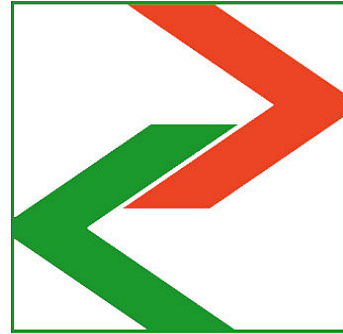


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STATEMENT

on

THE PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

**on the Cohesion Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No
1084/2006**

{SEC(2011)1138 final}

{SEC(2011)1139 final}

15. November 2011

1. General

The Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), founded in 1971, is the only international organisation that is dealing exclusively with regional cross-border cooperation on a European-wide basis. Our more than 100 members represent more than 200 border regions.

The Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) welcomes the proposal of the EU-Commission for a “Regulation on the Cohesion Fund”, especially also in connection with the consultations on the future transeuropean transport network.

Our statement is submitted on behalf of our members and focuses therefore also on cross-border cooperation (see also AEBR statement on the proposal for a regulation for the support of the ERDF to the European Territorial Cooperation Objective).

In the framework of the evolution of the current systems, the AEBR underlines the need for **better coordination** between the **European financial instruments** (see also ERDF and Territorial Cooperation).

Except to the remark that for the individual numbers and articles of the proposal **minor changes** are suggested (see below), the proposed **areas for intervention** generally meet **approval**.

Also, the definition of a negative list of tasks that will be not eligible for support, is appreciated.

2. Statement/comments to the individual numbers and articles of the regulation

ad (4)

It is pointed out that especially also **cross-border infrastructure** links belong to the **projects** of common interest which should be prioritised. In creating transeuropean infrastructure it has turned out to be very **helpful** to realise **border-crossings first** (this causes a pull effect to the national centres, while in the interior the realisation of such infrastructures is slowing down towards the border).

Above that, **transeuropean transport** axes can only **unfold their full potential** (European, national, and regional) when coincidental **good regional links** are realised. Thereby, **bottlenecks** in transit transport flows and regional transport accessing the transeuropean transport axes will be **avoided** and **border regions** are not getting the function of **transit areas**. In fact, good links to these large-scale axes

could **improve** the **accessibility** of a border region (location factor) and the **mobility** (prevention of migration). Also, **trend-setting projects** along these axes could better be realised (transport and logistic centres, logistics projects, cross-border business parks).

This note should be included in article 2 and 3.

ad 2 and 3

In both articles the above mentioned notes should be included, especially in (e).

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