



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 25 February 2013**

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**“A” ITEM NOTE**

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from : The General Secretariat

to: Council

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No. prev. doc.: 5609/1/13 REV 1

No. Cion prop.: COM(2012) 496 final, COM(2011) 607 final/2, COM(2011) 611 final/2,  
COM(2011) 614 final, COM(2011) 612 final/2, COM(2011) 610 final/2

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Subject: Cohesion Policy legislative package  
- elements of a partial general approach

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1. On 6 October 2011, the Commission transmitted to the Council the Cohesion Policy legislative package, containing as outlined in detail in document 5609/1/13 REV 1 proposals for:
  - the Common Provisions Regulation(doc. 15243/11 FSTR 49 FC 39 REGIO 83 SOC 859 AGRISTR 56 PECHE 279 CADREFIN 87 CODEC 1632),
  - the European Social Fund Regulation (doc. 15247/11 FSTR 50 SOC 860 REGIO 84 CADREFIN 88 CODEC 1633),

- the European Regional Development Fund Regulation (doc. 15249/11 FSTR 51 REGIO 85 CADREFIN 89 CODEC 1634),
  - the European Territorial Cooperation Goal Regulation (doc. 15253/11 REGIO 88 CADREFIN 92 FSTR 52 CODEC 1637),
  - the Cohesion Fund Regulation (doc. 15250/11 FC 40 REGIO 86 CADREFIN 90 CODEC 1635) and
  - the European grouping of territorial cooperation amending Regulation (doc. 15251/11 REGIO 87 CADREFIN 91 CODEC 1636).
2. Following several partial general approaches reached under the Danish and Cyprus Presidencies, outstanding elements of the Cohesion Policy legislative package have been examined by the Working Party on Structural Measures and submitted to COREPER on 20 February 2013 for its approval.
  3. Based on the note from the Presidency (document 5609/1/13 REV 1) COREPER reached a qualified majority for a partial general approach on the texts as outlined in ADD 1 REV 1 to ADD 3 REV 1 of that note.
  4. Similarly COREPER reached a qualified majority for a general approach on the European grouping of territorial cooperation amending Regulation as outlined in ADD 4 REV 1 to that note.
  5. COREPER concluded that on this basis these blocs could be presented to the Council as an "A" Item.

6. Similarly to the previous partial general approaches reached at the General Affairs Council on 24 April, 26 June 2012, 16 October and 20 November 2012, it should be underlined that any preliminary agreement on these thematic blocs has to be viewed in the overall context of the negotiations on the Cohesion Policy legislative package and treated on the basis of the principle that "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed". Namely, the elements for a partial general approach submitted herewith do not prejudge the outcome of negotiations *with the European Parliament* on other negotiation blocs or the multiannual financial framework, while necessary consequential amendments in the blocs submitted herewith might be necessary as a result of the negotiations *with the European Parliament* on these other blocs as well as the multiannual financial framework.
7. The Council is therefore invited:
- to agree, as an "A" Item, on the following elements for a partial general approach concerning:
    - a) Recitals, as set out in ADD 1 REV 1 to document 5609/1/13 REV 1,
    - b) Delegations of power, implementing, transitional and final provisions as set out in ADD 2 REV 1 and
    - c) Other pending articles, as set out in ADD 3 REV 1.
  - to agree, as an "A" Item, on the EGTC amending Regulation, as set out in ADD 4 REV 1 to document 5609/1/13 REV 1 and to mandate the Presidency to enter into negotiations with the European Parliament on that basis.
  - to decide to enter into its minutes the statements set out in ADD 5 REV 1 to document 5609/1/13 REV 1.
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