Dear Commissioner Hübner

Firstly before answering the specific questions of the public consultation, let me explain some preliminary considerations about the overall evaluation of the European regional policy.

In fact the two guidelines for this policy are the economic and social cohesion and the economic competitiveness. The Lisbon Strategy or Lisbon Agenda has this great dilemma. How to strength the European Union under the principles of the new competition rules (namely based on the Asian and North American paradigms) and the European Social Model.

Therefore the Cohesion Policy has a special responsibility to ensure growth respecting the human resources, the main capital of the European Union.

Secondly, according to my technical and political sensibility I answer the following questions:

1.1 - How can the regions react to restructuring pressures from dynamic competitors in low and medium tech sectors?

The contribution to the R&D is crucial, but it is necessary to resist to the tendencies for the geographic concentration of that contribution.

The best practices and projects must be selected in each member state and in each region inside the member states.

1.2 - Given wide differences in birth rates, death rates and migratory flows at regional level, what is the role of cohesion policy in responding to demographic change?
The demographic changes parts two kind of challenges. One is the economic growth linked to the investment policy. The other one is the good condition for the life of families. There is no development if the families (and namely the women) can’t have the support of facilities just as nurseries and kindergartens and other education infrastructures.

But the possibility of women compatibility as mothers and their progress in professional career is the most important policy for the solution of the declining of birth rates.

In the meanwhile the immigration policy must be integrated in the cohesion policy.

2.4 - What are the critical competencies that should be developed at the regional level to make regions globally competitive?

The critical competencies are linked to the educational level and capacity for innovation. But without good productive instruments located in the regions, there are no good jobs for the well educated people (that generates good salaries).

As the public deficit limits are a strong restriction, a special policy for public-private partnerships must be the new path for the investment support by the European Structural Funds.

This is my modest contribution for this public consultation supported by my political and academic experience.

Yours sincerely

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