

A PUBLIC CONFERENCE
organised by the European Free Alliance



Our Nations and Regions in Cohesion Policy

Sharing experience

Thursday 31 March 2011

Time: 9:30-13:00 & 15:00-17:00

Place: European Parliament, Brussels

Altiero Spinelli building, room ASP01G3

Interpretation will be provided in Catalan, Galician, Welsh, French, English, Dutch, Spanish



The Greens | EFA
in the European Parliament

Contact: antonia.luciani-garcia@europarl.europa.eu - phone: +32-2-2847130 - fax: +32-2-2849130

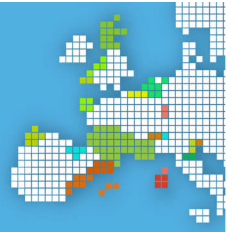


European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Sharing Experience: Our Nations and Regions in Cohesion Policy

An EFA conference - 31 March 2011

Venue: European Parliament, Brussels



EFA Principles for the future of Cohesion Policy

1. We reject any attempt to re-nationalise cohesion policy.
2. Cohesion policy has to remain an autonomous policy that can contribute to, but may not be absorbed by the EU2020 Strategy.
3. The next reform of EU Cohesion Policy should uphold the following principles: multilevel governance, bottom-up approach, partnership, integrated approach, result orientation, gender mainstreaming, additionality, transparency.
4. Cohesion policy should be developed and implemented in partnership. Legally binding definitions of the multilevel governance and partnership principles have to be included in the new Regulation. A 'partner regions of the Union' status has to be created.
5. The regional level, not only central government, must be included in the Development and Investment Partnership Contracts. No Partnership Contract is valid without the agreement of all partners concerned.
6. Cohesion policy has to focus on local development approaches. Funding should be targeted more effectively and concentrated on priorities that respond to relevant challenges for regional development:
 - ◆ local economies and green innovations
 - ◆ SMEs
 - ◆ access to labour market, education and training
 - ◆ social inclusion,
 - ◆ climate mitigation
 - ◆ biodiversity, green infrastructure
 - ◆ access to services of general interest
 - ◆ sustainable mobility
 - ◆ energy efficiency, renewable energies and energy supply (smart, decentralised energy infrastructure)
 - ◆ resource efficiency (in particular waste and water)
 - ◆ cultural heritage.
7. The ESF should remain closely integrated in cohesion policy. We support the Commission proposal for a common strategic framework.
8. We want to strengthen Objective 3 (cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation) and call for a review of the geographical limit of 150 km set for cross-border cooperation programmes for coastal and maritime regions.
9. Cohesion policy should continue to be based on a seven year cycle.
10. The amounts allocated to cohesion policy in the budget year 2013 should be at least maintained during the next financial programming period.