

Cohesion policy post-2020

Commission proposal



#CohesionPolicy
#EUinmyRegion

Main points of the presentation

1. Cohesion policy
2. Interreg
3. Programme management
4. ECBM (European Cross-Border Mechanism)

1 – COHESION POLICY



1.1 Global policy objectives

11 objectives are simplified and consolidated to 5:

1.A smarter Europe (innovative & smart economic transformation)

2.A greener, low-carbon Europe (including energy transition, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk management)

3.A more connected Europe (mobility and ICT connectivity)

4.A more social Europe (the European Pillar of Social Rights)

5.A Europe closer to citizens (sustainable development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives)

Cooperation outside the programme area (country and regional programmes!)

1.2 New specific objective for Interreg

A better Interreg governance

- ❑ Support for capacity building, addressing **cross-border legal and administrative challenges**
- ❑ Support for **trust-building**, people-to-people, civil society
- ❑ Support for institutional capacity to support **macroregional strategies**

Timeline

2 – INTERREG



2.1 - 5 Components of Interreg

- Terrestrial cross-border cooperation (component 1)
- Transnational cooperation and maritime cooperation (component 2)
- Outermost regions cooperation (component 3)
- Interregional cooperation (component 4)
- Interregional innovation investments (component 5)

2. 2 - Changes for Interreg (1)

1. Interreg 2021-27 EUR 9.5 bn (2014-2020: EUR 11.1 bn)
2. Cross-border programmes: based on joint strategy
3. Integration of external cross-border cooperation
4. Maritime co-operation goes from CBC to sea-basin level (6 basins)
 1. Different cooperation than land-borders (different topics and governance)
 2. Aligned to maritime and fisheries policy + macro-regional strategies (more coherent)
 3. New opportunities (between countries which are not next to each other)
 4. 2 safeguards:
 1. Cross-border cooperation still possible (mini-programme: priority axis, ITI)
 2. Topics are not limited to maritime/ fisheries/ marine but all 5 Policy Objectives
5. Specific component for the outermost regions (better cooperation with neighbouring countries)

2. 2 - Changes for Interreg (2)

- 6. Transnational programmes based on functional areas
- 7. 2 interregional programmes (ESPON and INTERACT)
- 8. Interregional innovation investments (€ 1 B; support smart specialisation strategies)
- 9. European Cross-Border Mechanism (ECBM)

2.3 - Policy objectives for Interreg

1. 5 policy objectives of ERDF
2. Under the policy objective 'A more social Europe', ERDF scope enlarged to cover ESF-type actions (employment, education, health, inclusion, poverty)
3. Interreg specific objectives:
 - 'A better Interreg governance' (15%): cross-border legal and administrative challenges + macroregional strategies + people-to-people

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9X6l7QmfhD0>

- 'A safer and more secure Europe' on external borders: support for border crossing management, mobility and migration management, protection of migrants

2.4 – Thematic concentration

	Percentage	On what?
Components 1, 2 and 3	At least 60%	Maximum of 3 out of 5 policy objectives
Components 1, 2 and 3	Another 15%	Better Interreg governance or Safer and more secure Europe
Transnational programme supporting a strategy	100%	Objectives of the strategy
Maritime programme supporting a strategy	At least 70%	Objectives of the strategy

2.5 – Cooperation in mainstream programmes

1. ERDF Regulation, Article 2(3)b:

The ERDF or the Cohesion Fund may support activities under the Investment for jobs and growth goal where they enhance cooperation with partners both within and outside a given Member State. This shall include cooperation with partners from cross-border regions, from non-contiguous regions or from regions located in the territory covered by a macro-regional or sea-basin strategy or a combination thereof.

2. CPR Regulation, Article 17(3)d)v):

Each programme shall set out, for each specific objective the interregional and transnational actions with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State

3. Each OP has to describe, at specific objective level how they will cooperate with other territories (otherwise they have to explain why)

2.6 - ETC allocations

(current prices)

ETC	2021-2027
Current prices, MM eur	EU
Cross-border	5,004
Transnational*	2,987
IPA transfer	
ENI transfer	
Outermost	304
Interregional	
<i>of which</i> Interregional cooperation	113
<i>of which</i> Interregional innovation investment	1,093
Total	9,501

* including maritime cooperation for 2021-2027

3 – PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT



3.1 – Important aspects

- Co-financing rates: 70% at programme level
- Eligibility rules integrated into regulation
- Small project fund

3.2 - Simplification elements

- No designation process
- No more Annual Implementation Report
- No need for a Certifying Authority (only accounting function in MA)
- Financing not linked to invoices (= based on conditions or milestones)
- Now: administrative verification of 100% of payment claims
Post-2020 : risk-based sample
- Less audits by Commission (if 2 years with error rate < 2%)
- Simplified cost options (if < € 200,000)
- VAT eligible if < € 5,000,000)
- Reprogramming without Commission: up to 5% of a priority (3% of OP)
- No limit to use the funds outside programming area
- Clarity on document retention period for beneficiaries
(5 years from end of year of last reimbursement)

3.3 – Programming (1)

Partnership Agreement

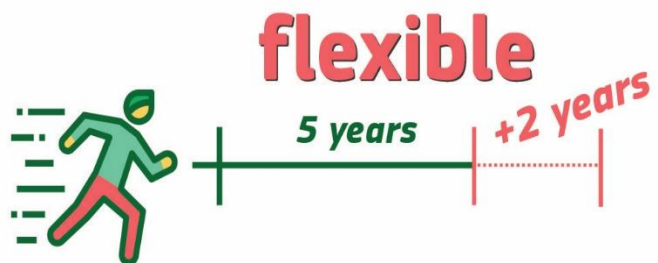
→ only list of Interreg programmes

Content of Interreg programmes

- Summary of the main development challenges and strategy for contribution to policy objectives
- Justification for selection of policy objectives and specific objectives
- Priorities - each priority corresponds to a single policy objective
- Financing plan
- Communication and visibility
- Partnership

3.3 – Programming (2)

- "5+2" Programming:
 - 5 years programmed initially
 - 2026-27 allocations programmed after mid-term review in 2024-25
 - Technical adjustment fed in (modifying allocations from 2025)



4 – EUROPEAN CROSS-BORDER MECHANISM (ECBM)



4.1 – What is the ECBM

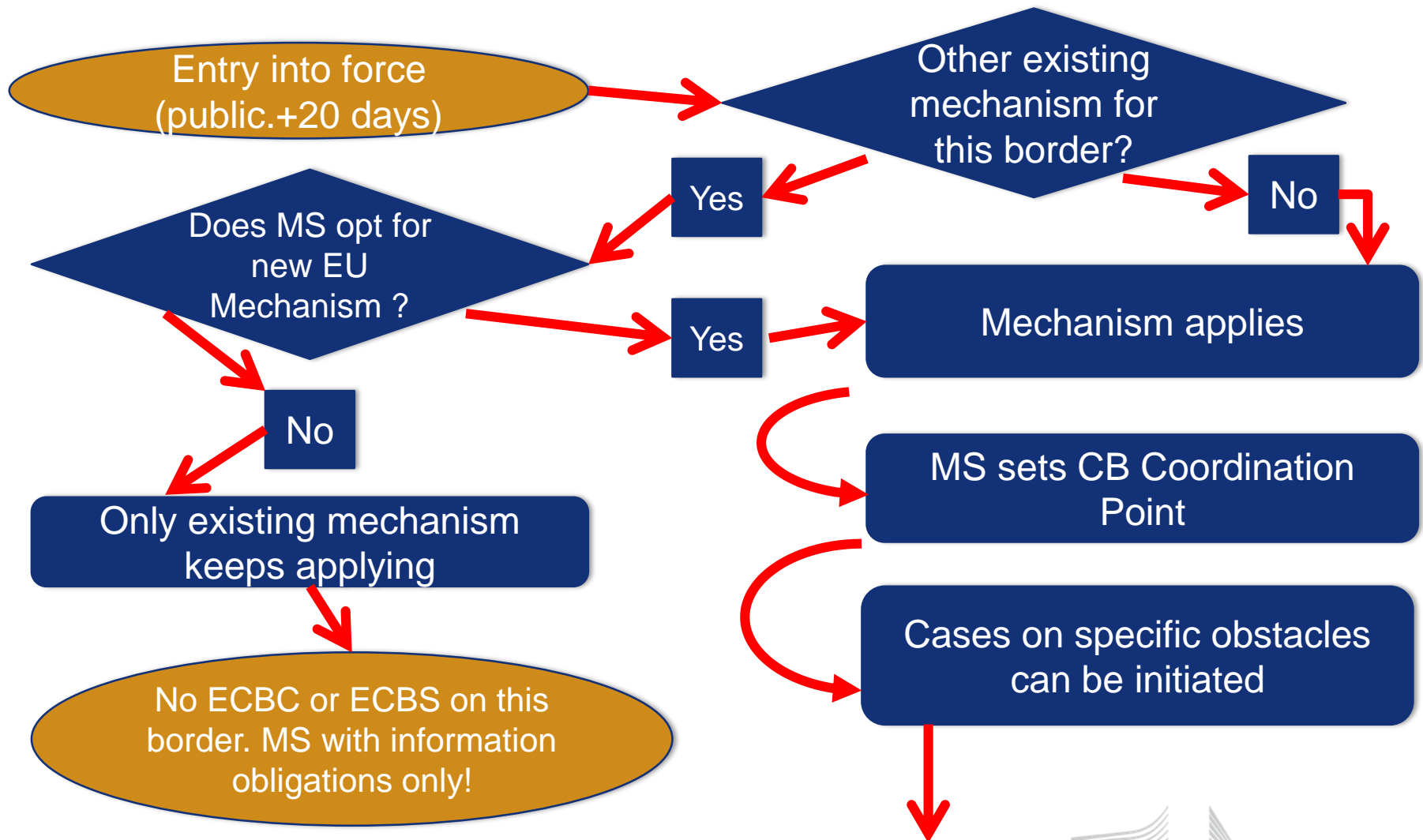
- Legal and administrative obstacle is the most important one
- Objective: to make cooperation easier and less costly
- ECBM enables to apply the rules of a MS on the territory of another MS
- NUTS 3
- Voluntary but if the MS does not want to apply it, it need to have another mechanism in place that would have similar benefits

4.2 – What it is not

- A revision of, or a new form of EGTC
(it is not aimed at creating new legal persons)
- Mandatory
(MS may opt to keep other "existing ways to solve legal obstacles")
- A mere support for INTERREG
(it aims at overcoming obstacles, even when EU funding is not involved)
- A way to bypass national legislative powers
(when a ECBS is agreed, it only commits authorities to present proposals to the respective legislative bodies)
- Applicable everywhere
(Scope defined as cross-border regions = NUTS3)

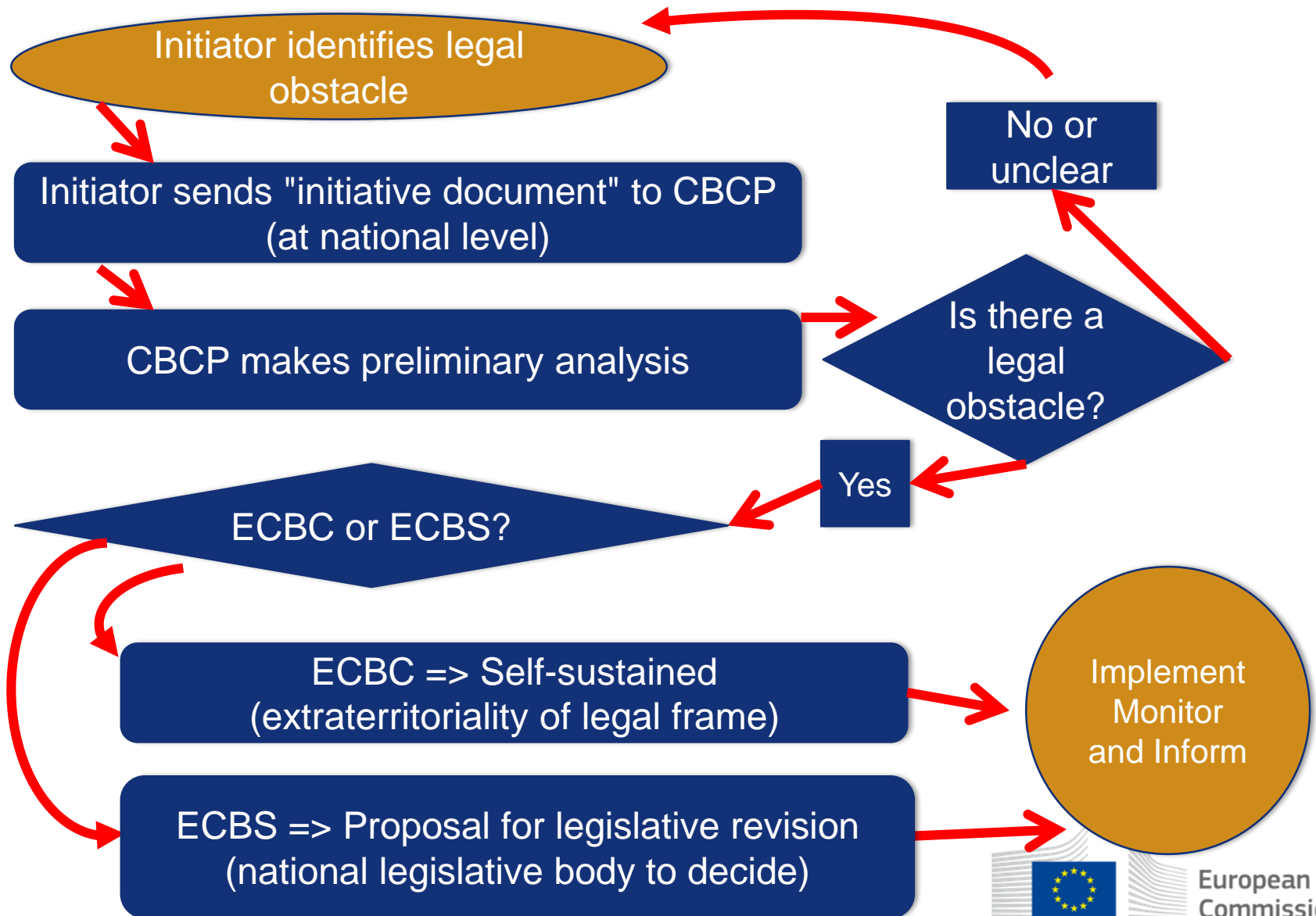
ECBM

The process (1)



ECBM

The process (2)



4.3 – Example: Strasbourg – Kehl tram

Adaptation of the equipment of a tram (light, wheels, extincor..)

Mixing of signalisation for road and tram traffic

Installation of travel ticket machines with mixed systems

Circulation of a French tram in a foreign country

Statute of equipment: bridge, tram platform, ticket machines..

Recognition of travel tickets

Responsibilities for **security matters** during CB travels

Conditionality of the financial support through ministries

Separate tariffication and travel tickets

Distribution of tickets

Coordination of public certification for the circulation of trams

... led to a too long process

2009 Memorandum
of Understanding



2016
Convention on the Joint
Tariffication

Extension of Strasbourg (FR) tram line to Kehl (DE)



Thank you for your attention!