



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY
Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial Development and Northern Europe
The Director

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Subject: Observations on the Annual Implementation Report (AIR) 2014, article 67§4 of EC Regulation 1083/2006

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2007LV161PO001
2007LV161PO002

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Dear Mr Eberhards

The Commission received the Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) 2014 for the following programmes:

- the Operational Programme "Entrepreneurship and Innovations" 2007-2013 which has been approved in written procedure by the Monitoring Committee on 29 May 2015, was received by the Commission on 30 June 2015, and the Commission declared the AIR admissible on 6 July 2015.
- the Operational Programme "Infrastructure and Services" 2007-2013 which has been approved in written procedure by the Monitoring Committee on 29 May 2015, was received by the Commission on 9 June 2015, and the Commission declared the AIR admissible on 22 June 2015.

The Commission services appreciate that the AIRs include a summary in English.

In line with Article 67.4 of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006, the Commission services have now finalised the qualitative assessment of the reports and found them satisfactory.

The Commission acknowledges the efforts of the Latvian authorities to improve the quality of the Annual Implementation Reports, which were the last AIRs for the 2007-2013 programming period programmes. Nevertheless, the Commission encourages the Latvian authorities continuing with the improvements of in-depth qualitative analysis on the achievement of cohesion policy and OP objectives in the final reports. The reports

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still contain a lot of information describing the numerical achievements and duplicating the information demonstrated on tables and graphs. This can be improved in the final report.

We appreciate the reporting of the progress in achieving the Europe 2020 strategy targets and objectives of the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) and assessment and conclusions of EU funds impact on the achievement of the Europe 2020 targets. The work in this direction should be continued.

We also appreciate the analysis of the EU funds management and control system functioning and information on the activities to improve the system, in particular in the area of the public procurement. As problems in application of the public procurement procedures have been detected, we strongly encourage the Latvian authorities to take all appropriate measures in order to ensure proper application of the public procurement rules. It is important to involve the Competition Council in a risk-based screening of the EU-funds-financed public procurement tenders to identify possible bid-rigging and cartel activities. Besides, more attention should be paid (in 2014-2020 programming period programme) to the preparation and management of large scale projects (major projects and other significant projects) ensuring their smooth implementation.

We appreciate the examples of good practice that are included in the relevant AIR chapters. It is very important that success stories and good examples are presented in the AIR to demonstrate the results of the cohesion policy. We encourage you to continue providing good examples and success stories with a description demonstrating the achievement towards the OP objectives and/or strategic objectives of the cohesion policy.

To conclude, I would like to thank the managing authority for its efforts and willingness to improve the Annual Implementation Reports.

Yours sincerely

Nicola De Michelis