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# *Environmental integration in the cohesion policy 2007-13 and the European Network of Environmental Authorities*

*Plenary meeting of the Spanish Network of Environmental Authorities,  
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# *My presentation*

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- ◆ I Sustainable regional development and environmental policy (slides 3-4)
- ◆ II Environmental successes in 2000-6 (slides 5-9)
- ◆ III The future cohesion policy – general (slides 10-15)
- ◆ IV The future cohesion policy – environmental aspects (slides 16-22)
- ◆ V DG ENV “Ideas Paper” – horizontal and vertical integration (slides 23-25)
- ◆ VI European Network of Environmental Authorities (Enea) (slides 26-28)
- ◆ VII Future timetable and Conclusions (slides 29-30)



# *I Cohesion policy and environment*

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- ◆ Mutual beneficial relationship
- ◆ Cohesion policy finances environmental infrastructure and improvements
- ◆ Environment is also a key factor of competitiveness – employment, investment, attractive environment



## *I Key policy references*

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### *6<sup>th</sup> EAP*

Tackling climate change

Nature and biodiversity

Environment and health

Sustainable use of natural  
resources and waste  
management

*TSs on marine; soil; air;  
pesticides; urban;  
(recycling; resources)*

### *SDS*

Climate change and clean energy

Managing resources more responsibly

Public health

Managing resources more responsibly

Ageing population

Tackling poverty and social exclusion

Efficient transport systems and land use



## *II What we have achieved so far 2000-6 – environmental financing*

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- ◆ Around 16% foreseen for environment in Objectives 1 & 2 in EU15 2000-6 (“vertical” and “horizontal” integration)
- ◆ 50% of the Cohesion Fund set aside for environmental infrastructure in EU25 (mainly “vertical” integration)
- ◆ Increase by 75% of expenditure on environment from 1994-9 period in EU15
- ◆ Around €8 billion for EU12 2000-6 for environment for SF, CF, ISPA, PHARE & SAPARD



## *II What we have achieved so far 2000-6 – environmental conditionality*

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- ◆ Natura 2000 - precautionary approach applied for last 3 years in EU15 and EU25
- ◆ Nitrates Directive - similar approach to Natura 2000
- ◆ Waste plans
- ◆ Environmental Impact Assessment
- ◆ Urban wastewater
- ◆ Water Framework Directive (Guidelines of 25.08.03, COM(03)499)
- ◆ Polluter Pays and Precautionary principles, Preventative action



## *II Some experiences in Member States*

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- ◆ Networks co-financed through Technical Assistance (Spain, Italy, Portugal)
- ◆ Formal central co-ordinating committees (Ireland)
- ◆ More informal central committees (Sweden)
- ◆ Co-ordination by central government departments (Finland, UK), plus seminars
- ◆ Vertical environmental priority managed by Environment Ministry (Finland, Ireland)
- ◆ Vertical environmental OP (Greece, Hungary, Portugal)
- ◆ Environmental Cross Cutting Theme Managers (UK)
- ◆ Development Path Analysis (N. Ireland, Brandenburg O1)



## *II Some experiences in Member States*

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### *Member State and Operational Programme*

### *Good example*

#### **Austria**

All programmes

Positive or neutral environmental impacts as an obligatory selection criterion. If positive, more points are attributed.

#### **Germany**

OP Schleswig-Holstein  
OP Sachsen – Anhalt

Environmental Bonus Criteria

#### **Greece**

All programmes

Positive or neutral environmental effects as a selection criterion

#### **Finland**

All programmes

Core Indicator of 20-30% for environmentally-friendly projects



## *II Some experiences in Member States*

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### *Member State and Operational Programme*

### *Good example*

**Italy**  
OP Enterprise Development

Environmental selection criteria and additional points if EMAS or ISO certification

**Portugal**  
OP Economy

Requires Best Available Technology (BAT) application, and a 5% bonus if a project joins EMAS at the same time.

**Spain**  
OP Regional Incentives for  
Enterprises

Obligation to use environmental selection criteria in order to receive co-financing

### **UK**

- OPs Cornwall&IoS O1/
- Various
- OP E. England O2
- Office of Dep. PM
- European Social Fund
- Environmental Selection Criteria weighted higher than other criteria
- Gateway criteria
- Checklist
- Website with good practice
- Checklist



## *III The future cohesion policy*

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- ◆ 3 years of **debate** launched by the Second Cohesion Report in January 2001
- ◆ **Financial Perspectives** proposed 11 February 2004
- ◆ Publication of the **Third Cohesion Report**, 18 February 2004:  
Adoption of the main principles of the reform by the Commission
- ◆ **Cohesion Forum**, 10 and 11 May 2004
- ◆ Adoption of the draft **regulations**, 14 July 2004



## *III The legislative proposals*

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- ◆ The legislative proposals are put in place through 5 regulations:
  - A general regulation (Council), which fixes the main objectives and eligibility rules, for interventions, for programming and for the management of the funds
  - 3 regulations, ERDF (Council and EP), ESF (Council & EP) and the Cohesion Fund (Council), which stipulate the arrangements specific to each fund
  - A regulation on groupings for European transborder cooperation (Council & EP), which creates a new cooperation tool available to regional and local organisations



# III Architecture of cohesion policy 2007-13

## NEW COHESION POLICY

ERDF, ESF, CF

78.54 %

Convergence

ERDF, ESF, CF

17.22 %

Regional  
competitiveness  
and Employment

ERDF, ESF

3.94 %

Co-operation

ERDF

50%

50%

EU 10+2  
(2/3 SF  
1/3 CF)

EU 15

Regional  
Competitiveness  
Programmes

ERDF

National  
Employment  
Programmes

ESF



## *III The 3 political objectives*

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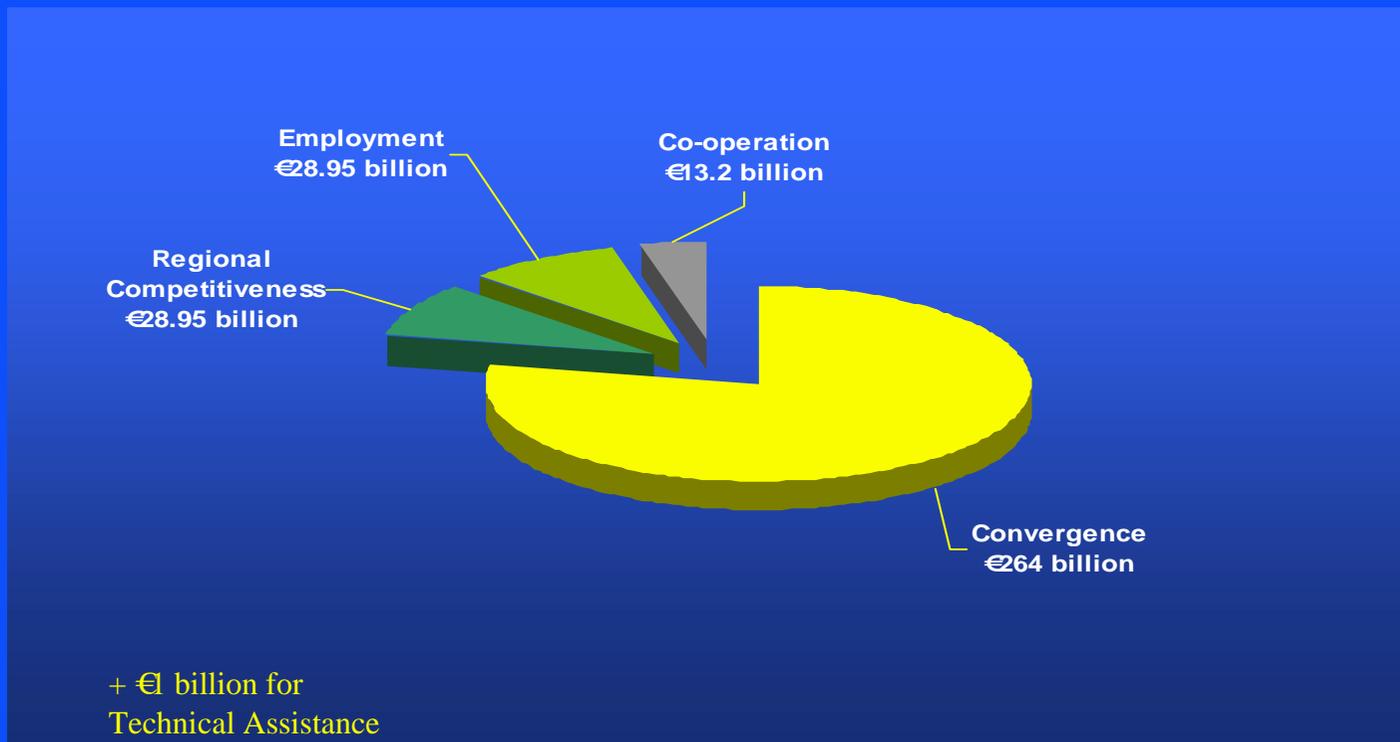
**The increase in disparities in the context of enlargement leads to concentration of cohesion policy on 3 objectives:**

- ◆ **The convergence** of countries (GNI < 90% of the average) and regions (regional GDP < 75% of the average) and the regions concerned by the statistical effect, that is 33% of the population of the Union
- ◆ **Regional competitiveness and employment:** reinforce attractiveness and ensure that socio-economic changes are anticipated in other regions, without Community zoning
- ◆ **European territorial cooperation:** Cross-border, trans-national and inter-regional



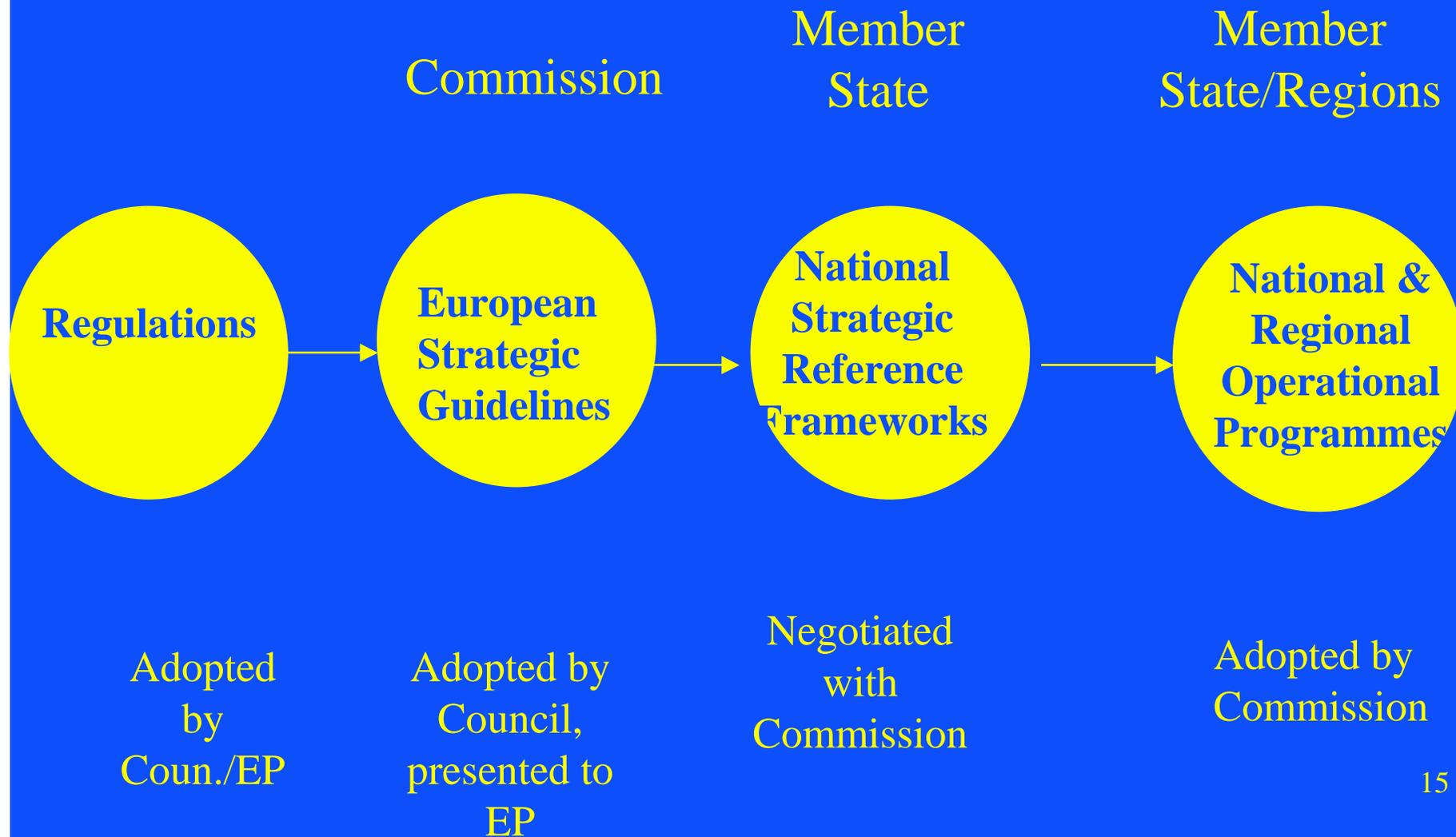
# III Future cohesion policy – how much is at stake?

**Total budget - €336.1 billion**





# III Regulations, Guidelines, Frameworks and OPs





## *IV Convergence and environment – financing through the ERDF and CF*

<i>ERDF Article 4/CF Article 2</i>	<i>6th EAP / environmental legislation</i>
Waste management	Waste directives and policy
Water supply, urban wastewater treatment	Water directives and policy
Air quality	Air quality directives and policy
Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control	IPPC Directive
Rehabilitation of contaminated sites and land	Urban Thematic Strategy (TS); Soil TS
Promotion of biodiversity and nature protection	Habitats and Birds Directives; Natura 2000
Aid to SMEs for environmental technologies	Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP)
Preventing natural/technological risks	Risks Communication; Urban and Soil TSs; coasts; climate change
Environmentally friendly transport within integrated city-wide strategies/clean urban transport/public transport	Urban TS; climate change
Renewable energies and energy efficiency	Climate change
Tourism and cultural heritage	Urban TS
Health investments	Environment and Health Action Plan
Reinforcing institutional capacity in fund mgmt.	Environmental capacity building



## *IV Convergence and environment - new Cohesion Fund proposal (Art. 2)*

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Article 2 “appropriate balance” between:

- ◆ TEN-T (Modified TEN-T guidelines)
- ◆ Environment (Article 174 Treaty)
- ◆ Projects developed on a sustainable basis with environmental benefits (energy efficiency; renewable energies; non-TEN-T sustainable transport including clean urban and public transport)



## *IV Convergence and environment – financing through the ESF*

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- ◆ Article 1.2, ESF shall “promote environmentally sound economic growth”
- ◆ Article 2.2.b, in convergence countries the ESF shall strengthen institutional capacity of public administrations (national regional, local) including in the environmental field by good policy and programme design and capacity building.  
Example: preparing project pipelines for CF projects
- ◆ ESF can also be used for promoting green jobs, training, awareness etc. as currently



# *IV Regional Competitiveness and environment – financing through the ERDF and ESF*

<i>ERDF Article 5</i>	<i>6th EAP / environmental legislation</i>
<b>Infrastructures linked to biodiversity &amp; Natura 2000 contributing to sustainable economic development &amp; diversification of rural areas</b>	<b>Habitats and Birds Directives; Natura 2000</b>
<b>Rehabilitation of contaminated sites and land</b>	<b>Urban TS; Soil TS</b>
<b>Aid to SMEs for environmental technologies</b>	<b>Environmental Technologies Action Plan</b>
<b>Plans and measures to prevent natural / technological risks</b>	<b>Risks Communication; Urban and Soil TSs; coasts; climate change</b>
<b>Clean urban public transport</b>	<b>Urban Thematic Strategy; Climate change</b>
<b>Renewable energies and energy efficiency</b>	<b>Climate change</b>

◆ESF can be used for promoting green jobs, training, awareness, etc. as currently



## *IV Co-operation – and environment & risks*

<i>ERDF Article 6</i>	<i>6th EAP / environmental legislation</i>
<b>Joint management of environment (CB)</b>	<b>Urban TS; Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)</b>
<b>Water, waste and energy systems (CB)</b>	<b>TSs on resources, recycling, marine, soil, air; ICZM</b>
<b>Networking of SMEs (CB)</b>	<b>Environmental Technologies Action Plan</b>
<b>Risk Prevention , maritime safety, flooding, erosion, earthquakes, avalanches, risk mapping etc.(TN)</b>	<b>Risks Communication; ICZM; climate change; INSPIRE (infrastructure for geographical information)</b>
<b>Integrated Water Management (TN)</b>	<b>Water Framework Directive; Wetlands</b>
<b>Networks of regions and cities (IR)</b>	<b>Urban Thematic Strategy</b>

CB: crossborder; TN: transnational; IR: Interregional



## *IV Key points to defend in the Regulations - substance*

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- ◆ strong commitment to SD and environmental protection/improvement in overall Objectives and “environmentally sound growth” in ERDF and ESF
- ◆ co-financing of environmental infrastructure and sustainable energy and transport projects in the CF
- ◆ funding environmental and environmentally-beneficial projects through ERDF
- ◆ commitment to environmental capacity building in the ESF
- ◆ strong commitment to urban issues, including environment



## *IV Key points to defend in the Regulations - methodology*

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- ◆ complementarity with national measures
- ◆ consistency with Community policies
- ◆ respect of Community legislation, including environment
- ◆ role of Managing Authority to ensure compliance with environmental rules
- ◆ ensuring environmental and sustainable development partners involved
- ◆ EIA and SEA apply to ex-ante evaluations and Large Projects assessed for environmental impacts



## *V DG ENV “Ideas Paper”*

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- ◆ “Internal document” shared with members of ENEA on 28.02.05
- ◆ Focus on European Strategic Guidelines
- ◆ SDS and 6<sup>th</sup> EAP as basic organising principles
- ◆ Four sections: horizontal integration; vertical integration (plus table); ETAP; national environmental funding priorities for cohesion policy
- ◆ Comments needed before 31.03.05 – consultations in Spain and elsewhere are welcomed



# *V DG ENV “Ideas Paper” – horizontal elements*

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- ◆ Article 6 of Treaty of European Union – environment as a cross-cutting principle
- ◆ Respect of environmental *acquis*
- ◆ Ensure National Strategic Reference Frameworks refer to 6<sup>th</sup> EAP and SDS
- ◆ Regional Agenda 21 – regional sustainable development
- ◆ Partnership principle
- ◆ Selection criteria – Integrated Product Policy, green public procurement
- ◆ Indicators
- ◆ Environmental capacity building
- ◆ Environmental networks, Theme Managers
- ◆ Synergies and “joined up thinking”



# *V DG ENV “Ideas Paper” – vertical elements*

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- ◆ Combating climate change, air pollution, IPPC
- ◆ Urban transport/urban environmental policy
- ◆ Waste management
- ◆ Natura 2000
- ◆ Environmental health
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Coastal zones
- ◆ Risks



## *VI European Network of Environmental Authorities (ENEA)*

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- ◆ Composed of EU MSs (mainly environmental ministries), environmental NGOs and Commission services (REGIO, ENV, EMPL, etc.)
- ◆ Meetings 08.09.04, 28.02.05, 12.09.05
- ◆ Website:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/integration/structural\\_funds\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/integration/structural_funds_en.htm)



# *VI European Network of Environmental Authorities (EAEA)*

<i>Specific Working Groups</i>	<i>Follow-up from 28.02.05</i>
<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment</b>	<b>Report (to Council and EP) due in October 2005</b>
<b>Water Framework Directive</b>	<b>Work to continue in Working Group as planned</b>
<b>Cohesion Fund “Third Pillar” (public transport, energy efficiency, renewable energies)</b>	<b>Feedback needed from other Cohesion countries Follow-up meeting</b>
<b>Evaluation of positive and negative aspects (“bilan”) of SFs 2000-6</b>	<b>Feedback needed on questionnaire</b>
<b>Environmental Capacity Building</b>	<b>Feedback needed on questionnaire</b>
<i>Reported in 28.02.05</i>	



# *VI European Network of Environmental Authorities (EAEA)*

## *Other issues addressed by EAEA*

**Environmental integration in the new Cohesion Policy Regulations**

**New working methods – involving environmental NGOs**

**Natura 2000**

**ETAP and the Cohesion Policy**

**Other financing links – LIFE+, Norwegian & European Economic Area Financing mechanisms**

**Innovative Actions**

**Trans-European Networks (TENs)**

**NGOs environmental handbook (completed in EN in March, then translated)**

**NGO Score-board of Member States performance**



## *VII Future timetables*

<i>Cohesion Policy</i>	<i>Environmental Policy</i>
10-11 May 2004 – Cohesion Forum	2004: Communications on Climate Change; Risks; Natura 2000 financing
14 July 2004 – Future SF Regulations adopted by College	
Spring 2005 – bi-lateral meetings with Member States End 2005 – Decision by EP and Council on Future SF Regulations ? 2005 - European Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion Policy (sent to EP and Council (for adoption)) with annual dialogue on it thereafter with MSs ? 2005 – National Strategic Reference Frameworks	2005: Thematic Strategies delivered for urban; air; recycling; resources; marine; soil
2006: SFs programme preparation/negotiation with MSs	2005/6: Thematic Strategies implementation
1 Jan. 2007-13: new SFs programmes in operation	2012: 6 <sup>th</sup> EAP implemented? 2020: SDS implemented?



## *VII Conclusions*

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- ◆ Third Cohesion Report and new proposed Regulations are a significant opening for more funding environment and risk prevention
- ◆ Need to persuade EP and Council to carry through good promise to agreed Regulations, European Guidelines, National Reference Framework, Programmes and Projects
- ◆ **Caution: Environment competes with other policies**