



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 29.4.2013
C(2013) 2327 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal {COM(2011) 611 final} and apologises for the long delay in replying.

In the context of ongoing negotiations, the Commission takes careful note of the points and recommendations made by the Camera Deputaților as regards the content of the proposal and welcomes the support for the underlying principle of alignment with the Europe 2020 Strategy objectives.

As to your concerns regarding Article 13 on the implementation reports and the subsequent evaluation plan, actions to promote equality between men and women and prevention of discrimination and sustainable development, the Commission would like to clarify that the elements referred to as part of the implementation reports would not be required on a yearly basis, but only in the annual reports for the years 2017 and 2019.

As regards your suggestion to further reduce the ceiling of technical assistance, the Commission proposal foresees indeed a higher ceiling of 6% for cooperation programmes, taking into account higher administrative costs that tend to arise in the multi-country context in which cooperation programmes operate. At the same time, the Commission shares the view that we should aim at keeping expenditure for technical assistance to a minimum in order to reserve as much funding as possible for the implementation of cooperation projects.

Regarding the eligibility of expenditure, the Commission would like to highlight that a number of stakeholders have called for specific eligibility rules established at EU level for cooperation programmes. The extent and scope of such rules will be determined in close consultation with Member States.

As regards the the Camera Deputaților's concern about the provision for an increased percentage set for a flat rate for staff costs, the Commission would like to point out that the proposed percentage of up to 15% is based on experience to date. The Commission would also like to emphasise that the possibilities for using a flat rate foreseen in the Common Provision Regulation would also apply in a cooperation context.

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The Opinion of the Camera Deputaților feeds into the work of the Commission, European Parliament and Council in preparing the next cohesion policy regulatory framework for the period 2014-2020.

The Commission hopes these clarifications address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților in its Opinion and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*