



## **FUTURE EU COHESION POLICY**

This paper is a contribution by EUROREGION BALTIC to the debate on the future of EU Cohesion Policy.

---

Taking active part in the consultation process on the future European Union's cohesion policy launched by Regional Policy Commissioner Danuta Hübner the representatives of Euroregion Baltic have adopted the following resolution:

### **Euroregion Baltic strongly believes**

**that the principle of solidarity and confidence between Member States should continue to be exercised within the European Union Cohesion Policy.**

The principle of solidarity lies at the foundations of the integrated Europe. EU Member States subscribe to it and therefore should translate it into practical reality by such operational activities as structural programmes;

**that the principle of subsidiarity should remain a fundamental rule in the future EU Cohesion Policy.**

While the principle of solidarity defines a relationship between the Community Member States and the regions, Euroregion Baltic representatives recommend an improvement of the scope for the local and regional levels to influence the preparation and implementation of programmes within the future EU Cohesion Policy;

**that the scope of the EU Cohesion Policy should focus on the renewed Lisbon agenda.**

The objectives of the renewed Lisbon agenda respond to the most fundamental economic challenges for European regions. Thus, economic development in parallel with creating more jobs should be given focus in the future programmes. These, we believe, can be achieved with more support offered to entrepreneurship and innovation, accessibility, demographic changes, labour mobility and social inclusion;

**that it is appropriate to earmark part of EU funds to the Gothenburg priorities.**

EU Cohesion Policy should focus on the renewed Lisbon agenda but not exclusively. Cohesion is also reflected in environment and creating a harmonised European environment makes the Gothenburg priorities necessary elements for a sustainable economic growth. Thus, climate changes, development and testing of renewable energy resources should be given focus in the future programmes, as well as maritime safety;

**that territorial cooperation should be further considered a specific objective of the EU Cohesion Policy.**

Territorial cohesion with the objectives of a polycentric development, cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation including transfer of knowledge and exchange of best practices give concrete value to the networking of the European regions, and thus generate high added value to the process of the European integration. This effective form of cooperation should be continued and extended with the future EU Cohesion Policy;

**that the South Baltic CBC Programme should be continued and extended in the future EU Cohesion Policy.**

Within the framework of crossborder cooperation, the newly established South Baltic CBC Programme is one Euroregion Baltic has actively participated in, both in its programming period and now when its implementation begins. Cohesion Policy instruments, and in particular South Baltic CBC Programme provide significant assistance to such cooperative organisations as Euroregion Baltic in their efforts to benefit territorial cohesion and implement joint development strategies. We therefore urge the Commission and the Member States to continue and extend the South Baltic CBC Programme with the future EU structural funds.

Euroregion Baltic consists of one region of the Russian Federation and finds the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument support crucial in its activities aimed at promoting prosperity and deepening political cooperation on the basis of shared values and common interests. We therefore urge the Commission and the Member States to continue and extend the scope of ENPI programmes with the future EU structural funds. Specifically, Euroregion Baltic recommends extending the South Baltic CBC programme with the ENPI component comprising the Kaliningrad Region and its neighbours in Lithuania and Poland, and making the whole Euroregion Baltic area eligible for cross-border cooperation within a single EU programme;

**that European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation should be rewarded more prominent status in the implementation system of the future EU programmes.**

Euroregion Baltic recognises the strategic impact that progress of territorial cooperation and EGTCs may produce on territorial cohesion, particularly but not exclusively while developing and implementing crossborder strategies in relation to economic and social infrastructure investments and to the protection of the environment.