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## Cohesion: First interim report

### Objective 2: Last three programmes approved

The Commission has approved the last three regional development programmes under Objective 2 for the 2000-06 period, two in Belgium and one in Luxembourg.

The programme for the Province of Liège (Belgium) is due to receive EUR 158.3 million in EU funding (out of a total of EUR 562 million) which aims to diversify economic activity in the industrial heartland of the region.

The programme for the (Belgian) Provinces of Namur and Luxembourg is to receive Community funding of EUR 58.4 million (out of a total of EUR 206 million). It sets out to create around a thousand jobs in the rural areas of these parts of Wallonia.

The programme for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, allocated EUR 41 million from EU funds (out of a total of EUR 172.4 million), will seek to reinforce economic structures in various parts of the south, north and east of the country.

For more information, see:  
[http://www.europa.eu.int/wbpro/prosr/prog\\_en.cfm](http://www.europa.eu.int/wbpro/prosr/prog_en.cfm)

In the wake of the Second Report on Economic and Social Cohesion, and in line with a commitment made to the Council of Ministers, the Commission will soon be submitting an Interim Report on the regional levels of socio-economic development in the Member States and the candidate countries<sup>1</sup>. This report will analyse the more recent statistical data and review the first results of the discussions conducted over the past year on the future of the Cohesion Policy.

### Situation and trends in the regions

The new figures confirm the main conclusions of the Second Cohesion Report published in January 2001. They show in particular that, on the basis of the data available for 1997, 1998 and 1999, in a enlarged Union of twenty-five countries the regions showing a per capita GDP of less than 75% of the Community average will be home to 115 million people or 25% of the total population. Six out of ten of these people will live in the countries of central and eastern European countries or CEECs. However, the less-developed CEEC regions still experienced faster rates of growth in 1995-99 than the fifteen current Member States.

As far as social cohesion in the current Union is concerned, the employment situation improved in 2000 and this included the least well off sections of the population.

### First assessment of contributions to the Cohesion debate

The forthcoming Report will also draw the main conclusions from the second European Forum on Cohesion held on 21 and 22 May 2001. National and local governments in the Member States and their regions and in the applicant countries were able to give their views on Regional Policy in an enlarged Community. A consensus emerged on the increased need for solidarity in the face of wider disparities within Europe following the accession of the candidate countries.

The report will also survey:

- the discussions that began in 2001 at European institutional level, in particular at the Informal Council of Ministers responsible for regional planning held in Namur (Belgium);
- the main topics broached at numerous meetings held at regional level involving leading actors from the worlds of politics, commerce, industry and the voluntary sector:
  - priority for areas lagging behind in their development
  - choice of regional or national approach
  - regions lagging behind in their development in the current Member States
  - support for other intermediate regions in the present Union
  - future funding of the Cohesion Policy
  - simplification of procedures
  - coordination with other Community policies.

Finally, the Interim Report will indicate how these discussions are to continue, in particular at seminars organised by the Commission in 2002 on horizontal and territorial priorities. The aim of these seminars will be to go beyond issues of eligibility and funding and will identify, for each priority, those activities which will provide the greatest Community added value.

1. As decided at the European Council in Laeken, 10 applicant countries currently negotiating entry will be able to join the European Union in 2004. Bulgaria and Romania will have to wait until after 2006.

# End-of-year fanfare

The European Commission has approved all the Urban II programmes (urban regeneration) covering 2000-06. A total of 36 Interreg III programmes (transnational, cross-border and interregional cooperation) were also adopted. Negotiations were completed on 58 regional programmes of innovative schemes.

Programmes 2000-2006	Contribution of Structural Funds*
<b>URBAN II</b>	
Brussels-Capital (B)	7.0
Sambreville (B)	7.0
Bremerhaven (D)	9.9
Dortmund (D)	9.9
Luckenwalde (D)	14.8
Århus Gellerup (DK)	5.3
Heraklion (EL)	7.9
Komotini (EL)	8.0
Perama (EL)	9.5
Cáceres (E)	11.4
Gijón (E)	10.5
Granada (E)	12.3
Jaén (E)	12.3
Orense (E)	9.8
Pamplona (E)	11.4
S. Adrià del Besòs (E)	12.3
S. Cristóbal de la Laguna (E)	11.4
S. Sebastián-Pasajes (E)	10.5
Teruel (E)	10.5
Helsinki/Vantaa (FIN)	5.3
Bordeaux (F)	9.6
Le Mantois (F)	12.8
Strasbourg (F)	9.6
Val-de-Seine (F)	11.8
Ballyfermot (IRL)	5.3
Carrara (I)	8.8
Caserta (I)	15.0
Crotone (I)	15.0
Genova (I)	10.7
Milan (I)	10.7
Misterbianco (I)	15.0
Mola di Bari (I)	8.6
Pescara (I)	4.9
Taranto (I)	15.1
Turin (I)	10.7
Amadora (P)	3.5
Lisbon (P)	5.6
Oporto-Gondomar (P)	9.9
Göteborg (S)	5.3
Belfast (UK)	10.6
Bristol (UK)	10.6
Burnley (UK)	11.4
Clyde Waterfront (UK)	12.8
Halifax (UK)	12.6
Hetton & Murton (UK)	11.4
Normanton in Derby (UK)	11.0
Peterborough (UK)	11.1
Stockwell (UK)	9.9
Thames Gateway (UK)	11.8
West Wrexham (UK)	10.6

<b>INTERREG III</b>	
<b>Interreg IIIA</b>	
Spain/Portugal	806.9
Greece/Bulgaria	170.0
Spain/Morocco	169.4
France/United Kingdom	108.2
France/Belgium	85.6
Spain/France	84.3
France/Italy (Alps)	61.0
Belgium/Netherlands	59.7
Italy/Slovenia	56.2
Italy/France (islands)	50.0
Euregio Meuse-Rhine (B, D, NL)	49.5
Ireland/Wales	47.6
Sweden/Finland/Norway/Russia	47.2
Øresund (DK, S)	29.0
Finland/Russia	28.2
Oberrhein/Mitte/Süd (F, D, CH)	28.0
Saarland/Lorraine/Westpfalz (D, F)	28.0
Belgium/France/Luxembourg	24.5
South-east Finland/Russia	21.8
Franche-Comté/Rhone-Alps (CH, F)	20.7
Finland/Estonia	14.1
PAMINA (D, F)	13.5
Sønderjylland/Schleswig North (DK, D)	13.0
Germany/Belgium/Luxembourg	11.1
Fyn/Kern (DK, D)	9.3
Størstrøm/Schleswig-Holstein (DK, D)	9.0
<b>Interreg IIIB</b>	
Western Mediterranean	145.1
Alpine Space	121.9
Northern Periphery	121.6
Azores/Canary Islands/Madeira	97.1
South-West Europe	97.0
North Sea Area	58.7
CADSES	12.0
<b>Interreg IIIC</b>	
East Zone	50.9
North Zone	32.8
<b>INNOVATIVE ACTIONS</b>	
Lower Austria (A)	3.0
Voralberg (A)	3.0
Vienna (A)	2.7
Brandenburg (D)	3.0
Bremen (D)	1.0
Hamburg (D)	3.0
North-Rhine Westphalia (D)	2.2
Rhineland-Palatinate (D)	2.1
Saarland (D)	0.5
Saxony (D)	2.4
Saxony-Anhalt (D)	3.0

Schleswig-Holstein	2.9
Central Macedonia (EL)	3.0
Thessaly (EL)	2.4
Andalusia (E)	2.9
Aragón (E)	1.6
Balearics (E)	1.9
Canaries (E)	2.8
Cantabria (E)	3.0
Castile-La Mancha (E)	2.9
Castile-León (E)	2.9
Ceuta (E)	2.5
Extremadura (E)	2.9
Galicia (E)	2.9
La Rioja (E)	2.8
Murcia (E)	2.1
Basque Country (E)	3.0
Etela-Suomi (FIN)	2.0
Pohjois-Suomi (FIN)	2.9
Aquitaine (F)	3.0
Loire (F)	2.7
Lorraine (F)	2.5
PACA (FR)	2.9
Réunion (F)	1.2
South & East (IRL)	2.6
Bolzano (I)	2.5
Calabria (I)	3.0
Emilia-Romagna (I)	2.5
Friuli-Venezia (I)	3.0
Apulia (I)	2.9
Tuscany (I)	3.0
Trento (I)	3.0
North-Brabant (NL)	3.0
North-Holland (NL)	2.5
Algarve (P)	2.8
Central Region (P)	2.9
Lisbon (P)	2.9
Madeira (P)	0.7
North Region (P)	2.0
Middle Nörrland (S)	2.8
East Central Sweden (S)	3.0
Upper Nörrland (S)	2.9
South Sweden (S)	2.9
East Midlands (UK)	2.3
Eastern region (UK)	2.2
North East (UK)	1.1
Wales (UK)	2.8
Yorkshire (UK)	2.7

\* in million euro

For more information, see:  
[http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbnews/new\\_en.htm](http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbnews/new_en.htm)



**European Commission**  
 Directorate-General for Regional Policy

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