion to become fully operational as

soon as possible, in order to make the management of the European Structural Funds in Italy more effective and efficient, taking fully into account the link with the Europe 2020 Strategy, with the instruments of economic governance and the need to step up the multi-level partnership within the meaning of the above-mentioned code of conduct in Regulation (EU) No 240/2014;

considers it fundamental that European cohesion funding, the Union's main investment policy, while intended for the implementation of the Europe 2020 objectives, should be mainly directed - in line with the original spirit – towards the less developed regions in southern Italy and the islands, and that therefore, if they cannot be used in full, funds should be redeployed as a priority for measures in these areas, which have been worst hit by the economic crisis. The Agency for cohesion should, right from the start, look for administrative procedures which allow an effective use of the resources intended for the cohesion policy;

affirms the need to commit, as soon as possible, the 300 billion euros in the 'Juncker Plan' in addition to the resources already provided for in the Structural Funds for 2014-2020.

