

Ninth report on economic and social cohesion

Final version of compromise amendments

Compromise 1

	12a New
	– <i>having regard to the Urban Agenda for the EU of 30 May 2016,</i>
	13a New
	– <i>having regard to the Territorial agenda 2030 of 1 December 2020,</i>
	14a New
	– <i>having regard to the URBACT initiative for sustainable urban cooperation, established in 2002,</i>
	15a New
	– <i>having regard to the study entitled ‘The future of EU cohesion: Scenarios and their impacts on regional inequalities’, published by European Parliamentary Research Service in December 2024,</i>
	16a New
	– <i>having regard to its resolution of 14 September 2021 ‘Towards a stronger partnership with the EU outermost regions,</i>
	18b New
	– <i>having regard to its resolution of 25 March 2021 on cohesion policy and regional environment strategies in the fight against climate change,</i>
	18c New
	– <i>having regard to its resolution of 20 May 2021 on reversing demographic trends in EU regions using cohesion policy instruments,</i>
	18d New

	– <i>having regard to its resolution of 20 October 2023 on possibilities to increase the reliability of audits and controls by national authorities in shared management,</i>
--	---

	21a New
	– <i>having regard to the report entitled ‘The future of European competitiveness – A competitiveness strategy for Europe’, published by the European Commission on 9 September 2024,</i>

	21aa New
	– <i>having regard to the agreement adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris on 12 December 2015 (the Paris Agreement),</i>

	22a New
	– <i>having regard to the Regulation (EU) 2025/XXXX of the European Parliament and of the Council of [INSERT DATE] on the Border Regions’ Instrument for Development and Growth in the EU (BRIDGEforEU) [INSERT FOOTNOTE ONCE PUBLISHED IN OJ],</i>

	22a New
	– <i>having regard to the Commission Communication “Putting people first, ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth, realizing the potential of the EU’s outermost regions”, of 3 May 2022;</i>

If adopted, ams

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14

FALL

Compromise 2

Recital A

Original	Prop compromise
A. whereas cohesion policy is the EU’s main tool for investment in economic and social	A. whereas cohesion policy is <i>at the heart of EU policies and</i> the EU’s main tool for <i>investments in sustainable</i> economic, social <i>and territorial</i>

development across the EU under its multiannual financial frameworks for the periods of 2014-2020 and 2021-2027;	development, <i>and contributing to the Green Deal objectives</i> , across the EU under its multiannual financial frameworks for the periods of 2014-2020 and 2021-2027; <i>whereas cohesion policy, as mandated by the Treaties, is fundamental for a well-functioning and thriving internal market by promoting the development of all regions in the EU, and especially the less developed ones;</i>
--	---

If adopted, ams

15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 29, 33

FALL

Recital B

Original	Prop compromise
B. whereas cohesion policy has fostered economic and social convergence in the EU, notably by increasing the gross domestic products of central and eastern European Member States, from 43 % of the EU average in 1995 to around 80 % in 2023; whereas the 9th Cohesion Report highlights that, by the end of 2022, cohesion policy supported over 4.4 million businesses, creating more than 370 000 jobs in these companies; whereas cohesion policy constituted, on average, around 13 % of total public investment in the EU;	B. whereas cohesion policy has fostered economic, social <i>and territorial</i> convergence in the EU, notably by increasing the gross domestic products, <i>for example</i> , of central and eastern <i>EU</i> Member States, <i>which went</i> from 43 % of the EU average in 1995 to around 80 % in 2023; whereas the 9th Cohesion Report highlights that, by the end of 2022, cohesion policy supported over 4.4 million businesses, creating more than 370 000 jobs in these companies, <i>whereas it also underlines that cohesion policy generates a significant return on investment, and that each euro invested in the 2014–2020 and 2021–2027 programmes will have generated 1.3 euros of additional GDP in the Union by 2030;</i> whereas cohesion policy constituted, on average, around 13 % of total public investment in the EU ¹ ;

If adopted, ams

20, 21, 22, 25

FALL

Recital Ba NEW

	New recital
	Ba NEW. <i>Whereas the European Commission report on “The long-term vision for the EU’s rural areas: key achievements and ways forward”, presented alongside the 9th Cohesion</i>

¹ [European Commission: Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, Durán Laguna, J., D’Apice, P., Grzegorzewska, M., De Franceschi, F. et al., Ninth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion, Durán Laguna, J.\(editor\), Publications Office of the European Union, 2024](#)

	<i>report, underlines that 24.6bn euro or 8% of the Rural Development pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy is directed towards investments in rural areas beyond farming, setting the scene for a debate on the future of rural areas;</i>
--	--

If adopted, am

AGRI 2

FALLS

Recital C

Original	Proposed compr
C. whereas between 2021 and 2027, cohesion policy will have invested over EUR 140 billion in the green and digital transitions, to help improve networks and infrastructure, support nature conservation, improve digital skills and foster job-creation;	C. whereas between 2021 and 2027, cohesion policy will have invested over EUR 140 billion in the green and digital transitions, to help improve networks and infrastructure, support nature conservation, improve <i>green and</i> digital skills and foster job creation ² <i>and services to the public;</i>

If adopted, ams

26, 27

FALL

Recital D

Original	Proposed compr
D. whereas despite the widely acknowledged and proven positive impact of cohesion policy on social and economic convergence, significant challenges remain, marked notably by development disparities at sub-national level, and by the impact of climate change, in terms of demography but also in terms of economic development, in particular in least developed regions;	D. whereas despite the widely acknowledged and proven positive impact of cohesion policy on social, economic <i>and territorial</i> convergence, significant challenges remain, marked notably by development disparities at sub-national level, <i>within regions and in regions caught in a development trap</i> , and by the impact of climate change, in terms of demography, <i>digital and green transitions, and connectivity</i> , but also in terms of <i>sustainable</i> economic development, in particular in least developed regions, <i>rural and remote areas;</i>

If adopted, ams

23, 24, 30, 31, 32, 35, AGRI 1

² [European Commission: Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, Durán Laguna, J., D'Apice, P., Grzegorzewska, M., De Franceschi, F. et al., Ninth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion, Durán Laguna, J.\(editor\), Publications Office of the European Union, 2024](#)

FALL

Recital E

Original	Proposed compr
E. whereas cohesion policy has repeatedly and efficiently helped regions to respond effectively to emergencies and asymmetric shocks such as the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit and the refugee crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine;	E. whereas cohesion policy <i>and sectoral programmes of the EU have</i> repeatedly and efficiently helped regions to respond effectively to emergencies and asymmetric shocks such as the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, <i>energy crisis and</i> the refugee crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, <i>as well as natural disasters, even though it is a long-term, structural policy and neither a crisis management instrument nor the "go-to" emergency response funding mechanism; whereas such crises have delayed the implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds and that a considerable number of projects financed with RRF funds have drawn for the most part from the projects that were in pipeline of investments for Cohesion Policy;</i>

If adopted, ams

36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45

FALL

Recital F

Original	Proposed compr
F. whereas despite measures already taken for the 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 periods, the regulatory framework governing the use and administration of cohesion policy instruments and funds should be further simplified, with the objective of reducing the administrative burden, not only for the relevant authorities but also for the beneficiaries;	F. whereas, despite measures already taken for the 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 periods, the regulatory framework governing the use and administration of cohesion policy instruments and funds should be further simplified <i>and interoperable digital tools better used and developed, including the establishment of one-stop digitalised services centres,</i> with the objective of <i>streamlining procedures, enhancing stakeholder trust,</i> reducing the administrative burden, <i>increasing flexibility in fund management and speeding payments,</i> not only for the relevant authorities but also for the <i>final</i> beneficiaries; <i>whereas it is necessary to increase the scope for the more flexible use of funds, including the possibility of</i>

	<i>financing the development of dual-use products; whereas it is of utmost importance to formulate any future cohesion policy with a strategic impetus throughout the funding period, which could however be reassessed at mid-term;</i>
--	--

If adopted, ams

47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54

FALL

Recital G

Original	Proposed compr
G. whereas radical modifications of the regulatory framework, from one programming period to the next, contribute to insecurity among the authorities responsible, gold-plating of legislation, increased error rates (and the accompanying negative reputational and financial consequences), delays in implementation and, ultimately, disaffection among beneficiaries;	G. whereas radical modifications of the <i>cohesion</i> regulatory framework, from one programming period to the next, contribute to insecurity among the authorities responsible <i>and beneficiaries</i> , gold-plating of legislation, increased error rates (and the accompanying negative reputational and financial consequences), delays in implementation and, ultimately, disaffection among beneficiaries <i>and the general population</i> ;

If adopted, ams

56, 57, 58

FALL

Recital H

Original	Proposed compr
H. whereas demographic changes vary significantly across regions, with the populations of some Member States facing a projected decline in the coming years and others projected to grow; whereas demographic changes also take place between regions, generally observed as exoduses from rural to urban areas within Member States;	H. whereas demographic changes vary significantly across <i>EU</i> regions, with the populations of some Member States facing a projected decline in the coming years and others projected to grow; whereas demographic changes also take place between regions, <i>including movement away from outermost regions, but are</i> generally observed as <i>movement</i> from rural to urban areas within Member States, <i>wherein women are leaving rural areas in greater numbers than men, but also to metropolitan areas, where villages around big cities find difficulties in investing in basic infrastructure; whereas the provision of essential services such as healthcare, education, and transportation must be</i>

	<i>reinforced in all regions, with a particular focus on rural and remote areas; whereas a stronger focus is needed on areas suffering from depopulation and inadequate services, requiring targeted measures to encourage young people to remain through entrepreneurship projects, high-quality agriculture, and sustainable tourism;</i>
--	---

If adopted, ams

34, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69

FALL

Recital Ha new (Housing)

	New recital
	<i>Ha. NEW Whereas urban areas are burdened by new challenges resulting from the population influx to cities as well as rising housing and energy prices, requiring the necessary housing development and facing new environmental protection and energy-saving requirements, such as accelerated deep renovation to fight energy poverty and promote energy efficiency; whereas the EU cohesion policy should help contribute to an affordable and accessible housing market for all in the EU, especially for low- and middle-income households, urban residents, families with children, women and young people;</i>

If adopted, ams

46, 70, 76

FALL

Recital I

Original	Proposed compr
I. whereas particular attention needs to be paid to rural areas, as well as areas affected by industrial transition and regions that suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps, such as the outermost regions, the northern sparsely populated regions, islands, mountainous areas and cross-border regions;	I. whereas particular attention needs to be paid to rural areas, as well as areas affected by industrial transition and <i>EU</i> regions that suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps, <i>brain drain, climate-related risks and water scarcity</i> , such as the outermost regions, <i>and in particular islands located at their peripheries or at the periphery of the EU</i> , the sparsely populated

	regions, islands, mountainous areas and cross-border regions, <i>as well as coastal and maritime regions</i> ;
--	--

If adopted, ams

59, 63, 72, 73, 74, 75, 78, 79, 209

FALL

Recital J

Original	Proposed compr
J. whereas Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has a strong impact on the employment, economic development and opportunities, and general well-being of the population living in regions bordering Ukraine, Belarus and Russia; whereas this war leads to an unprecedented number of people seeking shelter in the EU, placing an additional burden on local communities and services;	J. whereas Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has <i>created a new geopolitical reality, that has had</i> a strong impact on the employment, economic development and opportunities, and general well-being of the population living in regions bordering Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, <i>as well as candidate countries like Ukraine and Moldova, which therefore need special attention and support, including by accordingly adapting cohesion policy</i> ; whereas this war leads to an unprecedented number of people seeking shelter in the EU, placing an additional burden on local communities and services; <i>whereas the collective security of the EU is strongly dependent on the vitality and well-being of regions situated at the EU's external borders</i> ;

If adopted, ams

80, 81, 82, 253

FALL

Compromise 3

Paragraph 1

Original	Proposed compr
1. Insists that the regional focus, place-based approach and strategic planning of the cohesion policy, as well as its decentralised programming and implementation model based on the partnership principle and multi-level governance, are key elements of the policy, and determine its effectiveness; is firmly convinced that this model of cohesion policy should be continued as the	1. Insists that the regional <i>and local</i> focus, place-based approach and strategic planning of the cohesion policy, as well as its decentralised programming and implementation model based on the partnership principle <i>with strengthened implementation of the European code of conduct, the involvement of economic and civil society actors</i> , and multi-level

<p>EU's main investment instrument for reducing disparities, ensuring economic, social and territorial cohesion and stimulating regional and local sustainable growth, and as a key contributor to EU competitiveness and just transition, as well as helping to cope with challenges ahead;</p>	<p>governance, are key <i>and positive</i> elements of the policy, and determine its effectiveness; is firmly convinced that this model of cohesion policy should be continued <i>in all regions and deepened where possible</i> as the EU's main <i>long term</i> investment instrument for reducing disparities, ensuring economic, social and territorial cohesion, and stimulating regional and local sustainable growth <i>in line with EU strategies, protecting the environment</i>, and as a key contributor to EU competitiveness and just transition, as well as helping to cope with <i>new</i> challenges ahead;</p>
--	--

If adopted, ams

87, 88, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 103, 109, 150, 152, 164, AGRI8

FALL

Compromise 4

Paragraph 1a new and 1 aa new

	<p>New paragraph</p> <p><i>1a NEW. Calls for a clear demarcation between cohesion policy and other instruments, in order to avoid overlaps and competition between EU instruments, ensure complementarity of the various interventions, and increase visibility and readability of the EU support; in this context, notes that the RRF funds are committed to economic development and growth, without specifically focusing on economic, social and territorial cohesion between regions; is concerned about the Commission's plans to apply a performance-based approach to the European Structural and Investments Funds; acknowledges that performance-based mechanisms can be instrumental in making the policy more efficient and result-orientated but cautions against the one-size-fits all imposition of the model and expresses serious doubt about ideas of linking the disbursement of ESIF to the fulfilment of centrally defined reform goals, even more so if the reform goals do not fall within the scope of competence of the regional level;</i></p>
--	---

	New paragraph
	<i>Iaa NEW is opposed to any form of top-down centralisation reform of EU funding programs, including those under shared management, such as the Cohesion Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy, and advocates for greater decentralisation of decision-making to the local and regional levels; calls for enhanced involvement of local and regional authorities, economic and civil society actors at every stage of EU shared management programmes, from preparation and programming to implementation, delivery, and evaluation, keeping in mind that the economic and social development, and territorial cohesion between regions, can only be accomplished with a good cooperation between all the actors;</i>

If adopted, ams

89, 100, 105, 129, 143, 149, 150, 163, 164, 168, 212, 237, 246, 269

FALL

Compromise 5

Paragraph 1b new

	New paragraph
	<i>1b NEW. Emphasizes that the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) plays a key role alongside Cohesion Policy funds in supporting rural areas; stresses that the EAFRD's design must align with the rules of Cohesion Policy funds to boost synergies and facilitate multi-funded rural development projects;</i>

If adopted, ams

144, 276, AGRI3, AGRI7, AGRI 12

FALL

Compromise 6

Paragraph 2

Original	Proposed compr
2. Is convinced that cohesion policy can only continue to play its role if it has	2. Is convinced that cohesion policy can only continue to play its role if it has

<p>solid funding; stresses that it is necessary to provide funding that is ambitious enough to allow the cohesion policy to continue to fulfil its role as the EU's main investment policy, while retaining the flexibility to meet potential new challenges;</p>	<p>solid funding; <i>underlines that this implies that the future cohesion policy must be provided with a robust funding in regard to the post-2027 financial period</i>; stresses that it is necessary to provide funding that is ambitious enough <i>and easily accessible</i> to allow the cohesion policy to continue to fulfil its role as the EU's main investment policy, while retaining the flexibility to meet potential new challenges, <i>including the possibility of financing the development of dual-use products, and to enable local authorities, stakeholders and beneficiaries to effectively foster local development</i>; <i>is of the firm opinion that the capacity to offer flexible responses to unpredictable challenges should not come at the expense of the clear long term strategic focus and objectives of cohesion policy</i>;</p>
---	--

If adopted, ams

109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 117, 170

FALL

Compromise 7

Paragraph 2a new

	<p>New paragraph</p> <p><i>2a NEW. Underlines the importance of the next EU multiannual financial framework and the mid-term review of cohesion policy programmes 2021-2027 in shaping the future of the cohesion policy; reiterates the need for a more ambitious Post-2027 Cohesion Policy in the next MFF 2028-2034; therefore calls for the upcoming MFF to ensure that cohesion policy continues to receive at least the same level of funding as in the current period in real terms; furthermore calls for cohesion policy to remain a separate heading in the new MFF; stresses that cohesion policy should be protected from statistical effects that may alter the eligibility of regions by changing the average EU GDP; reiterates the need for new EU own resources;</i></p>
--	--

If adopted, ams
 109, 117, 118, 119, 120, 125, 127
FALL

Compromise 8

Paragraph 2b new

	New paragraph
	<p><i>2b NEW. Proposes therefore that next MFF needs to be more responsive to unforeseen needs, including by sufficient margins and flexibilities from the outset; in this regard, emphasises however that cohesion policy is not a crisis instrument and that it should not deviate from its main objectives, namely from its long-term investment nature; and calls for the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) to be strengthened, including in its pre-financing, making it less bureaucratic and more easily accessible, in order to develop an appropriate instrument capable of responding adequately to the economic, social and territorial consequences of future natural disasters or health emergencies; emphasizes the need for adequate control of the European Parliament over any emergency funds and instruments;</i></p>

If adopted, ams
 109, 115, 120, 122, 123, 166, 199, 254
FALL

Compromise 9

Paragraphs 2c new - Co-financing

	New paragraph
	<p><i>2c NEW. Recognises the need to also use NUTS 3 classification for specific cases, in a manner that recognises that inequalities in development exist within all NUTS 2 regions; is of the opinion that regional GDP per capita must remain the main criterion for determining Member States' allocations under cohesion policy;</i></p>

	<i>welcomes that, following the European Parliament's persistent calls, the Commission has begun considering additional criteria³ such as greenhouse gas emissions, population density, education levels, and unemployment rates, in order to give a better socioeconomic overview of the regions;</i>
--	---

If adopted, ams
128, 188, 210, 226
FALL

Compromise 10

Paragraph 2d new -Rule of law

New paragraph	Potential inclusions
	<i>2d NEW. Stresses that the rule of law conditionality is an overarching conditionality, recognising and enforcing respect for the rule of law, also as an enabling condition for cohesion policy funding, to ensure Union resources are used in a transparent, fair and responsible manner with sound financial management; considers it necessary to reinforce respect for the rule of law and fundamental rights, as well as to ensure that all actions are consistent with supporting democratic principles, gender equality and human rights, including workers' rights, the rights of disabled people and children's rights in the implementation of cohesion policy; highlights the important role of the European Anti-Fraud Office and the European Public Prosecutor's Office in protecting the financial interests of the Union;</i>

If adopted, ams
60, 116, 121, 126, 137, 140, 147, 151, 152, 153, 198, 273
FALL

³ [European Court of Auditors. Rapid case review. Allocation of Cohesion policy funding to Member States for 2021-2027. March 2019](#)

Compromise 11

Paragraph 3

Original	Proposed compr
<p>3. Calls for further efforts to simplify and streamline the rules and administrative procedures governing the cohesion policy funds, building on the existing and well-established shared management framework, in order to strengthen confidence among users, thus encouraging participation of a broader range of actors in projects supported and maximising the impact of the funds;</p>	<p>3. Calls for further efforts to simplify, <i>make more flexible, strengthen synergies</i> and streamline the rules and administrative procedures governing the cohesion policy funds, <i>at EU, national and regional level, taking full advantage of the technologies available to increase accessibility and efficiency</i>, building on the existing and well-established shared management framework, in order to strengthen confidence among users, thus encouraging participation of a broader range of <i>economic and civil society</i> actors in projects supported and maximising the impact of the funds; <i>calls for further initiatives enabling better absorption of cohesion funds, including increased co-financing levels, higher pre-financing, and faster investment reimbursements; calls for local administration, in particular representing smaller communities, to be technically trained for better administrative management of the funds; stresses therefore the importance of strengthening the single audit principle, further expanding of SCOs (simplified cost options), and reducing duplicating controls and audits that overlap with national and regional oversight for the same project and beneficiary and eliminate the possibility of repeating errors in subsequent years of implementation;</i></p>

If adopted, ams

129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 138, 145, 146, 169, AGRI4

FALL

Compromise 12

Paragraph 4

Original	Proposed compr
<p>4. Calls on the Commission and the</p>	<p>4. Calls on the Commission and the</p>

Member States to give regions greater flexibility, already at the programming stage, in order to cater for their particular needs and specificities; finds it necessary to consider moving away from a rigid thematic concentration that is uniform across all regions;	Member States to give regions greater flexibility, already at the programming stage, in order to cater for their particular needs and specificities, <i>emphasising the need to involve the economic and civil society actors; underlines that the thematic concentration was a key element to align cohesion policy with Europe 2020 objectives; therefore asks the Commission to present all findings related to the implementation of thematic concentration and draw lessons for future legislative proposals</i>
---	--

If adopted, ams

154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161

FALL

Compromise 13

Paragraph 5

Original	Proposed compr
5. Acknowledges that the green and digital transitions present significant challenges to the objective of economic, social and territorial cohesion; is aware of the risk of a widening of regional disparities, a deepening of social inequalities and a rising ‘geography of discontent’ related to the transition process;	5. Acknowledges that the green, digital <i>and demographic</i> transitions present significant challenges <i>but, at the same time, opportunities</i> to the objective of economic, social and territorial cohesion; <i>recognises that high income areas can statistically hide the economic problems within a region</i> ; is aware of the risk of a widening of regional disparities, a deepening of social inequalities and a rising ‘geography of discontent’ related to the transition process; <i>underlines the need to reach the EU’s sustainability and climate objectives, as well as to maintain the shared economic growth by strengthening Union’s competitiveness; calls, therefore, for a European strategy that guarantees harmonious growth within the European Union, meeting respective regions’ specific needs; reaffirms its commitment to pursuing the green and digital transitions as it will create opportunities to improve EU’s competitiveness; underlines the need to invest in infrastructure projects that enhance connectivity, particularly in sustainable, intelligent transport, as well as</i>

	<p><i>in energy and digital networks, ensuring that all regions, including remote and less-developed ones, are fully integrated into the Single Market and benefit equitably from the opportunities provided by it; emphasises in this context the need to support the development of green industries, fostering the local specificities and traditions to increase the resilience of the economic environment and civil society to future challenges;</i></p>
--	---

If adopted, ams

157, 159, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 190, 258, 273, AGRI 11

FALL

Compromise 14

Paragraph 5a new - Single Market

	<p>New paragraph</p> <p><i>5a NEW. Urges, for the cohesion policy to remain consistent with a push towards increasing innovation and completing the EU Single Market, in line with the conclusions of the Draghi report on European competitiveness; underlines, in the context of regional disparities, the problem of the persisting innovation divide, and advocates for a tailored, place-based approach to fostering innovation and economic convergence across regions and reducing the innovation gap; calls for a stronger role for local and regional innovation in building competitive Research and Innovation ecosystems and promoting territorial cohesion; points to new EU initiatives such as Regional Innovation Valleys and Partnerships for Regional Innovation, that aim to connect territories with different levels of innovation performance and tackle the innovation gap; considers that this approach will reinforce regional autonomy, allowing local and regional authorities to shape EU policies and objectives in line with their specific needs, characteristics, and capacities, while safeguarding the Partnership Principle;</i></p>
--	--

If adopted, ams
173, 189, 274
FALL

Compromise 15

Paragraph 6

Original	Proposed compr
<p>6. Is convinced that cohesion policy needs to continue to foster the principle of just transition, addressing the specific needs of regions, while leaving no territory and no one behind; calls for continued financing of the just transition process, with the Just Transition Fund fully integrated into the Common Provisions Regulation and endowed with adequate financial means for the post-2027 programming period;</p>	<p>6. Is convinced that cohesion policy needs to continue to foster the principle of just transition, addressing the specific needs of regions, while leaving no territory and no one behind; calls for continued financing of the just transition process, with the Just Transition Fund fully integrated into the Common Provisions Regulation and endowed with <i>reinforced</i> financial means for the post-2027 programming period; <i>nevertheless emphasises the need to assess the impact of the Just Transition Fund on the transformation of eligible regions and refine, while ensuring it remains part of cohesion policy, its approach in the new MFF based on the findings and concrete measures to ensure the economic and social well-being of affected communities;</i></p>

If adopted, ams
192, 193, 194, 195, 197
FALL

Compromise 16

Paragraph 7

Original	Proposed compr
<p>7. Underlines the need to improve the relationship between cohesion policy and EU economic governance, while avoiding a punitive approach; stresses that the European Semester should comply with cohesion policy objectives under Articles 174 and 175 TFEU; calls for the participation of the regions in the fulfilment of these objectives and for a stronger territorial approach; calls for a process of</p>	<p>7. Underlines the need to improve the relationship between cohesion policy and EU economic governance, while avoiding a punitive approach; stresses that the European Semester should comply with cohesion policy objectives under Articles 174 and 175 TFEU; calls for the participation of the regions in the fulfilment of these objectives and for a stronger territorial approach; calls for a process of</p>

reflection on the concept of macroeconomic conditionality and for the possibility to be explored of replacing this concept with new forms of conditionality, to better reflect the new challenges ahead;	reflection on the concept of macroeconomic conditionality and for the possibility to be explored of replacing this concept with new forms of conditionality, to better reflect the new challenges ahead;
--	--

If adopted, ams

83, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 211 213

FALL

Compromise 17

Paragraph 8

Original	Proposed compr
8. Stresses the role of cohesion policy instruments in supporting regions and local areas that are coping with demographic evolution, including, among others, challenges related to depopulation, ageing, brain drain, skills shortages and workforce imbalances across regions;	8. <i>Is concerned about the growing number of regions in a development trap, which are stagnating economically and are suffering from sharp demographic decline and limited access to essential services; calls therefore for an upward adjusted co-financing for projects aimed at strengthening of essential services;</i> stresses the role of cohesion policy instruments in supporting <i>different</i> regions and local areas that are coping with demographic evolution <i>affecting people's effective right to stay</i> , including, among others, challenges related to depopulation, ageing, <i>gender imbalances</i> , brain drain, skills shortages and workforce imbalances across regions; <i>recognises the need for targeted economic incentives and structural interventions to counteract these phenomena; in this context calls for implementation of targeted programmes, to attract, develop and retain talent, particularly in regions experiencing significant outflows of skilled workers, by fostering education, culture, entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems that align with local and regional economic needs and opportunities;</i>

If adopted, ams

118, 143, 188, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 225, 239, 243, 247, 262, AGRI7

FALL

Compromise 18

Paragraph 9

Original	Proposed compr
<p>9. Recognises the importance of supporting specific solutions for regions with severe and permanent economic and demographic difficulties, aiming at, among other things, improving the provision of services, fostering economic diversification and job creation, and helping them respond to challenges such as rural desertification, population ageing, depopulation, loneliness and isolation, as well as insufficient healthcare and education opportunities;</p>	<p>9. Recognises the importance of supporting <i>and financing</i> specific solutions for regions with <i>long-standing and serious economic difficulties or</i> severe permanent <i>natural</i> and demographic <i>handicaps</i>; <i>reiterates the need for maintaining and</i> improving the provision of <i>quality essential</i> services (<i>such as education and healthcare</i>), <i>transport and digital connectivity of these regions</i>, fostering <i>their</i> economic diversification and job creation, and helping them respond to challenges such as rural desertification, population ageing, <i>poverty</i>, depopulation, loneliness and isolation, <i>as well as the lack of opportunities for vulnerable people such as persons with disabilities</i>; <i>underlines the need to prioritise the development and adequate funding of strategic sectors, such as renewable energy, sustainable tourism, digital innovation, infrastructure, tailored to the economic potential and resources of each region, in order to create broader conditions for endogenous growth and balanced development across all regions, especially rural, remote and less-developed areas, border regions, islands and outermost regions</i>; <i>recalls the importance of strong rural-urban linkages as well as a particular support of women in rural areas</i>;</p>

If adopted, ams

104, 143, 165, 178, 225, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 239, 241, 242, 243, 247, 261, 262, AGRI 1, AGRI 3, AGRI 6, AGRI 10

FALL

Compromise 19

Paragraph 9a new - Outermost Regions

	New paragraph
	<i>9a NEW. Emphasises the need for a</i>

	<p><i>tailored approach for the outermost regions (ORs), as defined under Article 349 of TFEU, which face unique and cumulative structural challenges due to their remoteness, small market size, vulnerability to climate change, and economic dependencies; underlines that these permanent constraints, including the small size of the domestic economy, great distance from the European continent, location near third countries, double insularity for most of them, and limited diversification of the productive sector result in additional costs and reduced competitiveness, making their adaptation to the green and digital transition particularly complex and costly; underlines their great potential to further develop, i.a. through improved regional connectivity, key sectors such as blue economy, sustainable agriculture, renewable energies, space activities, research or eco-tourism; reiterates its longstanding call on the Commission to duly consider the impact of every newly proposed legislation on the outermost regions, with a view to avoid disproportionate regulatory burdens and adverse effects on the economies thereof;</i></p>
--	---

If adopted, ams

154, 167, 224, 228, 238, 241, 245, 256

FALL

Compromise 20

Paragraph 9b new - Direct funding / Cities

	<p>New paragraph</p>
	<p><i>9b NEW. Underlines that towns, cities and metropolitan areas have challenges of their own, such as considerable pockets of poverty, housing problems, traffic congestion and poor air quality, generating challenges for social and economic cohesion created by inharmonious territorial development; emphasises the need for a specific agenda for cities and calls for deepening of their links with</i></p>

	<p><i>functional urban areas, encompassing smaller cities and towns, so that economic and social benefits are spread more evenly across the entire territory; highlights the need to strengthen coordination between the initiatives of the European Urban Agenda and the instruments of cohesion policy, favoring an integrated approach that takes into account territorial specificities and emerging challenges; calls, furthermore, for more direct access to EU funding for regional and local authorities, as well as cities and urban authorities, by inter alia widening the use of integrated territorial investments (ITI);</i></p>
--	--

If adopted, ams

61, 101, 139, 140, 142, 148, 164, 236

FALL

Compromise 21

Paragraph 9c new - Housing

	<p>New paragraph <i>9c NEW. Stresses the need to continue and strengthen investments in affordable housing within the cohesion policy framework, recognising its significance for both regions and cities; highlights the need to foster its changes relevant to investing in housing beyond the two current possibilities (energy efficiency and social housing); emphasises that cohesion policy here plays an important role in the roll out as well as in the coordination of these initiatives; furthermore, believes that it is important to include housing affordability into the URBACT initiative;</i></p>
--	--

If adopted, ams

172, 222, 260

FALL

Compromise 22

Paragraph 10

Original	Proposed compr
10. Calls on the Commission to support the Member States and regions affected by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine through tailor-made tools under the cohesion policy, as well as supporting them to make the most of the possibilities offered by the cohesion policy funds, including Interreg, in a flexible way, to help cope with the detrimental socio-economic impact of the war on their populations;	10. <i>Stresses the strategic importance of strong external border regions for the security and resilience of the EU</i> ; calls on the Commission to support the Member States and regions affected by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, <i>in particular the regions on the EU's Eastern border, by revising the Guidelines on regional State aid⁴</i> , through tailor-made tools <i>and investments</i> under the cohesion policy, as well as supporting them to make the most of the possibilities offered by the cohesion policy funds, including Interreg, in a flexible way, to help cope with the detrimental socio-economic impact of the war on their populations <i>and territories</i> ; <i>calls furthermore for supporting regions bordering candidate countries like Ukraine and Moldova to strengthen connections and to promote their EU integration</i> ;

If adopted, ams

248, 249, 250, 251, 253, 268

FALL

Compromise 23

Paragraph 10a new - Cross-Border cooperation

	New paragraph
	<i>10a NEW Highlights the added value of territorial cooperation in general and cross-border cooperation in particular; underlines the importance of Interreg for cross-border regions, including outermost regions; emphasises its important role in contributing to their development and overcoming cross-border obstacles, including building trust across borders, developing transport links, identifying and reducing legal and administrative obstacles</i>

⁴ [Communication from the Commission Guidelines on regional State aid 2021/C 153/01, C/2021/2594, OJ C 153, 29.4.2021](#)

	<p><i>and increasing the provision and use of cross-border public services, among others; considers Interreg as the main EU instrument for tackling the persistent cross-border obstacles facing emergency services, and proposes a more prominent focus on these services; underlines that cross-border areas, including border areas at the EU's external borders bordering aggressor countries, often face specific challenges; believes that EU border regions, facing multiple challenges, must be supported; in this respect is of the opinion that they must be given increased means; welcomes the new Regulation on BRIDGEforEU; emphasises the importance of small-scale and cross-border projects and stresses the need for effective implementation on the ground; calls on the European Commission to encourage Member States to actively support awareness-raising campaigns in bordering regions to maximise the impact of cross-border cooperation;</i></p>
--	---

If adopted, ams

156, 162, 174, 175, 176, 177, 196, 200, 244, 252, 253, 255, 257, 259, 263

FALL

Compromise 24

Paragraph 11

Original	Proposed compr
<p>11. Recalls the ‘do no harm to cohesion’ principle, meaning that no action should hamper the convergence process or contribute to regional disparities; calls for a stronger integration of this principle as a cross-cutting principle in all EU policies, so that they support the objectives of social, economic and territorial cohesion, as set out in Articles 3 and 174 TFEU; insists that promoting cohesion should also be seen as a way of fostering solidarity and mutual support among Member States and their regions;</p>	<p>11. Recalls <i>the need to ‘support cohesion’, rather than just rely on the ‘do no harm to cohesion’ principle, which is</i> meaning that no action should hamper the convergence process or contribute to regional disparities; calls for a stronger integration of <i>these principles</i> as cross-cutting in all EU policies, so that they support the objectives of social, economic and territorial cohesion, as set out in Articles 3 and 174 TFEU; <i>calls furthermore on the Commission to issue specific guidelines on how to implement and enforce these principles across EU policies with particular attention given to the</i></p>

	<p><i>impact of EU laws on the competitiveness of less developed regions; reiterates that the new legislative proposals need to take due account of local and regional realities; and suggests that the Commission draws on innovative tools such as RegHUB (Network of Regional Hubs) to collect data on the impact of EU policies to the regions; to this end, underlines the need to strengthen the territorial impact assessment of EU legislation, with a simultaneous reinforcement of territorial aspects of other relevant policies; insists that promoting cohesion should also be seen as a way of fostering solidarity and mutual support among Member States and their regions; Calls on the Commission and the Member States to continue their efforts regarding communication and visibility of the benefits of cohesion policy, demonstrating to citizens the EU's tangible impact, and serving as a key tool in addressing Euroscepticism; welcomes the launch of the multi-lingual version of the Kohesio platform;</i></p>
--	--

If adopted, ams

102, 103, 191, 214, 264, 265, 266, 267, 270, 271, 272, AGRI9

FALL

Compromise 25

Paragraph 11a new - Timing of negotiations

	New paragraph
	<p><i>11a NEW Stresses that delays in the multiannual financial framework (MFF) negotiations together with the programming of the RRF funds on which Member States focused more, led to considerable delays in the programming period 2021-2027; stresses the importance of a timely agreement in the next framework, and therefore calls for the Common Provision Regulations (CPR) and the budget negotiations to be finalised at least one year before the start of the new funding period so that Member States can develop their national and regional funding</i></p>

	<i>strategies in good time to ensure a successful transition to the next funding period as well as the continuation of existing ESIF projects;</i>
--	--

If adopted, ams

124, 141

FALL