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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Fund for Regional Development including for European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) and the Cohesion Fund as part of the Fund set out in Regulation (EU) [...] [NRP] and establishing conditions for the implementation of the Union support to regional development from 2028 to 2034 *- Guidance for further work*

I. BACKGROUND

1. On 16 July 2025, the Commission submitted to the Council and the European Parliament its proposal for a Regulation establishing the European Fund for Regional Development including for European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) and the Cohesion Fund as part of the Fund set out in Regulation (EU) […] [NRP] and establishing conditions for the implementation of the Union support to regional development from 2028 to 2034[1]. The proposal complements the NRP Regulation proposal, setting specific rules on the scope of support of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund under the single Fund, as well as laying down specific rules for the Interreg Plan due to its specificities, such as the

[1] Doc. 11768/25 + ADD 1.

multitude of partners involved in the programming and implementation, including from third countries.

2. The draft Regulation is based on Articles 177, 178 and 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

3. The European Economic and Social Committee delivered its opinion on the proposal on 3 December 2025[2].

4. The Committee of the Regions delivered its opinion on the proposal on 7 May 2026[3].

5. In the European Parliament, the Committee on Regional Development (REGI) has the lead responsibility. MEPs Pascal Arimont (EPP, BE, REGI) and Marcos Ros Sempere (S&D, ES, REGI) were appointed co-rapporteurs.

II. STATE OF PLAY

6. The Working Party on Structural Measures and Outermost Regions is mandated to negotiate on the ERDF-Cohesion Fund Regulation proposal, excluding the bracketed elements left for the discussions in the AHWP MFF and the outcome of which is included in the negotiating box.

7. The ERDF-Cohesion Fund Regulation proposal has been divided in two thematic blocks to facilitate the discussions, and priority has been given to the block most relevant to start the preparation of the Interreg Plan. Nonetheless, the Cyprus Presidency has made substantial progress on the entire proposal, in the form of compromise texts to address delegations' concerns and to clarify the text of the Commission proposal.

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2 OJ C, C/2026/875, 27.2.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2026/875/oj.
3 Doc. 9427/26.

8. The Presidency attached particular importance to enhancing Member States' understanding of the proposed framework, with a particular view to the wider context of the NRP Regulation proposal. In this regard, further to the intense discussions that took place in the Working Party on Structural Measures and Outermost Regions (SMOR WP), and the written comments submitted by the Member States, the Presidency organised an online technical seminar, with the participation of experts from capitals, focusing on the Interreg Plan within the framework of the new delivery model and the interlinkages with the Performance Framework Regulation.

9. In its compromise proposals, the Presidency paid great attention to responding to the request of Member States for as much continuity as possible with the current Interreg rules, in full respect of the proposed new delivery model. With this view, an effort towards enhancing legal clarity and formulating clear provisions in the main regulatory text was made, reducing the scope of the empowerment to the Commission included in the proposal.

10. In particular, in full continuity with the current legislative framework for Interreg, this effort has resulted into the addition of definitions and provisions that clarify the participation of non-Member States to Interreg Plan chapters or spell out the geographical coverage of each strand of cooperation under Interreg.

11. Furthermore, the Presidency devoted efforts to complementing and derogating from rules of the NRP Regulation proposal that cannot apply to Interreg due to its specificities, such as rules on the composition and the functioning of the monitoring committee and of the steering committee, or rules on recoveries.

12. Finally, on Interreg, the Presidency has focused on clarifying the procedures for approval and amendment of the Interreg Plan and its chapters and the role of the Commission.

13. When it comes to the rules applicable to ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the Presidency has strengthened the visibility of cohesion policy in line with the TFEU objectives, and it has provided for rules on areas specific to cohesion policy such as regional innovation and transformation, the right to stay, and addressed disadvantaged areas and sustainable urban development.

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14. The outcome of this work is reflected in the compromise proposal which has been presented and discussed in the SMOR WP.

III. WAY FORWARD

15. The Presidency is approaching the final steps before submitting a partial general approach on the ERDF-Cohesion Fund Regulation to Coreper, as part of the overall negotiations of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034. Therefore, Coreper is invited to provide political guidance on the way forward.

16. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to take stock of the progress achieved and to provide political orientation with regard to the aim of reaching a partial general approach on the ERDF-Cohesion Fund Regulation by the end of the Cyprus Presidency – keeping in mind that agreement on a partial general approach on the NRP Regulation proposal, which will be sought at the Council (General Affairs) at its meeting on 16 June in Luxembourg, will be a prerequisite for such partial general approach.

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