

“Structural Funds: Future Perspectives”

According to a recent presentation given by Mr Rudolf Niessler, Director of DG Regional Policy, substantial progress has been made towards a new legislative package which will set the Structural Fund Regulations for the period 2014-2020. Many positive elements are currently being considered, such as orientation towards results, and more simplified rules and procedures. The Regulations contain many new elements, including new priorities related to thematic concentration, an obligatory list of projects in Operational Programmes, and new emphasis on financial instruments in all sectors. Most of the policy areas should be clear by mid-July when the regional affairs committee of the Parliament votes on the package. However, Mr Niessler mentioned that it may be until next year before the entire package – rules and budget – is finalized.

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