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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments
- Outcome of the European Parliament's first reading,
(Strasbourg, 25 to 28 March 2019)

I. INTRODUCTION

The rapporteur, Pascal ARIMONT (EPP, BE) presented a report on the proposal for a Regulation on behalf of the Committee on Regional Development. The report contained 199 amendments to the proposal.

II. VOTE

When it voted on 26 March 2019, the plenary adopted the report on the proposal for a Regulation.

The Commission's proposal as amended constitutes the Parliament's first-reading position which is contained in its legislative resolution as set out in the Annex hereto¹.

¹ The version of the Parliament's position in the legislative resolution has been marked up to indicate the changes made by the amendments to the Commission's proposal. Additions to the Commission's text are highlighted in ***bold and italics***. The symbol "■" indicates deleted text.

Specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) ***I

European Parliament legislative resolution on 26 March 2019 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments (COM(2018)0374 – C8-0229/2018 – 2018/0199(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2018)0374),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Articles 178, 209(1), 212(2) and 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C8-0229/2018),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 19 September 2018 ²,
 - having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions of 5 December 2018 ³,
 - having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Regional Development and also the opinions of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Development, the Committee on Budgetary Control and the Committee on Culture and Education (A8-0470/2018),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out⁴;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

² OJ C 440, 6.12.2018, p. 116.

³ Not yet published in the Official Journal.

⁴ This position corresponds to the amendments adopted on 16 January 2019 (Texts adopted, P8_TA(2019)0021).

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) Article 176 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ("TFEU") provides that the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF') is intended to help to redress the main regional imbalances in the Union. Under that Article and the second and third paragraphs of Article 174 of the TFEU, the ERDF is to contribute to reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and to reducing the backwardness of the least favoured regions, ***among which particular attention is to be paid to certain categories of regions, among which cross-border regions are explicitly listed.***

Amendment

(1) Article 176 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ("TFEU") provides that the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF') is intended to help to redress the main regional imbalances in the Union. Under that Article and the second and third paragraphs of Article 174 of the TFEU, the ERDF is to contribute to reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and to reducing the backwardness of the least favoured regions, ***rural areas, areas affected by an industrial transition, areas with a low population density, islands and mountain*** regions.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) Regulation (EU) [new CPR] of the European Parliament and of the Council²¹ sets out provisions common to the ERDF and certain other funds and Regulation (EU) [new ERDF] of the European Parliament and of the Council²² sets out provisions concerning the specific objectives and the scope of the ERDF support. It is now necessary to adopt specific provisions in relation to the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) where one or more Member States cooperate across borders with regard

Amendment

(2) Regulation (EU) [new CPR] of the European Parliament and of the Council²¹ sets out provisions common to the ERDF and certain other funds and Regulation (EU) [new ERDF] of the European Parliament and of the Council²² sets out provisions concerning the specific objectives and the scope of the ERDF support. It is now necessary to adopt specific provisions in relation to the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) where one or more Member States ***and their regions*** cooperate across

to effective programming including provisions on technical assistance, monitoring, evaluation, communication, eligibility, management and control, as well as financial management.

²¹ [Reference]

²² [Reference]

borders with regard to effective programming including provisions on technical assistance, monitoring, evaluation, communication, eligibility, management and control, as well as financial management.

²¹ [Reference]

²² [Reference]

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) In order to support **the** harmonious development of the Union's territory at different levels, the ERDF should support cross-border cooperation, transnational cooperation, maritime cooperation, outermost regions' cooperation and interregional cooperation under the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg).

Amendment

(3) In order to support **a cooperative and** harmonious development of the Union's territory at different levels **and to reduce existing disparities**, the ERDF should support cross-border cooperation, transnational cooperation, maritime cooperation, outermost regions' cooperation and interregional cooperation under the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg). **In the process, the principles of multi-level governance and partnership should be taken into account, and place-based approaches should be strengthened.**

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3 a) The different components of Interreg should contribute to the

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) The cross-border cooperation component should aim to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions, and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas as evidenced in the Communication of the Commission 'Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions'²³ ('Border Regions Communication'). **Consequently**, the cross-border component should **be limited to cooperation on land borders and cross-border cooperation on maritime borders should be integrated into the transnational** component.

²³ Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament 'Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions' - COM(2017)0534, 20.9.2017.

Amendment

(4) The cross-border cooperation component should aim to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions, and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas as evidenced in the Communication of the Commission 'Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions'²³ ('Border Regions Communication'). **Therefore**, the cross-border component should **include cooperation on both land or maritime borders, without prejudice to the new component for outermost regions cooperation.**

²³ Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament 'Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions' - COM(2017)0534, 20.9.2017.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) The cross-border cooperation component should also involve cooperation

Amendment

(5) The cross-border cooperation component should also involve cooperation

between one or more Member States and one or more countries or other territories outside the Union. Covering internal and external cross-border cooperation under this Regulation should result in a major simplification and streamlining of applicable provisions for the programme authorities in the Member States and for the partner authorities and beneficiaries outside the Union compared to the programming period 2014-2020.

between one or more Member States *or their regions*, and one or more countries *or regions*, or other territories outside the Union. Covering internal and external cross-border cooperation under this Regulation should result in a major simplification and streamlining of applicable provisions for the programme authorities in the Member States and for the partner authorities and beneficiaries outside the Union compared to the programming period 2014-2020.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) The transnational cooperation and maritime cooperation component should aim to strengthen cooperation by means of actions conducive to integrated territorial development linked to the Union's cohesion policy priorities, ***and should also include maritime cross-border cooperation***. Transnational cooperation should cover larger territories ***on the mainland of the Union, whereas maritime cooperation should cover*** territories around sea-basins ***and integrate*** cross-border ***cooperation on maritime borders during the programming period 2014-2020. Maximum flexibility should be given to continue implementing previous maritime cross-border cooperation within a larger maritime cooperation framework, in particular by defining the territory covered, the specific objectives for such cooperation, the requirements for a project partnership and the setting-up of sub-programmes and specific steering committees***.

Amendment

(6) The transnational cooperation and maritime cooperation component should aim to strengthen cooperation by means of actions conducive to integrated territorial development linked to the Union's cohesion policy priorities, ***in full respect of subsidiarity***. Transnational cooperation should cover larger ***transnational*** territories ***and, where appropriate,*** territories around sea-basins ***that extend geographically beyond those covered by*** cross-border ***programmes***.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) Based on the experience with cross-border and transnational cooperation during the programming period 2014-2020 in outermost regions, where the combination of both components within a single programme per cooperation area has not brought about sufficient simplification for programme authorities and beneficiaries, a specific outermost regions' component should be established in order to enable outermost regions to cooperate with ***their neighbouring*** countries and territories in the most effective and simple way.

Amendment

(7) Based on the experience with cross-border and transnational cooperation during the programming period 2014-2020 in outermost regions, where the combination of both components within a single programme per cooperation area has not brought about sufficient simplification for programme authorities and beneficiaries, a specific ***additional*** outermost regions' component should be established in order to enable outermost regions to cooperate with ***third countries, overseas*** countries and territories (***OCTs***), ***or regional integration and cooperation organisations*** in the most effective and simple way ***that takes into account their individual characteristics***.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) Based on the experience with the interregional cooperation programmes under Interreg and the lack of such cooperation within programmes under the Investment for jobs and growth goal during the programming period 2014-2020, ***the*** interregional cooperation ***component should focus more specifically on boosting the effectiveness of cohesion policy. That component should therefore be limited to two programmes, one to enable all kind of experience, innovative approaches and capacity building*** for

Amendment

(8) Based on the ***positive*** experience with the interregional cooperation programmes under Interreg, ***on the one hand***, and the lack of such cooperation within programmes under the Investment for jobs and growth goal during the programming period 2014-2020, ***on the other***, interregional cooperation, ***through the exchange*** of experience, ***the development of capacities*** for programmes under both goals (***European territorial cooperation and Investment for growth and jobs***) among cities and regions is an

programmes under both goals *and to promote* European groupings of territorial cooperation ('EGTCs') *set up or to be set up pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁴ and one to improve the analysis of development trends. Project-based cooperation throughout the Union should be integrated into the new component on interregional innovation investments and closely linked to the implementation of the Communication from the Commission 'Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions: Strategies for resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth'²⁵, in particular to support thematic smart specialisation platforms on fields such as energy, industrial modernisation or agrifood. Finally, integrated territorial development focusing on functional urban areas or urban areas should be concentrated within programmes under the Investment for jobs and growth goal and in one accompanying instrument, the 'European Urban Initiative'. The two programmes under the interregional cooperation component should cover the whole Union and should also be open for the participation of third countries.*

important component with a view to finding common solutions in the cohesion policy field and building lasting partnerships. Existing programmes and, in particular, promotion of project-based cooperation, including promoting European groupings of territorial cooperation ('EGTCs'), as well as macro-regional strategies should therefore be continued.

²⁴ Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC) (OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 19).

²⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions: Strategies for resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth' - COM(2017)0376, 18.7.2017.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation Recital 8 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(8a) The new initiative on interregional innovation investments should be based on smart specialisation, and used to support thematic smart specialisation platforms on fields such as energy, industrial modernisation, circular economy, social innovation, the environment or agrifood, and to help those involved in smart specialisation strategies to cluster together, in order to scale up innovation and bring innovative products, processes and ecosystems to the European market. The evidence suggests that a persistent systemic failure remains at the testing and validation stage of demonstration of new technologies (e.g. Key Enabling Technologies), especially when innovation is the result of the integration of complementary regional specialisations creating innovative value chains. That failure is particularly critical in the phase between piloting and full market uptake. In some strategic technology and industrial areas, SMEs cannot currently count on excellent and open, connected pan-European demonstration infrastructure. The programmes under the interregional cooperation initiative should cover the whole European Union and should also be open for the participation of OCTs, third countries, their regions, and regional integration and cooperation organisations, including the outermost neighbouring regions. Synergies between interregional innovation investments and other relevant EU programmes such as those under the European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020, Digital Market Europe and the single market programme should be encouraged, as they will amplify the impact of investments and

provide better value for citizens.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) **Objective** criteria for designating eligible regions and areas should be established. To that end, the identification of eligible regions and areas at Union level should be based on the common system of classification of the regions established by Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁶.

²⁶ Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) (OJ L 154, 21.6.2003, p. 1).

Amendment

(9) **Common objective** criteria for designating eligible regions and areas should be established. To that end, the identification of eligible regions and areas at Union level should be based on the common system of classification of the regions established by Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁶.

²⁶ Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) (OJ L 154, 21.6.2003, p. 1).

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) It is necessary to continue supporting or, as appropriate, to establish cooperation in all its dimensions with the Union's neighbouring third countries, as such cooperation is an important regional development policy tool and should benefit the regions of the Member States which border third countries. To that effect, the ERDF and the external financing

Amendment

(10) It is necessary to continue supporting or, as appropriate, to establish cooperation in all its dimensions with the Union's neighbouring third countries, as such cooperation is an important regional development policy tool and should benefit the regions of the Member States which border third countries. To that effect, the ERDF and the external financing

instruments of the Union, IPA²⁷, NDICI²⁸ and OCTP²⁹, should support programmes under cross-border cooperation, transnational cooperation *and maritime cooperation*, outermost regions' cooperation and interregional cooperation. The support from the ERDF and from the external financing instruments of the Union should be based on reciprocity and proportionality. However, for IPA III CBC and NDICI CBC, the ERDF support should be complemented by at least equivalent amounts under IPA III CBC and NDICI CBC, subject to a maximum amount set out in the respective legal act, *that is to say, up to 3 % of the financial envelope under IPA III and up to 4 % of the financial envelope of the Neighbourhood geographic programme under Article 4(2)(a) of the NDICI.*

²⁷ Regulation (EU) XXX establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (OJ L xx, p. y).

²⁸ Regulation (EU) XXX establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (OJ L xx, p. y).

²⁹ Council Decision (EU) XXX on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Union including relations between the European Union on the one hand and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other (OJ L xx, p. y).

instruments of the Union, IPA²⁷, NDICI²⁸ and OCTP²⁹, should support programmes under cross-border cooperation, transnational cooperation, outermost regions' cooperation and interregional cooperation. The support from the ERDF and from the external financing instruments of the Union should be based on reciprocity and proportionality. However, for IPA III CBC and NDICI CBC, the ERDF support should be complemented by at least equivalent amounts under IPA III CBC and NDICI CBC, subject to a maximum amount set out in the respective legal act.

²⁷ Regulation (EU) XXX establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (OJ L xx, p. y).

²⁸ Regulation (EU) XXX establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (OJ L xx, p. y).

²⁹ Council Decision (EU) XXX on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Union including relations between the European Union on the one hand and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other (OJ L xx, p. y).

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation Recital 10 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(10 a) Particular attention should be paid to regions which become new external borders of the Union to ensure

the adequate continuity of ongoing cooperation programmes.

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) IPA III assistance should mainly focus on assisting the IPA beneficiaries to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law, reform the judiciary and public administration, respect fundamental rights and promote gender equality, tolerance, social inclusion and non-discrimination. IPA assistance should continue to support the efforts of the IPA beneficiaries to advance regional, macro-regional and cross-border cooperation as well as territorial development, including through the implementation of Union macro-regional strategies. In addition, IPA assistance should address security, migration and border management, ensuring access to international protection, sharing relevant information, enhancing border control and pursuing common efforts in the fight against irregular migration and migrant smuggling.

Amendment

(11) IPA III assistance should mainly focus on assisting the IPA beneficiaries to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law, reform the judiciary and public administration, respect fundamental rights and promote gender equality, tolerance, social inclusion and non-discrimination ***as well as regional and local development***. IPA assistance should continue to support the efforts of the IPA beneficiaries to advance regional, macro-regional and cross-border cooperation as well as territorial development, including through the implementation of Union macro-regional strategies. In addition, IPA assistance should address security, migration and border management, ensuring access to international protection, sharing relevant information, enhancing border control and pursuing common efforts in the fight against irregular migration and migrant smuggling.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 12 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(12 a) Developing synergies with Union external action and development programmes should also help to ensure maximum impact whilst fulfilling the

principle of policy coherence for development as provided for by Article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Achieving coherence across all Union policies is crucial for achieving the SDGs.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) In view of the specific situation of outmost regions of the Union, it is necessary to adopt measures concerning the conditions under which those regions may have access to structural funds. Consequently, certain provisions of this Regulation should be adapted to the specificities of the outermost regions in order to simplify and foster cooperation with *their neighbors*, while taking into account the Communication from the Commission 'A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the EU's outermost regions'³¹.

³¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank 'A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the EU's outermost regions', - COM(2017)0623, 24.10.2017.

Amendment

(14) In view of the specific situation of outmost regions of the Union, it is necessary to adopt measures concerning the *improvement of* conditions under which those regions may have access to structural funds. Consequently, certain provisions of this Regulation should be adapted to the specificities of the outermost regions in order to simplify and foster *their* cooperation with *third countries and OCTs*, while taking into account the Communication from the Commission 'A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the EU's outermost regions'³¹.

³¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank 'A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the EU's outermost regions', - COM(2017)0623, 24.10.2017.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 14 a (new)

(14 a) *This Regulation lays down the possibility of the OCTs to participate in Interreg programmes. The specificities and challenges of the OCTs should be taken into consideration in order to facilitate their effective access and participation.*

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation Recital 15

(15) It is necessary to set out the resources allocated to each of the different components of Interreg, including each Member State's share of the global amounts for the cross-border cooperation, the transnational cooperation **and maritime cooperation**, the outermost regions' cooperation and the interregional cooperation, the potential available to Member States concerning flexibility between those components. ***Compared to the programming period 2014-2020, the share for cross-border cooperation should be reduced, while the share for transnational cooperation and maritime cooperation should be increased because of the integration of maritime cooperation, and a new outermost regions' cooperation component should be created.***

(15) It is necessary to set out the resources allocated to each of the different components of Interreg, including each Member State's share of the global amounts for the cross-border cooperation, the transnational cooperation, the outermost regions' cooperation and the interregional cooperation, the potential available to Member States concerning flexibility between those components. ***Given globalisation, cooperation aimed to boost investments in more jobs and growth and joint investments with other regions should, however, also be determined by the regions common characteristics and ambitions and not necessarily by borders, therefore sufficient additional funds for the new initiative on interregional innovation investments should be made available to respond to the global market condition.***

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) Within the context of the unique and specific circumstances on the island of Ireland, and with a view to supporting North-South cooperation under the Good Friday Agreement, a new 'PEACE PLUS' cross-border programme **should continue** and build on the work of previous programmes between the border counties of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Taking into account its practical importance, it is necessary to ensure that, where the programme is acting in support of peace and reconciliation, the ERDF should also contribute to promoting social, economic and regional stability in the regions concerned, in particular through actions to promote cohesion between communities. Given the specificities of the programme it should be managed in an integrated manner with the United Kingdom contribution being integrated into the programme as external assigned revenue. Furthermore, certain rules on the selection of operations in this Regulation should not apply to that programme in relation to operations in support of peace and reconciliation.

Amendment

(18) Within the context of the unique and specific circumstances on the island of Ireland, and with a view to supporting North-South cooperation under the Good Friday Agreement, a new 'PEACE PLUS' cross-border programme **is to continue** and build on the work of previous programmes between the border counties of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Taking into account its practical importance, it is necessary to ensure that, where the programme is acting in support of peace and reconciliation, the ERDF should also contribute to promoting social, economic and regional stability **and cooperation** in the regions concerned, in particular through actions to promote cohesion between communities. Given the specificities of the programme it should be managed in an integrated manner with the United Kingdom contribution being integrated into the programme as external assigned revenue. Furthermore, certain rules on the selection of operations in this Regulation should not apply to that programme in relation to operations in support of peace and reconciliation.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 20

Text proposed by the Commission

(20) The major part of the Union support should be concentrated on a limited number of policy objectives in order to maximise the impact of Interreg.

Amendment

(20) The major part of the Union support should be concentrated on a limited number of policy objectives in order to maximise the impact of Interreg. ***Synergies and complementarities between the components of INTERREG should be strengthened.***

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation Recital 21

Text proposed by the Commission

(21) Provisions on the preparation, approval and amendment of Interreg programmes as well as on territorial development, on the selection of operations, on monitoring and evaluation, on the programme authorities, on audit of operations, and on transparency and communication should be adapted to the specificities of Interreg programmes compared to the provisions set out in Regulation (EU) [new CPR].

Amendment

(21) Provisions on the preparation, approval and amendment of Interreg programmes as well as on territorial development, on the selection of operations, on monitoring and evaluation, on the programme authorities, on audit of operations, and on transparency and communication should be adapted to the specificities of Interreg programmes compared to the provisions set out in Regulation (EU) [new CPR]. ***These specific provisions should be kept simple and clear in order to avoid gold-plating and additional administrative burdens for Member States and beneficiaries.***

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation Recital 22

Text proposed by the Commission

(22) The provisions on the criteria for operations to be considered as genuinely joint and cooperative, on the partnership within an Interreg operation and on the obligations of the lead partner as set out during the programme period 2014-2020 should ***on*** be continued. ***However***, Interreg partners should cooperate in ***all four dimensions*** (development, implementation, staffing ***and*** financing) and, under outermost regions' cooperation, in three out of four, as it should be simpler to combine support from the ERDF and external financing instruments from the Union both on the level of programmes and

Amendment

(22) The provisions on the criteria for operations to be considered as genuinely joint and cooperative, on the partnership within an Interreg operation and on the obligations of the lead partner as set out during the programme period 2014-2020 should be continued. Interreg partners should cooperate in development ***and*** implementation ***as well as*** staffing ***or*** financing, ***or both***, and, under outermost regions' cooperation, in three out of four, as it should be simpler to combine support from the ERDF and external financing instruments from the Union both on the level of programmes and operations.

operations.

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation Recital 22 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(22 a) Under cross-border cooperation programmes, people-to-people (P2P) and small-scale projects are an important and successful instrument for eliminating border and cross border obstacles, fostering contacts between people locally and, in so doing, bringing border regions and their citizens closer together. P2P projects and small-scale projects are carried out in many areas such as, inter alia, culture, sport, tourism, general education and vocational training, the economy, science, environmental protection and ecology, healthcare, transport and small-scale infrastructure projects, administrative cooperation and public-relations work. As also set forth in the opinion of the Committee of the Regions ‘People-to-people and small-scale projects in cross-border cooperation programmes’³², P2P projects and small-scale projects have high European added value and make a considerable contribution towards realising the overall objective of cross-border cooperation programmes.

³² *Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions ‘People-to-people and small-scale projects in cross-border cooperation programmes’ of 12 July 2017 (OJ C 342, 12.10.2017, p. 38).*

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

(23) ***It is necessary to clarify the rules governing small project funds which have been implemented*** since Interreg has existed, ***but*** have never been covered by specific provisions. ***As also set out in the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions ‘People-to-people and small-scale projects in cross-border cooperation programmes’³², such small project funds play an important role in building up trust between citizens and institutions, offer great European added value and contribute considerably to the overall objective of cross-border cooperation programmes by overcoming border obstacles and integrating border areas and their citizens. In order to*** simplify the management of the financing of small projects by the final recipients, who are often not used to applying for Union funds, the use of simplified cost options and of lump sums should be made obligatory below a certain threshold.

³² ***Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions ‘People-to-people and small-scale projects in cross-border cooperation programmes’ of 12 July 2017 (OJ C 342, 12.10.2017, p. 38).***

Amendment

(23) Since Interreg has existed, ***P2P projects and small-scale projects have been supported via small-project funds or similar instruments that*** have never been covered by specific provisions, ***making it necessary to clarify the rules governing those funds. In order to maintain the added value and advantages of P2P and small-scale projects, also with regard to local and regional development, and to*** simplify the management of the financing of small projects by the final recipients, who are often not used to applying for Union funds, the use of simplified cost options and of lump sums should be made obligatory below a certain threshold.

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation Recital 24

Text proposed by the Commission

(24) Due to the involvement of more than one Member State, and the resulting higher

Amendment

(24) Due to the involvement of more than one Member State, and the resulting higher

administrative costs, in particular in respect of controls and translation, the ceiling for technical assistance expenditure should be higher than that under the Investment for jobs and growth goal. In order to offset the higher administrative costs, Member States should be encouraged to reduce the administrative burden with regard to the implementation of joint projects wherever possible. In addition, Interreg programmes with limited Union support or external cross-border cooperation programmes should receive a certain minimum amount for technical assistance to ensure sufficient funding for effective technical assistance activities.

administrative costs, ***including for regional points of contact (or ‘antennae’), which are important points of contact for those proposing and implementing projects, and therefore function as a direct line to the joint secretariats or the relevant authorities, but*** in particular in respect of controls and translation, the ceiling for technical assistance expenditure should be higher than that under the Investment for jobs and growth goal. In order to offset the higher administrative costs, Member States should be encouraged to reduce the administrative burden with regard to the implementation of joint projects wherever possible. In addition, Interreg programmes with limited Union support or external cross-border cooperation programmes should receive a certain minimum amount for technical assistance to ensure sufficient funding for effective technical assistance activities.

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation Recital 25 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(25a) In connection with reducing administrative burden, the Commission, Member States and regions should cooperate closely in order to be able to make use of the enhanced proportionate arrangements for the management and control system for an Interreg programme that are referred to in Article 77 of Regulation (EU) .../... [new CPR].

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation Recital 27

Text proposed by the Commission

(27) Member States should **be encouraged to assign** the functions of the managing authority to **an** EGTC or to make such a grouping, like other cross-border legal bodies, responsible for managing a sub-programme, an integrated territorial investment **or one or more small project funds**, or to act as sole partner.

Amendment

(27) Member States should, **where appropriate, delegate** the functions of the managing authority to **a new or, where applicable, an existing** EGTC or to make such a grouping, like other cross-border legal bodies, responsible for managing a sub-programme, an integrated territorial investment, or to act as sole partner. **Member States should enable regional and local authorities and other public bodies from different Member States to set up such cooperation groupings with a legal personality and should involve local and regional authorities in their functioning.**

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 28

Text proposed by the Commission

(28) In order to continue the payment chain established for the programming period 2014-2020, i.e. from the Commission to the lead partner via the certifying authority, that payment chain should be continued under the accounting function. The Union support should be paid to the lead partner, unless this would result in double fees for conversion into euro and back into another currency or vice versa between the lead partner and the other partners.

Amendment

(28) In order to continue the payment chain established for the programming period 2014-2020, i.e. from the Commission to the lead partner via the certifying authority, that payment chain should be continued under the accounting function. The Union support should be paid to the lead partner, unless this would result in double fees for conversion into euro and back into another currency or vice versa between the lead partner and the other partners. **If not otherwise specified, the lead partner should ensure that the other partners receive the total amount of the contribution from the respective Union fund in full and within the timeframe agreed by all partners and following the same procedure applied in respect of the lead partner.**

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation Recital 29

Text proposed by the Commission

(29) Pursuant to Article [63(9)] of Regulation (EU, Euratom) [FR-Omnibus] sector-specific rules are to take account of the needs of European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) programmes as regards, in particular the audit function. The provisions on the annual audit opinion, the annual control report and the audits of operations should therefore be simplified and adapted to those programmes involving more than one Member **States**.

Amendment

(29) Pursuant to Article [63(9)] of Regulation (EU, Euratom) [FR-Omnibus] sector-specific rules are to take account of the needs of European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) programmes, as regards in particular the audit function. The provisions on the annual audit opinion, the annual control report and the audits of operations should therefore be simplified and adapted to those programmes involving more than one Member **State**.

Amendment 30

Proposal for a regulation Recital 30

Text proposed by the Commission

(30) A clear chain of financial liability in respect of recovery for irregularities should be established from sole or other partners via the lead partner and the managing authority to the Commission. Provision should be made for liability of Member States, third countries, partner countries or Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), where obtaining recovery from the sole or other or lead partner is not successful, meaning that the Member State reimburses the managing authority. Consequently, under Interreg programmes there is no scope for irrecoverable amounts on the level of beneficiaries. It is, however, **necessary** to clarify the rules, should a Member State, third country, partner country or OCT not reimburse the managing authority. The obligations of the lead partner for recovery should also be clarified. **In particular**, the managing

Amendment

(30) A clear chain of financial liability in respect of recovery for irregularities should be established from sole or other partners via the lead partner and the managing authority to the Commission. Provision should be made for liability of Member States, third countries, partner countries or Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), where obtaining recovery from the sole or other or lead partner is not successful, meaning that the Member State reimburses the managing authority. Consequently, under Interreg programmes there is no scope for irrecoverable amounts on the level of beneficiaries. It is **necessary**, however, to clarify the rules, should a Member State, third country, partner country or OCT not reimburse the managing authority. The obligations of the lead partner for recovery should also be clarified. **Moreover, the procedures**

authority should not be allowed to oblige the lead partner to launch a judicial procedure in a different country.

related to recoveries should be established and agreed by the monitoring committee.

However, the managing authority should not be allowed to oblige the lead partner to launch a judicial procedure in a different country.

Amendment 31

Proposal for a regulation Recital 30 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(30 a) It is appropriate to encourage financial discipline. At the same time, arrangements for decommitment of budgetary commitments should take into account the complexity of Interreg programmes and their implementation.

Amendment 32

Proposal for a regulation Recital 32

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(32) Although Interreg programmes with the participation of third countries, partner countries or OCTs should be implemented under shared management, outermost regions' cooperation may be implemented under indirect management. Specific rules should be set out how to implement those programmes as a whole or partially under indirect management.

(32) Although Interreg programmes with the participation of third countries, partner countries or OCTs should be implemented under shared management, outermost regions' cooperation may be implemented under indirect management. Specific rules should be set out ***on*** how to implement those programmes as a whole or partially under indirect management.

Amendment 33

Proposal for a regulation Recital 35

Text proposed by the Commission

(35) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the adoption or amendment of Interreg programmes, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. However, external cross-border cooperation programmes should respect, **where applicable**, Committee procedures established under Regulations (EU) [IPA III] and [NDICI] with regard to the first approval decision of those programmes.

Amendment

(35) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the adoption or amendment of Interreg programmes, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. However, **where applicable**, external cross-border cooperation programmes should respect Committee procedures established under Regulations (EU) [IPA III] and [NDICI] with regard to the first approval decision of those programmes.

Amendment 34

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 36 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(36 a) *The promotion of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) is a major priority of Union cohesion policy. Support for SMEs for costs incurred in ETC projects is already block-exempted under the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014^{1a} (General block exemption Regulation (GBER)). Special provisions in relation to regional aid for investments by undertakings of all sizes are also included in the Guidelines on regional State aid for 2014-2020^{2a} and in the regional aid section of the GBER. In the light of experience gained, aid for European Territorial Cooperation projects should only have limited effects on competition and trade between Member States, and thus the Commission should be able to declare that such aid is compatible with the internal market and that financing provided in support of ETC projects is able to be block-exempted.*

1^a Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (OJ L 187, 26.6.2014, p. 1).

2^a Guidelines on regional State aid for 2014-2020 (OJ C 209, 23.07.2013, p. 1).

Amendment 35

Proposal for a regulation Article 1 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. This Regulation lays down rules for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) with a view to fostering cooperation between Member States inside the Union and between Member States and **adjacent** third countries, partner countries, other territories or overseas countries and territories ('OCTs') respectively.

Amendment

1. This Regulation lays down rules for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) with a view to fostering cooperation between Member States **and their regions** inside the Union and between Member States, **their regions** and third countries, partner countries, other territories or overseas countries and territories ('OCTs'), **or regional integration and cooperation organisations, or group of third countries forming part of a regional organisation**, respectively.

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) 'cross-border legal body' means a legal body established under the laws of one of the participating countries in an Interreg programme provided that it is set up by territorial authorities or other bodies from at least two participating countries.

Amendment

(4) 'cross-border legal body' means a legal body **including a euroregion**, established under the laws of one of the participating countries in an Interreg programme provided that it is set up by territorial authorities or other bodies from

at least two participating countries.

Amendment 37

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4 a) 'regional integration and cooperation organisation' means a group of Member States or regions in the same geographical area that aim to cooperate closely on issues of common interest.

Amendment 38

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1) cross-border cooperation between adjacent regions to promote integrated regional development (component 1):

(1) cross-border cooperation between adjacent regions to promote integrated ***and harmonious*** regional development (component 1):

Amendment 39

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) internal cross-border cooperation between adjacent land border regions of two or more Member States or between adjacent land border regions of at least one Member State and one or more third

(a) internal cross-border cooperation between adjacent land ***or maritime*** border regions of two or more Member States or between adjacent land ***or maritime*** border regions of at least one Member State and

countries listed in Article 4(3); or

one or more third countries listed in Article 4(3); or

Amendment 40

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point b – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) external cross-border cooperation, between adjacent land border regions of at least one Member State and of one or more of the following:

Amendment

(b) external cross-border cooperation, between adjacent land **or maritime** border regions of at least one Member State and of one or more of the following:

Amendment 41

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) transnational **cooperation and maritime** cooperation over larger transnational territories or around sea-basins, involving national, regional and local programme partners in Member States, third countries and partner countries and **in Greenland**, with a view to achieving a higher degree of territorial integration ('component 2'; **where referring only to transnational cooperation: 'component 2A'; where referring only to maritime cooperation: 'component 2B'**);

Amendment

(2) transnational cooperation over larger transnational territories or around sea-basins, involving national, regional and local programme partners in Member States, third countries and partner countries and **OCTs**, with a view to achieving a higher degree of territorial integration ('component 2');

Amendment 42

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3) outermost regions' cooperation among themselves and with their neighbouring third or partner countries or OCTs, or several thereof, to facilitate their regional integration in their neighbourhood ('component 3');

(3) outermost regions' cooperation among themselves and with their neighbouring third or partner countries or OCTs, or ***regional integration and cooperation organisations, or*** several thereof, to facilitate their regional integration ***and harmonious development*** in their neighbourhood ('component 3');

Amendment 43

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 4 – point a – point i a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(i a) the implementation of common interregional development projects;

Amendment 44

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 4 – point a – point i b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(i b) the development of capacities between partners throughout the Union in connection with:

Amendment 45

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 4 – point a – point ii a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ii a) the identification and dissemination of good practices with a view to their transfer principally to operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal;

Amendment 46

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 4 – point a – point ii b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ii b) the exchange of experiences concerning the identification, transfer and dissemination of best practice on sustainable urban development, including linkages between urban and rural areas;

Amendment 47

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 4 – point a – point iii a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iii a) the setting-up, functioning and use of the European Cross-Border Mechanism as referred to in Regulation (EU) .../... [new European Cross-Border Mechanism];

Amendment 48

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 5

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5) interregional innovation investments through the commercialisation and scaling up of interregional innovation projects having the potential to encourage the development of European value chains ('component 5').

deleted

Amendment 49

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. For cross-border cooperation, the regions to be supported by the ERDF shall be the NUTS level 3 regions of the Union along all internal and external land borders with third countries or partner countries.

1. For cross-border cooperation, the regions to be supported by the ERDF shall be the NUTS level 3 regions of the Union along all internal and external land **or maritime** borders with third countries or partner countries, **without prejudice to potential adjustments to ensure the coherence and continuity of cooperation programme areas established for the 2014-2020 programming planning period.**

Amendment 50

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. **Regions on maritime borders which are connected over the sea by a fixed link shall also be supported under cross-border cooperation.**

deleted

Amendment 51

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Internal cross-border cooperation Interreg programmes may cover regions in Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom which are equivalent to NUTS level 3 regions as well as Liechtenstein, Andorra *and* Monaco.

Amendment

3. Internal cross-border cooperation Interreg programmes may cover regions in Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom which are equivalent to NUTS level 3 regions as well as Liechtenstein, Andorra, Monaco *and San Marino*.

Amendment 52

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. For external cross-border cooperation, the regions to be supported by IPA III or NDICI shall be NUTS level 3 regions of the respective partner country or, in the absence of NUTS classification, equivalent areas along all land borders between Member States and partner countries eligible under IPA III or NDICI.

Amendment

4. For external cross-border cooperation, the regions to be supported by IPA III or NDICI shall be NUTS level 3 regions of the respective partner country or, in the absence of NUTS classification, equivalent areas along all land *or maritime* borders between Member States and partner countries eligible under IPA III or NDICI.

Amendment 53

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

5 Geographical coverage for transnational cooperation *and maritime cooperation*

Amendment

Geographical coverage for transnational cooperation

Amendment 54

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. For transnational ***cooperation and maritime*** cooperation, the regions to be supported by the ERDF shall be the NUTS level 2 regions of the Union covering contiguous functional areas, taking into account, where applicable, macro-regional strategies or sea basin strategies.

Amendment

1. For transnational cooperation, the regions to be supported by the ERDF shall be the NUTS level 2 regions of the Union covering contiguous functional areas, ***without prejudice to potential adjustments to ensure the coherence and continuity of such cooperation in larger coherent areas based on the 2014-2020 programming planning period and*** taking into account, where applicable, macro-regional strategies or sea basin strategies.

Amendment 55

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Transnational ***cooperation and maritime*** cooperation Interreg programmes may cover:

Amendment

Transnational cooperation Interreg programmes may cover:

Amendment 56

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) ***Greenland;***

Amendment

(b) ***OCTs benefit from the support***

provided by the OCT programme;

Amendment 57

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The regions, third countries *or* partner countries listed in paragraph 2 shall be NUTS level 2 regions or, in the absence of NUTS classification, equivalent areas.

Amendment

3. The regions, third countries, partner countries, *or OCTs* listed in paragraph 2 shall be NUTS level 2 regions or, in the absence of NUTS classification, equivalent areas.

Amendment 58

Proposal for a regulation Article 6 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The outermost regions' Interreg programmes may cover *neighbouring* partner countries supported by the NDICI *or* OCTs supported by the OCTP, or *both*.

Amendment

2. The outermost regions' Interreg programmes may cover partner countries supported by the NDICI, OCTs supported by the OCTP, *regional cooperation organisations, or a combination of two or all three of these*.

Amendment 59

Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

Geographical coverage for interregional cooperation *and interregional innovation investments*

Amendment

Geographical coverage for interregional cooperation

Amendment 60

Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. For any component 4 Interreg programme *or for interregional innovation investments under component 5*, the entire territory of the Union shall be supported by the ERDF.

Amendment

1. For any component 4 Interreg programme the entire territory of the Union shall be supported by the ERDF ***including the outermost regions.***

Amendment 61

Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Component 4 Interreg programmes may cover the whole or part of the third countries, partner countries, other territories or OCTs referred to in Articles 4, 5 and 6, whether or not they are supported by the external financing instruments of the Union.

Amendment

2. Component 4 Interreg programmes may cover the whole or part of the third countries, partner countries, other territories or OCTs referred to in Articles 4, 5 and 6, whether or not they are supported by the external financing instruments of the Union. ***Third countries may participate in those programmes, provided that they make a funding contribution in the form of externally allocated revenue.***

Amendment 62

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The implementing act referred to in paragraph 1 shall also contain a list specifying those NUTS level 3 regions of

Amendment

2. The implementing act referred to in paragraph 1 shall also contain a list specifying those NUTS level 3 regions of

the Union taken into account for the ERDF allocation for cross-border cooperation at all internal borders and those external borders covered by the external financing instruments of the Union *as well as a list specifying those NUTS level 3 regions taken into account for allocation purposes under component 2B referred to in point (a) of Article 9(3)*.

the Union taken into account for the ERDF allocation for cross-border cooperation at all internal borders and those external borders covered by the external financing instruments of the Union.

Amendment 63

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Regions of third or partner countries or territories outside the Union which do not receive *supported* from the ERDF or an external financing instrument of the Union shall also be mentioned in the list referred to in paragraph 1.

Amendment

3. Regions of third or partner countries or territories outside the Union which do not receive *support* from the ERDF or an external financing instrument of the Union shall also be mentioned in the list referred to in paragraph 1.

Amendment 64

Proposal for a regulation Article 9 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. *The ERDF* resources for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) shall amount to EUR **8 430 000 000** of the global resources available for budgetary commitment from the ERDF, ESF+ and the Cohesion Fund for *the 2021-2027* programming period and set out in Article [102(1)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR].

Amendment

1. Resources for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) shall amount to EUR **11 165 910 000 (2018 prices)** of out the global resources available for budgetary commitment from the ERDF, ESF+ and the Cohesion Fund for *the 2021-2027* programming period and set out in Article [103(1)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR].

Amendment 65

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The resources referred to in paragraph 1 shall be allocated as follows:

Amendment

2. **EUR 10 195 910 000 (91,31 %) of** the resources referred to in paragraph 1 shall be allocated as follows:

Amendment 66

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) **52.7 % (i.e., a total of EUR 4 440 000 000)** for cross-border cooperation (component 1);

Amendment

(a) **EUR 7 500 000 000 (67,16 %)** for cross-border cooperation (component 1);

Amendment 67

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) **31.4 % (i.e., a total of EUR 2 649 900 000)** for transnational cooperation **and maritime cooperation** (component 2);

Amendment

(b) **EUR 1 973 600 880 (17,68 %)** for transnational cooperation (component 2);

Amendment 68

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 2 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(c) **3.2 % (i.e., a total of EUR 270 100 000)** for outermost regions' cooperation (component 3);

(c) **EUR 357 309 120 (3,2 %)** for outermost regions' cooperation (component 3);

Amendment 69

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(d) **1.2 % (i.e., a total of EUR 100 000 000)** for interregional cooperation (component 4);

(d) **EUR 365 000 000 (3,27%)** for interregional cooperation (component 4);

Amendment 70

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 2 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(e) **11.5 % (i.e., a total of EUR 970 000 000) for interregional innovation investments (component 5).**

deleted

Amendment 71

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) NUTS level 3 regions for component 1 **and those NUTS level 3 regions for**

(a) NUTS level 3 regions for component 1 listed in the implementing act under

component 2B listed in the implementing act under Article 8(2);

Article 8(2);

Amendment 72

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) NUTS level 2 regions for *components 2A and 3*.

(b) NUTS level 2 regions for *component 2*.

Amendment 73

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 2 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b a) NUTS level 2 and 3 regions for component 3.

Amendment 74

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

5 a. EUR 970 000 000 (8,69 %) of the resources referred to in paragraph 1 shall be allocated to the new initiative on interregional innovation investments as referred to in Article 15 a (new).

If by 31 December 2026, the Commission has not committed all of the available resources referred to in paragraph 1 on projects selected under that initiative, the

remaining uncommitted balances shall be re-allocated prorata among components 1 to 4.

Amendment 75

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Support from the ERDF shall be granted to individual external cross-border Interreg programmes provided that equivalent amounts are provided by IPA III CBC and NDICI CBC under the relevant strategic programming document. That *equivalence* shall be subject to a maximum amount set out in the IPA III or NDICI legislative act.

Amendment

Support from the ERDF shall be granted to individual external cross-border Interreg programmes provided that *at least* equivalent amounts are provided by IPA III CBC and NDICI CBC under the relevant strategic programming document. That *contribution* shall be subject to a maximum amount set out in the IPA III or NDICI legislative act.

Amendment 76

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) the Interreg programme cannot be implemented as planned due to problems in relations between the participating countries.

Amendment

(b) *In duly justified cases, where* the Interreg programme cannot be implemented as planned due to problems in relations between the participating countries.

Amendment 77

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

With regard to a component 2 Interreg programme already approved by the Commission, the participation of a partner country or of **Greenland** shall be discontinued, if one of the situations set out in points (a) and (b) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 3 is fulfilled.

Amendment

With regard to a component 2 Interreg programme already approved by the Commission, the participation of a partner country or of **an OCT** shall be discontinued, if one of the situations set out in points(a) and (b) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 3 is fulfilled.

Amendment 78

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) that the Interreg programme be discontinued in total, in particular where the main joint development challenges thereof cannot be achieved without the participation of that partner country or **of Greenland**;

Amendment

(a) that the Interreg programme be discontinued in total, in particular where the main joint development challenges thereof cannot be achieved without the participation of that partner country or **OCT**;

Amendment 79

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 2 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) that the Interreg programme continue without the participation of that partner country or of **Greenland**.

Amendment

(c) that the Interreg programme continue without the participation of that partner country or of **an OCT**.

Amendment 80

Proposal for a regulation Article 12 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. Where a third country *or* partner country contributing to an Interreg programme with national resources, which do not constitute the national cofinancing of support from the ERDF or from an external financing instrument of the Union, reduces that contribution during the implementation of the Interreg programme, either globally or with regard to joint operations already selected and having received the document provided for in Article 22(6), the participating Member State or Member States shall request one of the options set out in the second subparagraph of paragraph 4.

Amendment

6. Where a third country, partner country *or OCTs* contributing to an Interreg programme with national resources, which do not constitute the national cofinancing of support from the ERDF or from an external financing instrument of the Union, reduces that contribution during the implementation of the Interreg programme, either globally or with regard to joint operations already selected and having received the document provided for in Article 22(6), the participating Member State or Member States shall request one of the options set out in the second subparagraph of paragraph 4 *of this Article*.

Amendment 81

Proposal for a regulation Article 13 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The co-financing rate at the level of each Interreg programme shall be not higher than **70** %, unless, with regard to external cross-border or component 3 Interreg programmes, a higher percentage is fixed in Regulations (EU) [IPA III], [NDICI] or Council Decision (EU) [OCTP] respectively or in any act adopted thereunder.

Amendment

The co-financing rate at the level of each Interreg programme shall be not higher than **80** %, unless, with regard to external cross-border or component 3 Interreg programmes, a higher percentage is fixed in Regulations (EU) [IPA III], [NDICI] or Council Decision (EU) [OCTP] respectively or in any act adopted thereunder.

Amendment 82

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

3. In addition to the specific objectives for the ERDF as set out in Article [2] of Regulation (EU) [new ERDF], the ERDF and, where applicable, the external financing instruments of the Union *may* also contribute to the specific objectives under PO 4 as follows:

Amendment

3. In addition to the specific objectives for the ERDF as set out in Article [2] of Regulation (EU) [new ERDF], the ERDF and, where applicable, the external financing instruments of the Union *shall* also contribute to the specific objectives under PO 4 as follows:

Amendment 83

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 4 – point a – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) under component 1 and **2B** Interreg programmes:

Amendment

(a) under component 1 and **2** Interreg programmes:

Amendment 84

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 4 – point a – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

(ii) enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions;

Amendment

(ii) enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, *including people-to-people projects, civil society actors* and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions;

Amendment 85

Proposal for a regulation Article 14 – paragraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. Under **external cross-border and** component 2 and 3 Interreg programmes the ERDF and, where applicable, the external financing instruments of the Union **shall** also contribute to the **external** Interreg-specific objective 'a safer and more secure Europe', in particular by actions in the fields of border crossing management and mobility and migration management, including the protection of migrants.

Amendment

5. Under component **1**, 2 and 3 Interreg programmes the ERDF and, where applicable, the external financing instruments of the Union **may** also contribute to the Interreg-specific objective 'a safer and more secure Europe', in particular by actions in the fields of border crossing management and mobility and migration management, including the protection, **economic and social integration** of migrants **and refugees under international protection**.

Amendment 86

Proposal for a regulation Article 15 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. **An additional 15%** of the ERDF and, where applicable, of the external financing instruments of the Union allocations under priorities other than for technical assistance to each Interreg programme under components 1, 2 and 3, shall be allocated on the Interreg-specific objective of 'a better Interreg governance' **or** on the **external** Interreg-specific objective of 'a safer and more secure Europe'.

Amendment

2. Of the ERDF and, where applicable, of the external financing instruments of the Union allocations under priorities other than for technical assistance to each Interreg programme under components 1, 2 and 3, **up to 15 %** shall be allocated on the Interreg-specific objective of 'a better Interreg governance' **and up to 10 % may be allocated** on the Interreg-specific objective of 'a safer and more secure Europe'.

Amendment 87

Proposal for a regulation Article 15 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Where a component **2A** Interreg programme supports a macro-regional strategy, the **total** ERDF and, where applicable, the **total** external financing instruments of the Union allocations under priorities other than for technical assistance shall **be programmed on** the objectives of that strategy.

Amendment

3. Where a component **1 or 2** Interreg programme supports a macro-regional strategy **or a sea-basin strategy, at least 80 %** the ERDF and, where applicable, **part of** the external financing instruments of the Union allocations under priorities other than for technical assistance shall **contribute to** the objectives of that strategy.

Amendment 88

Proposal for a regulation Article 15 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Where a component 2B Interreg programme supports a macro-regional strategy or sea-basin strategy, at least 70% of the total ERDF and, where applicable, of the external financing instruments of the Union allocations under priorities other than for technical assistance shall be allocated on the objectives of that strategy.

Amendment

deleted

Amendment 89

Proposal for a regulation Article 15 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 15 a

Interregional innovation investments

1. The resources referred to in Article 9 (5 a) (new) shall be allocated to a new

initiative on interregional innovation investments that is earmarked for:

(a) the commercialisation and scaling up of common innovation projects that are likely to encourage the development of European value chains;

(b) the bringing together of researchers, businesses, civil society organisations, and public administrations involved in smart specialisation and social innovation strategies at national or regional level;

(c) pilot projects aimed at identifying or testing new development solutions at regional and local level which are based on smart specialisation strategies; or

(d) sharing innovation experiences with the aim of benefiting from the experience gained in regional or local development.

2. To maintain the European territorial cohesion principle, with an approximate equal share of financial resources, those investments shall focus on creating linkages between less developed regions with those in lead regions by increasing the capacity of regional innovation ecosystems in less developed regions to integrate in and move up the existing or emerging EU value as well as the capacity to participate in partnerships with other regions.

3. The Commission shall implement those investments under direct or indirect management. It shall be supported by an expert group in defining a long-term work programme and related calls.

4. The entire territory of the Union shall be supported by the ERDF for interregional innovation investments. Third countries may participate in those investments, provided that they make a funding contribution in the form of externally allocated revenue.

Amendment 90

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) shall be implemented through Interreg programmes under shared management with the exception of component 3, which may be implemented as a whole or partially under indirect management, **and of component 5 which shall be implemented under direct or indirect management.**

Amendment

1. The European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) shall be implemented through Interreg programmes under shared management with the exception of component 3, which may be implemented as a whole or partially under indirect management **after consulting stakeholders.**

Amendment 91

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The participating Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries **or** OCTs, shall prepare an Interreg programme in accordance with the template set out in the Annex for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027.

Amendment

2. The participating Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries, OCTs, **or regional integration and cooperation organisations** shall prepare an Interreg programme in accordance with the template set out in the Annex for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027.

Amendment 92

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The participating Member States shall prepare an Interreg programme in

Amendment

The participating Member States shall prepare an Interreg programme in

cooperation with the programme partners referred to in Article [6] of Regulation (EU) [the new CPR].

cooperation with the programme partners referred to in Article [6] of Regulation (EU) [the new CPR]. *In the preparation of the Interreg programmes, covering macro-regional or sea basin strategies, the Member States and the programme partners should take into account the thematic priorities of the relevant macro-regional and sea basins strategies and consult the relevant actors. An ex ante mechanism shall be set up by the Member States and the programme partners to ensure that all actors at macro-region and sea basin level, ETC programme authorities, regions and countries are brought together at the start of the programming period to decide jointly on the priorities for each programme. Those priorities shall be aligned with macro-regional or sea basin strategies' Action Plans wherever relevant.*

Amendment 93

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Member State hosting the prospective managing authority, shall submit **an** Interreg **programme** to the Commission by [date of entry into force plus **nine months**;) on behalf of all participating Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries **or OCTs**.

Amendment

The Member State hosting the prospective managing authority, shall submit **one or more** Interreg **programmes** to the Commission by [date of entry into force plus **twelvemonths**;) on behalf of all participating Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries, **OCTs, or regional integration and cooperation organisations**.

Amendment 94

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

However, an Interreg programme covering support from an external financing instrument of the Union shall be submitted by the Member State hosting the prospective managing authority no later than *six* months after the adoption by the Commission of the relevant strategic programming document under Article 10(1) or where required under the respective basic act of one or more of an external financing instrument of the Union.

Amendment

However, an Interreg programme covering support from an external financing instrument of the Union shall be submitted by the Member State hosting the prospective managing authority no later than *twelve* months after the adoption by the Commission of the relevant strategic programming document under Article 10(1) or where required under the respective basic act of one or more of an external financing instrument of the Union.

Amendment 95

Proposal for a regulation Article 17 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. ***In duly justified cases and in agreement with the Commission***, in order to increase the efficiency of programme implementation and to achieve larger-scale operations, the Member State concerned may decide to transfer to Interreg programmes up to ~~[x]~~% of the amount of the ERDF allocated to the corresponding programme under the Investment for jobs and growth goal for the same region. The amount transferred shall constitute a separate priority or separate priorities.

Amendment

3. In order to increase the efficiency of programme implementation and to achieve larger-scale operations, the Member State concerned may decide to transfer to Interreg programmes up to **20** % of the amount of the ERDF allocated to the corresponding programme under the Investment for jobs and growth goal for the same region. ***Each Member State shall inform the Commission in advance that it intends to make use of the transfer option, and shall give the Commission reasons for its decision.*** The amount transferred shall constitute a separate priority or separate priorities.

Amendment 96

Proposal for a regulation Article 17 – paragraph 4 – point b – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) a summary of the main joint challenges, taking into account:

(b) a summary of the main joint challenges, ***particularly*** taking into account:

Amendment 97

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 4 – point b – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ii) joint investment needs and complementarity with other forms of support;

(ii) joint investment needs and complementarity with other forms of support ***and potential synergies to be achieved***;

Amendment 98

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 4 – point b – point iii

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iii) lessons learnt from past experience;

(iii) lessons learnt from past experience ***and how they have been taken into account into the programme***;

Amendment 99

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 4 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(c) a justification for the selected policy

(c) a justification for the selected policy

objectives and Interreg-specific objectives, corresponding priorities, **specific objectives and the forms of support**, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure;

objectives and Interreg-specific objectives, corresponding priorities, **and** addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure;

Amendment 100

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 4 – point e – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

(i) the related types of actions, including a list of planned operations of strategic importance, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies, where appropriate;

Amendment

(i) the related types of actions, including a list of planned operations of strategic importance, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies, where appropriate, **respectively the set of criteria and the corresponding transparent selection criteria for such operation**;

Amendment 101

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 4 – point e – point iii

Text proposed by the Commission

(iii) **the main target groups**;

Amendment

deleted

Amendment 102

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 4 – point e – point v

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(v) the planned use of financial instruments;

deleted

Amendment 103

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 5 – point a – point iii

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iii) for component 2 Interreg programmes supported by OCTP concerning split per financing instrument ('ERDF' and 'OCTP *Greenland*');

(iii) for component 2 Interreg programmes supported by OCTP concerning split per financing instrument ('ERDF' and 'OCTP');

Amendment 104

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 5 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) with regard to the table referred to in point (g)(ii) of paragraph 4, it shall include the amounts for the years 2021 to 2025 only.

deleted

Amendment 105

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 7 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) lay down the procedure for setting up

(b) lay down the procedure for setting up

the joint secretariat;

the joint secretariat *and, where applicable, supporting management structures in the Member States or third countries*;

Amendment 106

Proposal for a regulation Article 18 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall assess each Interreg programme and its compliance with Regulation (EU) [new CPR], Regulation (EU) [new ERDF] and this Regulation and, in the case of support from an external financing instrument of the Union and where relevant, its consistency with the multi-annual strategy document under Article 10(1) or the relevant strategic programming framework under the respective basic act of one or more of those instruments.

Amendment

1. The Commission shall assess *with full transparency* each Interreg programme and its compliance with Regulation (EU) [new CPR], Regulation (EU) [new ERDF] and this Regulation and, in the case of support from an external financing instrument of the Union and where relevant, its consistency with the multi-annual strategy document under Article 10(1) *of this Regulation* or the relevant strategic programming framework under the respective basic act of one or more of those instruments.

Amendment 107

Proposal for a regulation Article 18 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The participating Member States and, where applicable, third or partner countries *or OCTs* shall review the Interreg programme taking into account the observations made by the Commission.

Amendment

3. The participating Member States and, where applicable, third or partner countries, *OCTs, or regional integration and cooperation organisations* shall review the Interreg programme taking into account the observations made by the Commission.

Amendment 108

Proposal for a regulation Article 18 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The Commission shall adopt a decision by means of an implementing act approving each Interreg programme no later than **six** months after the date of submission of that programme by the Member State hosting the prospective managing authority.

Amendment

4. The Commission shall adopt a decision by means of an implementing act approving each Interreg programme no later than **three** months after the date of submission **of the revised version** of that programme by the Member State hosting the prospective managing authority.

Amendment 109

Proposal for a regulation Article 19 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Member State hosting the managing authority may submit a motivated request for an amendment of an Interreg programme together with the amended programme, setting out the expected impact of that amendment on the achievement of the objectives.

Amendment

1. **Following consultation with the local and regional authorities and in compliance with Article 6 of Regulation (EU).../... [new CPR]**, the Member State hosting the managing authority may submit a motivated request for an amendment of an Interreg programme together with the amended programme, setting out the expected impact of that amendment on the achievement of the objectives.

Amendment 110

Proposal for a regulation Article 19 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall assess the compliance of the amendment with

Amendment

2. The Commission shall assess the compliance of the amendment with

Regulation (EU) [new CPR], Regulation (EU) [new ERDF] and this Regulation and may make observations within **three months** of the submission of the amended programme.

Regulation (EU) [new CPR], Regulation (EU) [new ERDF] and this Regulation and may make observations within **one month** of the submission of the amended programme.

Amendment 111

Proposal for a regulation Article 19 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The participating Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries **or OCTs** shall review the amended programme and take into account the observations made by the Commission.

Amendment

3. The participating Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries, **OCTs, or regional integration and cooperation organisations** shall review the amended programme and take into account the observations made by the Commission.

Amendment 112

Proposal for a regulation Article 19 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The Commission shall approve the amendment of a Interreg programme no later than **six** months after its submission by the Member State.

Amendment

4. The Commission shall approve the amendment of a Interreg programme no later than **three** months after its submission by the Member State.

Amendment 113

Proposal for a regulation Article 19 – paragraph 5 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Member State may transfer during the programming period an amount of up to **5%** of the initial allocation of **a priority** and no more than **3%** of the programme budget to another priority of the same Interreg programme.

Amendment

Following consultation with the local and regional authorities and in compliance with Article 6 of Regulation (EU).../... [new CPR], the Member State may transfer during the programming period an amount of up to **10 %** of the initial allocation of **a priority** and no more than **5 %** of the programme budget to another priority of the same Interreg programme.

Amendment 114

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

That monitoring committee may set up one or, in particular in the case of sub-programmes, more steering committees which act under its responsibility for the selection of operations.

Amendment

That monitoring committee may set up one or, in particular in the case of sub-programmes, more steering committees which act under its responsibility for the selection of operations. ***Steering committees shall apply the partnership principle as set out in Article 6 of Regulation (EU).../... [new CPR] and shall involve partners from all participating Member States.***

Amendment 115

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The managing authority shall ***consult*** the Commission ***and take its comments into account*** prior to the initial submission of the selection criteria to the monitoring

Amendment

3. The managing authority shall ***notify*** the Commission prior to the initial submission of the selection criteria to the monitoring committee or, where

committee or, where applicable, the steering committee. The same shall apply for any subsequent changes to those criteria.

applicable, the steering committee. The same shall apply for any subsequent changes to those criteria.

Amendment 116

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 4 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

4. ***In selecting operations***, the monitoring committee or, where applicable, the steering committee shall:

Amendment

4. ***Before*** the monitoring committee or, where applicable, the steering committee ***selects operations, the managing authority*** shall:

Amendment 117

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 6 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

That document shall also set out the lead partner's obligations with regard to recoveries pursuant to Article 50. ***Those obligations*** shall be defined by the monitoring committee. However, a lead partner located in a different Member State, third country, partner country or OCT from the partner shall not be obliged to recover through a judicial procedure.

Amendment

That document shall also set out the lead partner's obligations with regard to recoveries pursuant to Article 50. ***Procedures related to recoveries*** shall be defined ***and agreed*** by the monitoring committee. However, a lead partner located in a different Member State, third country, partner country or OCT from the partner shall not be obliged to recover through a judicial procedure.

Amendment 118

Proposal for a regulation

Article 23 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Operations selected under components 1, 2 and 3 shall involve actors from at least two participating countries, at least one of which shall be a beneficiary from a Member State.

Amendment

Operations selected under components 1, 2 and 3 shall involve actors from at least two participating countries **or OCTs**, at least one of which shall be a beneficiary from a Member State.

Amendment 119

Proposal for a regulation Article 23 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. An Interreg operation may be implemented in a single country, provided that the impact on and the benefits for the programme area are identified in the operation application.

Amendment

2. An Interreg operation may be implemented in a single country **or OCT**, provided that the impact on and the benefits for the programme area are identified in the operation application.

Amendment 120

Proposal for a regulation Article 23 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Partners shall cooperate in the development, implementation, **staffing and financing** of Interreg operations.

Amendment

Partners shall cooperate in the development **and** implementation of Interreg operations, **as well as in the staffing and/or financing thereof. An effort shall be made to limit the number of partners for each Interreg operation to no more than ten.**

Amendment 121

Proposal for a regulation

Article 23 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

For Interreg operations under component 3 Interreg programmes, the partners from outermost regions and third countries, partner countries or OCTs shall be required to cooperate only in **three** of the four dimensions listed in the first subparagraph.

Amendment

For Interreg operations under component 3 Interreg programmes, the partners from outermost regions and third countries, partner countries or OCTs shall be required to cooperate only in **two** of the four dimensions listed in the first subparagraph.

Amendment 122

Proposal for a regulation

Article 23 – paragraph 6 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

A cross-border legal body or an EGTC may be the sole partner of an Interreg operation under component 1, 2 and 3 Interreg programmes, provided that the members thereof involve partners from at least two participating countries.

Amendment

A cross-border legal body or an EGTC may be the sole partner of an Interreg operation under component 1, 2 and 3 Interreg programmes, provided that the members thereof involve partners from at least two participating countries **or OCTs**.

Amendment 123

Proposal for a regulation

Article 23 – paragraph 7 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

However, a sole partner may be registered in a Member State not participating in that programme, provided the conditions set out in Article 23 are satisfied.

Amendment

deleted

Amendment 124

Proposal for a regulation

Article 24 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The contribution from the ERDF or, where applicable, an external financing instrument of the Union, to **a** small project **fund** within an Interreg programme shall not exceed **EUR 20 000 000 or 15%** of the total allocation of the Interreg programme, **whichever is lower**.

Amendment

The **total** contribution from the ERDF or, where applicable, an external financing instrument of the Union, to **one or more** small project **funds** within an Interreg programme shall not exceed **20 %** of the total allocation of the Interreg programme **and shall, in the case of an Interreg programme for cross-border cooperation, be at least 3 % of the total allocation**.

Amendment 125

Proposal for a regulation

Article 24 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The beneficiary of a small project fund shall be a **cross-border legal body or an EGTC**.

Amendment

2. The beneficiary of a small project fund shall be a **public or private law body, an entity with or without legal personality or a natural person, that is responsible for initiating or both initiating and implementing operations**.

Amendment 126

Proposal for a regulation

Article 24 – paragraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. Staff and indirect costs generated at the level of the beneficiary for the management of the small project fund shall not exceed 20% of the total eligible cost of

Amendment

5. Staff and **other direct costs corresponding to the cost categories in Articles 39 to 42, as well as** indirect costs generated at the level of the beneficiary for

the respective small project fund.

the management of the small project fund *or funds*, shall not exceed 20 % of the total eligible cost of the respective small project fund *or funds*.

Amendment 127

Proposal for a regulation

Article 24 – paragraph 6 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Where the public contribution to a small project does not exceed EUR 100 000, the contribution from the ERDF or, where applicable, an external financing instrument of the Union shall take the form of unit costs or lump sums or include flat rates, *except for projects for which the support constitutes State aid*.

Amendment

Where the public contribution to a small project does not exceed EUR 100 000, the contribution from the ERDF or, where applicable, an external financing instrument of the Union shall take the form of unit costs or lump sums or include flat rates.

Amendment 128

Proposal for a regulation

Article 24 – paragraph 6 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Where the total costs of each operation do not exceed EUR 100 000, the amount of support for one or more small projects may be set out on the basis of a draft budget which is established on a case-by-case basis and agreed ex ante by the body selecting the operation.

Amendment 129

Proposal for a regulation

Article 25 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. If not otherwise specified in the arrangements laid down pursuant to point (a) of paragraph 1 the lead partner shall ensure that the other partners receive the total amount of the contribution from the respective Union fund ***as quickly as possible and*** in full. No amount shall be deducted or withheld and no specific charge or other charge with equivalent effect shall be levied that would reduce that amount for the other partners.

Amendment

2. If not otherwise specified in the arrangements laid down pursuant to point (a) of paragraph 1 the lead partner shall ensure that the other partners receive the total amount of the contribution from the respective Union fund in full ***and within timeframe agreed by all partners and following the same procedure applied in respect of the lead partner.*** No amount shall be deducted or withheld and no specific charge or other charge with equivalent effect shall be levied that would reduce that amount for the other partners.

Amendment 130

Proposal for a regulation

Article 25 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Any beneficiary in a Member State, ***third country, partner country or OCT*** participating in an Interreg programme may be designated as the lead partner.

Amendment

Any beneficiary in a Member State participating in an Interreg programme may be designated as the lead partner.

Amendment 131

Proposal for a regulation

Article 25 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

However, Member States, third countries, partner countries or OCTs participating in an Interreg programme may agree that a partner not receiving support from the ERDF or an external financing instrument of the Union may be designated as the lead partner.

Amendment

deleted

Amendment 132

Proposal for a regulation Article 26 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Technical assistance to each Interreg programme shall be reimbursed as a flat rate by applying the percentages set out in paragraph 2 to the eligible expenditure included in each payment application pursuant to [points (a) or (c) of Article 85(3)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR] as appropriate.

Amendment

1. Technical assistance to each Interreg programme shall be reimbursed as a flat rate by applying the percentages set out in paragraph 2 **for 2021 and 2022 to the yearly instalments of the pre-financing pursuant to points (a) and (b) of Article 49(2) of this Regulation and then** to the eligible expenditure included in each payment application pursuant to [points (a) or (c) of Article 85(3)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR] as appropriate **for subsequent years**.

Amendment 133

Proposal for a regulation Article 26 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) for internal cross-border cooperation Interreg programmes supported by the ERDF: **6%**;

Amendment

(a) for internal cross-border cooperation Interreg programmes supported by the ERDF: **7%**;

Amendment 134

Proposal for a regulation Article 26 – paragraph 2 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) for component 2, 3 and 4 Interreg programmes, both for the ERDF and, where applicable, for the external financing

Amendment

(c) for component 2, 3 and 4 Interreg programmes, both for the ERDF and, where applicable, for the external financing

instruments of the Union: 7%.

instruments of the Union: 8 %.

Amendment 135

Proposal for a regulation Article 27 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Member States and, where applicable, the third countries, partner countries **and OCTs** participating in that programme shall set up, in agreement with the managing authority, a committee to monitor implementation of the respective Interreg programme ('monitoring committee') within three months of the date of notification to the Member States of the Commission decision adopting an Interreg programme,

Amendment

1. The Member States and, where applicable, the third countries, partner countries, **OCTs or regional integration cooperation organisations** participating in that programme shall set up, in agreement with the managing authority, a committee to monitor implementation of the respective Interreg programme ('monitoring committee') within three months of the date of notification to the Member States of the Commission decision adopting an Interreg programme,

Amendment 136

Proposal for a regulation Article 27 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. ***The monitoring committee shall be chaired by a representative of the Member State hosting the managing authority or of the managing authority.***

Where the rules of procedure of the monitoring committee establish a rotating chair, the monitoring committee may be chaired by a representative of a third country, partner country or OCT, and co-chaired by a representative of the Member State or of the managing authority, and vice-versa.

Amendment

deleted

Amendment 137

Proposal for a regulation Article 27 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. The managing authority shall publish the rules of procedures of the monitoring committee **and all the** data and information shared with the monitoring committee on the website referred to in Article 35(2).

Amendment

6. The managing authority shall publish the rules of procedures of the monitoring committee, **the summary of** data and information **as well as all the decisions** shared with the monitoring committee on the website referred to in Article 35(2).

Amendment 138

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The composition of the monitoring committee of each Interreg programme **shall** be agreed by the Member States and, where applicable, by the third countries, partner countries and OCTs participating in that programme and shall **ensure** a balanced representation of the relevant authorities, intermediate bodies and representatives of the programme partners referred to in Article [6] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR] from Member States, third countries, partner countries and OCTs.

Amendment

The composition of the monitoring committee of each Interreg programme **may** be agreed by the Member States and, where applicable, by the third countries, partner countries and OCTs participating in that programme and shall **aim for** a balanced representation of the relevant authorities, intermediate bodies and representatives of the programme partners referred to in Article [6] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR] from Member States, third countries, partner countries and OCTs.

Amendment 139

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The composition of the monitoring committee shall take into account the number of participating Member States, third countries, partner countries and OCTs in the Interreg programme concerned.

deleted

Amendment 140

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The monitoring committee shall also include representatives of bodies jointly set up in the whole programme area or covering a part thereof, including EGTCs.

The monitoring committee shall also include representatives of ***regions and local governments as well as other*** bodies jointly set up in the whole programme area or covering a part thereof, including EGTCs.

Amendment 141

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. The managing authority shall publish a list of ***the*** members of the monitoring committee on the website referred to in Article 35(2).

2. The managing authority shall publish a list of ***authorities or bodies appointed as*** members of the monitoring committee on the website referred to in Article 35(2).

Amendment 142

Proposal for a regulation

Article 28 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Representatives of the Commission **shall** participate in the work of the monitoring committee in an advisory capacity.

Amendment

3. Representatives of the Commission **may** participate in the work of the monitoring committee in an advisory capacity.

Amendment 143

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3 a. Representatives of bodies established throughout the area of the programme or which cover a part of it, including EGTCs, may participate in the work of the monitoring committee in an advisory capacity.

Amendment 144

Proposal for a regulation Article 29 – paragraph 1 – point g

Text proposed by the Commission

(g) the progress in administrative capacity building for public institutions and beneficiaries, where relevant.

Amendment

(g) the progress in administrative capacity building for public institutions and beneficiaries, where relevant **and propose any further support measures if necessary.**

Amendment 145

Proposal for a regulation

Article 29 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) the methodology and criteria used for the selection of operations, including any changes thereto, after **consultation with** the Commission pursuant to Article 22(2), without prejudice to [points (b), (c) and (d) of Article 27(3)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR];

Amendment

(a) the methodology and criteria used for the selection of operations, including any changes thereto, after **notifying** the Commission pursuant to Article 22(2) of this Regulation, without prejudice to [points (b), (c) and (d) of Article 27(3)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR];

Amendment 146

Proposal for a regulation

Article 30 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

2. At the request of the Commission, the managing authority shall, within **one month**, provide the Commission with the information on the elements listed in Article 29(1):

Amendment

2. At the request of the Commission, the managing authority shall, within **three months**, provide the Commission with the information on the elements listed in Article 29(1):

Amendment 147

Proposal for a regulation

Article 31 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Each managing authority shall electronically transmit to the Commission **cumulative** data for the respective Interreg programme by 31 January, 31 **March, 31 May, 31 July**, 30 September **and 30 November** of each year in accordance with the template in Annex [VII] to Regulation (EU) [new CPR].

Amendment

Each managing authority shall electronically transmit to the Commission data for the respective Interreg programme **pursuant to point (a) of Article 31(2) of this Regulation** by 31 January, 31 **May and 30 September** of each **year as well as data pursuant to point (b) of Article 31(2) of this Regulation once a year** in accordance with the template in Annex [VII] to Regulation (EU) [new CPR].

Amendment 148

Proposal for a regulation

Article 31 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The transmission of data shall be carried out using existing data-reporting systems insofar as those systems have proven to be reliable during the previous programming period.

Amendment 149

Proposal for a regulation

Article 31 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) the values of output and result indicators for selected Interreg operations and values achieved by Interreg operations.

(b) the values of output and result indicators for selected Interreg operations and values achieved by **finalised** Interreg operations.

Amendment 150

Proposal for a regulation

Article 33 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. Common output and common result indicators, **as set** out in Annex [I] to Regulation (EU) [new ERDF], **and, where necessary, programme-specific output and result indicators** shall be used in accordance with Article [12(1)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR], and point

1. Common output and common result indicators, **asset** out in Annex [I] to Regulation (EU) [new ERDF], **which are found to be most suited to measure progress towards the goals of the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) programme**, shall be used in

(d)(ii) of Article 17(3) and point (b) of Article 31(2) of this Regulation.

accordance with Article[12(1)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR], and point (e)(ii) of Article 17(4) and point (b) of Article 31(2) of this Regulation.

Amendment 151

Proposal for a regulation Article 33 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1 a. Where necessary and in cases duly justified by the managing authority, programme-specific output and result indicators shall be used in addition to the indicators which were selected in accordance with the paragraph 1 .

Amendment 152

Proposal for a regulation Article 34 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. The managing authority shall carry out evaluations of each Interreg programme. Each evaluation shall assess the programme's effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value with the aim to improve the quality of the design and implementation of the respective Interreg programme.

1. The managing authority shall carry out evaluations of each Interreg programme, ***no more than once a year***. Each evaluation shall assess the programme's effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value with the aim to improve the quality of the design and implementation of the respective Interreg programme.

Amendment 153

Proposal for a regulation Article 34 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The managing authority **shall** ensure the necessary procedures to produce and collect the data necessary for evaluations.

Amendment

4. The managing authority **aims to** ensure the necessary procedures to produce and collect the data necessary for evaluations.

Amendment 154

Proposal for a regulation

Article 35 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Article [44(2) to (7)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR] on the responsibilities of the managing authority shall apply.

Amendment

3. Article [44(2) to (6)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR] on the responsibilities of the managing authority shall apply.

Amendment 155

Proposal for a regulation

Article 35 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) publicly displaying public plaques or billboards as soon as the physical implementation of an Interreg operation involving physical investment or the purchase of equipment starts, the total cost of which exceeds EUR **100 000**;

Amendment

(c) publicly displaying public plaques or billboards as soon as the physical implementation of an Interreg operation involving physical investment or the purchase of equipment starts, the total cost of which exceeds EUR **50 000**;

Amendment 156

Proposal for a regulation

Article 35 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(d) for Interreg operations not falling under point (c), publicly displaying at least one printed *or* electronic display of a minimum size *A3* with information about the Interreg operation highlighting the support from an Interreg fund;

(d) for Interreg operations not falling under point (c), publicly displaying at least one printed *and, where applicable,* electronic display of a minimum size *A2* with information about the Interreg operation highlighting the support from an Interreg fund;

Amendment 157

Proposal for a regulation

Article 35 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 1 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(e) for operations of strategic importance and operations whose total cost exceed EUR **10 000 000** organising a communication event and involving the Commission and the responsible managing authority in a timely manner.

(e) for operations of strategic importance and operations whose total cost exceed EUR **5 000 000** organising a communication event and involving the Commission and the responsible managing authority in a timely manner.

Amendment 158

Proposal for a regulation

Article 35 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

6. Where the beneficiary does not comply with its obligations under Article [42] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR] or paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, *the Member State* shall apply a financial correction by cancelling up to **5%** of the support from the Funds to the operation concerned.

6. Where the beneficiary does not comply with its obligations under Article [42] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR] or paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, *or does not remedy its omission in good time, the managing authority* shall apply a financial correction by cancelling up to **5 %** of the support from the Funds to the operation concerned.

Amendment 159

Proposal for a regulation

Article 38 – paragraph 3 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) as a flat rate *in accordance with Article [50(1)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR]*.

Amendment

(c) *direct staff costs of an operation may be calculated at a flat rate of up to 20 % of the direct costs other than the direct staff costs of that operation, without there being a requirement for the Member State to perform a calculation to determine the applicable rate.*

Amendment 160

Proposal for a regulation

Article 38 – paragraph 5 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) dividing the monthly gross employment *cost* by the monthly working time *fixed* in the employment *document expressed in hours*; or

Amendment

(a) Dividing the *latest documented* monthly gross employment *costs* by the monthly working time *of the person concerned in accordance with applicable law as referred to* in the employment *contract and paragraph 2 (b) of Article 50 of Regulation (EU) .../[New CPR]*; or

Amendment 161

Proposal for a regulation

Article 38 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. As regards staff costs related to individuals who, according to the employment document, work on an hourly basis, such costs shall be eligible applying the number of hours actually worked on the

Amendment

6. As regards staff costs related to individuals who, according to the employment document, work on an hourly basis, such costs shall be eligible applying the number of hours actually worked on the

operation to the hourly rate agreed in the employment document based on a working time registration system.

operation to the hourly rate agreed in the employment document based on a working time registration system. *If not yet included in the agreed hourly rate, salary costs as referred to under point (b) of Article 38 (2) may be added to that hourly rate, in line with applicable national law.*

Amendment 162

Proposal for a regulation

Article 39 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Office and administrative costs shall be limited to the following elements:

Amendment

Office and administrative costs shall be limited to **15 % of total direct costs of an operation and to** the following elements:

Amendment 163

Proposal for a regulation

Article 40 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Direct payment of expenditure for costs under this Article by an employee of the beneficiary shall be supported by a proof of reimbursement by the beneficiary to that employee.

Amendment

4. Direct payment of expenditure for costs under this Article by an employee of the beneficiary shall be supported by a proof of reimbursement by the beneficiary to that employee. ***That cost category may be used for the travel expenses of operation staff and other stakeholders for the purpose of implementation and promotion of the Interreg operation and Programme.***

Amendment 164

Proposal for a regulation

Article 40 – paragraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. Travel and accommodation costs of an operation may be calculated at a flat rate of up to 15 % of the direct costs ***other than the direct staff costs*** of that operation.

Amendment

5. Travel and accommodation costs of an operation may be calculated at a flat rate of up to 15 % of the direct costs of that operation.

Amendment 165

Proposal for a regulation

Article 41 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

External expertise and service costs shall be limited to the following services and expertise provided by a public or private law body or a natural person other than the beneficiary of the operation:

Amendment

External expertise and service costs shall be ***composed but not*** limited to the following services and expertise provided by a public or private law body or a natural person other than the beneficiary, ***including all partners***, of the operation:

Amendment 166

Proposal for a regulation

Article 41 – paragraph 1 – point o

Text proposed by the Commission

(o) travel and accommodation for external experts, ***speakers, chairpersons of meetings and service providers***;

Amendment

(o) travel and accommodation for external experts;

Amendment 167

Proposal for a regulation

Article 42 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Costs for equipment purchased, rented or leased by the beneficiary of the operation other than those covered by Article 39 shall be limited to the following:

Amendment

1. Costs for equipment purchased, rented or leased by the beneficiary of the operation other than those covered by Article 39 shall be **composed but not** limited to the following:

Amendment 168

Proposal for a regulation

Article 43 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) purchase of land in accordance with [point **(c)** of Article 58(1)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR];

Amendment

(a) purchase of land in accordance with [point **(b)** of Article 58(1)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR];

Amendment 169

Proposal for a regulation

Article 44 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries **and OCTs** participating in an Interreg programme shall identify, for the purposes of Article [65] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR], a single managing authority and a single audit authority.

Amendment

1. Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries, **OCTs, and regional integration cooperation organisations** participating in an Interreg programme shall identify, for the purposes of Article [65] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR], a single managing authority and a single audit authority.

Amendment 170

Proposal for a regulation

Article 44 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The managing authority and the audit authority **shall** be located in the same Member State.

Amendment

2. The managing authority and the audit authority **may** be located in the same Member State.

Amendment 171

Proposal for a regulation

Article 44 – paragraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. With regard to an Interreg programme under component **2B or under component 1** where the latter covers long borders with heterogenous development challenges and needs, Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries and OCTs participating in an Interreg programme may define sub-programme areas.

Amendment

5. With regard to an Interreg programme under component 1 where the latter covers long borders with heterogenous development challenges and needs, Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries and OCTs participating in an Interreg programme may define sub-programme areas.

Amendment 172

Proposal for a regulation

Article 44 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. Where the managing authority identifies **an** intermediate **body** under an Interreg programme in accordance with Article [65(3)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR], the intermediate body shall carry out those tasks in more than one participating Member State or, where applicable, third country, partner country or OCT.

Amendment

6. Where the managing authority identifies **one or more** intermediate **bodies** under an Interreg programme in accordance with Article [65(3)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR], the intermediate body **or bodies concerned** shall carry out those tasks in more than one participating Member State, **or in their respective Member States**, or, where applicable, **in more than one** third country,

partner country or OCT.

Amendment 173

Proposal for a regulation Article 45 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1 a. By way of derogation from Article 87(2) of Regulation (EU) .../... [new CPR], the Commission shall reimburse as interim payments 100 % of the amounts included in the payment application which result from applying the cofinancing rate of the programme to the total eligible expenditure or to the public contribution, as appropriate.

Amendment 174

Proposal for a regulation Article 45 – paragraph 1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1b. Where the managing authority does not carry out verification under point (a) of Article 68(1) of Regulation (EU) .../... [new CPR] throughout the whole programme area, each Member State shall designate the body or person responsible for carrying out such verification in relation to beneficiaries on its territory.

Amendment 175

Proposal for a regulation Article 45 – paragraph 1 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1c. By way of derogation from Article 92 of Regulation (EU) .../... [new CPR], Interreg programmes are not subject to the annual clearance of accounts. Accounts are cleared at the end of a programme, on the basis of the final performance report.

Amendment 176

Proposal for a regulation Article 48 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. Where the global extrapolated error rate referred to in paragraph 6 is above **2%** of the total expenditure declared for the Interreg programmes included in the population from which the common sample was selected, the Commission shall calculate a global residual error rate, taking account of financial corrections applied by the respective Interreg programme authorities for individual irregularities detected by the audits of operations selected pursuant to paragraph 1.

Amendment

7. Where the global extrapolated error rate referred to in paragraph 6 is above **3.5 %** of the total expenditure declared for the Interreg programmes included in the population from which the common sample was selected, the Commission shall calculate a global residual error rate, taking account of financial corrections applied by the respective Interreg programme authorities for individual irregularities detected by the audits of operations selected pursuant to paragraph 1.

Amendment 177

Proposal for a regulation Article 48 – paragraph 8

Text proposed by the Commission

8. Where the global residual error rate referred to in paragraph 7 is above **2%** of the expenditure declared for the Interreg programmes included in the population from which the common sample was selected, the Commission shall determine whether it is necessary to request the audit authority of a specific Interreg programme or a group of Interreg programmes most affected to carry out additional audit work in order to further evaluate the error rate

Amendment

8. Where the global residual error rate referred to in paragraph 7 is above **3.5 %** of the expenditure declared for the Interreg programmes included in the population from which the common sample was selected, the Commission shall determine whether it is necessary to request the audit authority of a specific Interreg programme or a group of Interreg programmes most affected to carry out additional audit work in order to further evaluate the error rate

and assess the required corrective measures for the Interreg programmes affected by the irregularities detected.

and assess the required corrective measures for the Interreg programmes affected by the irregularities detected.

Amendment 178

Proposal for a regulation

Article 49 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) 2021: 1%;

Amendment

(a) 2021: 3 %;

Amendment 179

Proposal for a regulation

Article 49 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) 2022: 1%;

Amendment

(b) 2022: 2,25%;

Amendment 180

Proposal for a regulation

Article 49 – paragraph 2 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) 2023: 1%;

Amendment

(c) 2023: 2,25%;

Amendment 181

Proposal for a regulation

Article 49 – paragraph 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(d) 2024: 1%;

(d) 2024: 2,25%;

Amendment 182

Proposal for a regulation

Article 49 – paragraph 2 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(e) 2025: 1%;

(e) 2025: 2,25%;

Amendment 183

Proposal for a regulation

Article 49 – paragraph 2 – point f

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(f) 2026: 1%.

(f) 2026: 2,25%.

Amendment 184

Proposal for a regulation

Article 49 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Where external ***cross-border*** Interreg programmes are supported by the ERDF and IPA III CBC or NDICI CBC, the pre-financing for all funds supporting such an Interreg programme shall be made in accordance with Regulation (EU) [IPA III] or [NDICI] or of any act adopted thereunder.

Where external Interreg programmes are supported by the ERDF and IPA III CBC or NDICI CBC, the pre-financing for all funds supporting such an Interreg programme shall be made in accordance with Regulation (EU) [IPA III] or [NDICI] or of any act adopted thereunder.

Amendment 185

Proposal for a regulation

Article 49 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

The total amount paid as pre-financing shall be reimbursed to the Commission if no payment application under the cross-border Interreg programme is sent within **24** months of the date on which the Commission pays the first instalment of the pre-financing amount. Such reimbursement shall constitute internal assigned revenue and shall not reduce the support from the ERDF, IPA III CBC or NDICI CBC to the programme.

Amendment

The total amount paid as pre-financing shall be reimbursed to the Commission if no payment application under the cross-border Interreg programme is sent within **36** months of the date on which the Commission pays the first instalment of the pre-financing amount. Such reimbursement shall constitute internal assigned revenue and shall not reduce the support from the ERDF, IPA III CBC or NDICI CBC to the programme.

Amendment 186

Proposal for a regulation

Chapter 8 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

Participation of third countries or partner countries *or* OCTs in Interreg programmes under shared management

Amendment

Participation of third countries or partner countries, OCTs, *or regional integration or cooperation organisations* in Interreg programmes under shared management

Amendment 187

Proposal for a regulation

Article 51 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Chapters I to VII and Chapter X shall apply to the participation of third countries, partner countries *and* OCTs in Interreg programmes subject to the specific

Amendment

Chapters I to VII and Chapter X shall apply to the participation of third countries, partner countries, OCTs, *or regional integration or cooperation organisations*

provisions set out in this Chapter.

in Interreg programmes subject to the specific provisions set out in this Chapter.

Amendment 188

Proposal for a regulation Article 52 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Third countries, partner countries and OCTs participating in an Interreg programme **shall** delegate staff to the joint secretariat **of that** programme or shall set up a branch office in its respective territory, or shall do both.

Amendment

3. Third countries, partner countries and OCTs participating in an Interreg programme **may** delegate staff to the joint secretariat programme or, **in agreement with the managing authority**, shall set up a branch office **of the Joint Secretariat** in its respective territory, or shall do both.

Amendment 189

Proposal for a regulation Article 52 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The national authority or a body equivalent to the Interreg programme communication officer as provided for in Article 35(1), **shall** support the managing authority and partners in the respective third country, partner country or OCT with regard to the tasks provided for in Article 35(2) to (7).

Amendment

4. The national authority or a body equivalent to the Interreg programme communication officer as provided for in Article 35(1), **may** support the managing authority and partners in the respective third country, partner country or OCT with regard to the tasks provided for in Article 35(2) to (7).

Amendment 190

Proposal for a regulation Article 53 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. Component 2 and 4 Interreg programmes combining contributions from the ERDF and from one or more external financing instrument of the Union shall be implemented under shared management both in the Member States and in any participating third country *or* partner country or, with regard to component 3, in any OCT, whether or not that OCT receives support under one or more external financing instruments of the Union.

2. Component 2 and 4 Interreg programmes combining contributions from the ERDF and from one or more external financing instrument of the Union shall be implemented under shared management both in the Member States and in any participating third country, partner country, ***participating OCT*** or, with regard to component 3, in any OCT, whether or not that OCT receives support under one or more external financing instruments of the Union.

Amendment 191

Proposal for a regulation

Article 53 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

a) under shared management both in the Member States and in any participating third country or OCT;

a) under shared management both in the Member States and in any participating third country or OCT ***or group of third countries forming part of a regional organisation***;

Amendment 192

Proposal for a regulation

Article 53 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

b) under shared management only in the Member States and in any participating third country or OCT with regard to ERDF expenditure outside the Union for one or more operations, whereas the contributions from one or more external financing instruments of the Union are managed under indirect management;

b) under shared management only in the Member States and in any participating third country or OCT, ***or group of third countries forming part of a regional organisation***, with regard to ERDF expenditure outside the Union for one or more operations, whereas the contributions from one or more external financing instruments of the Union are managed under indirect management;

Amendment 193

Proposal for a regulation

Article 53 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

c) under indirect management both in the Member States and in any participating third country or OCT.

Amendment

c) under indirect management both in the Member States and in any participating third country or OCT ***or group of third countries forming part of a regional organisation.***

Amendment 194

Proposal for a regulation

Article 53 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Where all or part of a component 3 Interreg programme is implemented under indirect management, Article 60 shall apply.

Amendment

Where all or part of a component 3 Interreg programme is implemented under indirect management, ***a prior agreement between Member States and regions concerned is required and*** Article 60 shall apply.

Amendment 195

Proposal for a regulation

Article 53 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3 a. Joint calls for proposals mobilising funding from bilateral or multi-country NDICI programmes and ETC programmes may be launched if the respective managing authorities agree to do so. The content of the call shall specify its geographical scope, and its expected contribution to the objectives of the respective programmes. Managing authorities shall decide whether NDICI or

ETC rules are applicable to the call. They may decide to appoint a lead managing authority responsible for the tasks of management and control related to the call.

Amendment 196

Proposal for a regulation Article 55 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Where the selection of one or more large infrastructure projects is on the agenda of a monitoring committee or, where applicable, steering committee meeting, the managing authority shall transmit a concept note for each such project to the Commission at the latest two months before the date of the meeting. The concept note shall be a maximum of **three** pages and shall indicate the name, the location, the budget, the lead partner and the partners as well as the main objectives and deliverables thereof. If the concept note concerning one or more large infrastructure projects is not transmitted to the Commission by that deadline, the Commission may request that the chair of the monitoring committee or steering committee remove the projects concerned from the agenda of the meeting.

Amendment

3. Where the selection of one or more large infrastructure projects is on the agenda of a monitoring committee or, where applicable, steering committee meeting, the managing authority shall transmit a concept note for each such project to the Commission at the latest two months before the date of the meeting. The concept note shall be a maximum of **five** pages and shall indicate the name, the location, the budget, the lead partner and the partners as well as the main objectives and deliverables thereof, **as well as including a credible business plan which demonstrates that the project or projects' continuation is secure even without the provision of Interreg funds.** If the concept note concerning one or more large infrastructure projects is not transmitted to the Commission by that deadline, the Commission may request that the chair of the monitoring committee or steering committee remove the projects concerned from the agenda of the meeting.

Amendment 197

Proposal for a regulation Article 60 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Where part or all of a component 3

Amendment

1. Where, **after consulting**

Interreg programme is implemented under indirect management pursuant to point (b) or (c) respectively of Article 53(3), implementation tasks shall be entrusted to one of the bodies listed in point [(c) of the first subparagraph of Article 62(1)] of Regulation (EU, Euratom) [FR-Omnibus], in particular to such a body located in the participating Member State, including the managing authority of the Interreg programme concerned.

stakeholders, part or all of a component 3 Interreg programme is implemented under indirect management pursuant to point (b) or (c) respectively of Article 53(3) of this Regulation, implementation tasks shall be entrusted to one of the bodies listed in point [(c) of the first subparagraph of Article 62(1)] of Regulation (EU, Euratom) [FR-Omnibus], in particular to such a body located in the participating Member State, including the managing authority of the Interreg programme concerned.

Amendment 198

Proposal for a regulation Article 61

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 61

deleted

Interregional innovation investments

At the initiative of the Commission, the ERDF may support interregional innovation investments, as set out in point 5 of Article 3, bringing together researchers, businesses, civil society and public administrations involved in smart specialisation strategies established at national or regional levels.

Amendment 199

Proposal for a regulation Article 61 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 61 a

*Exemption from reporting requirements
under Article 108(3) TFEU*

The Commission may declare that aid in favour of projects supported by EU European territorial cooperation are compatible with the internal market and are not subject to the notification requirements of Article 108(3) TFEU.
