



# Standpoint on the future of EU regional policy

**Mr Paweł Samecki**

---

Commissioner for Regional Policy,  
Regional Policy DG

# **Standpoint on the future of EU regional policy**

Commissioner for regional policy

Paweł Samecki

A conference on cohesion policy and territorial  
development: Make use of the territorial potential

Kiruna, 10/11 December 2009

## **Key policy questions**

- Mission and goals of cohesion policy
- Policy effectiveness
- Policy delivery: efficiency and simplicity

# What goals should cohesion policy pursue?

**Mission:** Treaty commitment to economic, social and territorial cohesion (Article 174)

## Policy goals

- Enhance competitiveness and employment at regional level
- Facilitate growth in lagging areas
- Foster integration across borders

## **How to enhance policy effectiveness?**

- Concentration of the policy
- Stronger focus on performance and results
- High-level political debate on effectiveness
- Increased policy coherence
- More efficient and simpler management and control systems

## **What themes for concentration?**

- Strengthen the knowledge base for growth
- Enhance conditions for a connective and green economy
- Promote employment and social cohesion

## **How to focus more on results?**

- Improve monitoring and evaluation systems
- Strengthen conditionality within the policy
- Link payments to results
- Make core indicators obligatory
- Make evaluation plans obligatory
- High-level political debate on effectiveness

## How to enhance policy coherence?

- Enhance policy integration at EU level
- Establish a Single Strategic Framework
- Align funding instruments
- Increase flexibility to support ESF-type of actions by ERDF and vice versa
- Envisage merging ERDF and Cohesion Fund
- Include axis 3 and 4 of EAFRD in cohesion policy framework

# How to ensure simpler and more efficient policy delivery?

- Greater differentiation
- Smoother financial flows
- Harmonize eligibility rules
- Review co-financing
- Adjust the de-commitment rule
- Review the verification of additionality
- Increase the role of the private sector