Helsinki-Uusimaa Region Position on the NRPP / Fund Regulation

On the European Parliament's draft report for the proposal for a regulation establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, and maritime, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034 (2025/0240) – NRP Fund

8 June 2026

The Helsinki-Uusimaa Region welcomes the European Parliament's draft report as a substantially stronger basis for negotiations than the Commission proposal. Thus, we would like to amend our position from April 2026 on the NRP Fund.

In particular, we welcome the Parliament's efforts to strengthen multilevel governance, reinforce the role of regional and local authorities, reintroduce Smart Specialisation Strategies, improve support for more developed regions, and strengthen sustainable urban development and territorial investment instruments.

These improvements are highly relevant for Helsinki-Uusimaa, Finland's largest innovation, research and economic hub, which generates almost 40% of Finland's GDP and plays a central role in delivering the EU's competitiveness, innovation, digital and green transition objectives. As a metropolitan and highly international region located close to the EU's external border with Russia, Helsinki-Uusimaa is also directly affected by geopolitical, security, connectivity and resilience challenges that extend beyond traditional cohesion policy considerations.

At the same time, some elements of the proposal remain critical for ensuring that the future NRPP delivers effective place-based development and strengthens Europe's long-term competitiveness. In particular, **Helsinki-Uusimaa calls for stronger recognition of regional and urban governance through mandatory regional and urban chapters, backed by earmarked funding for more developed regions as well as for cities, a broader and more realistic approach to supporting regions affected by Russia's war of aggression, a clearer and more strategically focused intervention logic, and stronger safeguards for more developed regions that serve as key drivers of European growth, innovation and investment**.

The Helsinki-Uusimaa Region therefore highlights the following priority amendments and proposed revisions for consideration during the Parliament's negotiations on the final Regulation.

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Amendment 1

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a – point i

Territorial attractiveness and the right to stay

Commission proposal	EP amendment (Draft Report)	Helsinki-Uusimaa position
“fostering the attractiveness of territories to support the right to stay including by supporting strategies for the integrated development of urban and rural areas, including support for territorial services and infrastructure;”	deleted	“fostering the attractiveness of territories to support the right to stay including by supporting strategies for the integrated development of urban and rural areas, including support for territorial services and infrastructure;”

Justification

Helsinki-Uusimaa does not support the deletion of this objective. Territorial attractiveness and integrated urban-rural development are core elements of territorial cohesion and balanced regional development. The regulation should retain the Commission wording and further strengthen the territorial and urban dimension of the NRPP.

Amendment 2

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a - point ii - new

Additional support for countries at the Eastern border

Commission proposal	EP amendment (Draft Report)	Helsinki-Uusimaa position
No equivalent provision.	“providing comprehensive additional support to the Eastern border regions and other bordering regions, including by facilitating access to funding, promoting digital connectivity and upgrading transport networks, including dual-use roads, rail, and port infrastructure as well as cross-border connections;”	“providing comprehensive additional support to the Eastern **member states** ~~and other bordering regions,~~ including by facilitating access to funding, promoting digital connectivity and upgrading transport networks, including dual-use roads, rail, and port infrastructure as well as cross-border connections;”

Justification

Helsinki-Uusimaa strongly supports the EP amendment as an important recognition of the strategic, economic and security impacts affecting regions bordering Russia and Belarus. However, **support**

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should not be limited according NUTS2 border regions. The Regulation should ensure that all regions located in Member States bordering Russia and Belarus are eligible for support. Instead of NUTS2 regions, national prioritization should be done in affected member states according to territorial needs and based on clear criteria.

Amendment 3

Article 3 – paragraph 1 - point a – point viii

Transport infrastructure and TEN-T connectivity

Commission proposal	EP amendment (Draft Report)	Helsinki-Uusimaa position
"enhancing Union transport infrastructure and contributing to the completion of the trans-European network for transport, in particular on the core and extended core network, while decarbonising and improving connectivity, security and accessibility for remote, peripheral and less connected areas; support the green and digital transition of transport;"	deleted	"enhancing Union transport infrastructure and contributing to the completion of the trans-European network for transport, in particular on the core and extended core network, **including urban nodes,** while decarbonising and improving connectivity, security and accessibility for remote, peripheral and less connected areas; support the green and digital transition of transport;"

Justification

The regulation should retain and strengthen support for strategic transport infrastructure and cross-border connectivity, including the possibility for urban nodes to fullfill their tasks, as defined in the TEN-T regulation.

Amendment 4

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point 2 - new

Definition of Eastern border regions

Commission proposal	EP amendment (Draft Report)	Helsinki-Uusimaa position
No dedicated definition.	"Eastern border regions" means Union NUTS2 regions bordering the Russian Federation, Belarus or Ukraine, by land or sea, in Finland, Estonia, Latvia,	"Eastern border regions" means Union ~~NUTS2~~ regions ~~in~~ **member states** bordering the Russian Federation, Belarus or Ukraine, by land or sea**, including** Finland,

	Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, not covering the entire territory of the Member State concerned.”	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, not covering the entire territory of the Member State concerned.”

Justification
Support measures for Eastern border regions shall be available to all regions located in Member States bordering Russia and Belarus. Allocation and prioritization shall be determined at national level according to territorial needs and impact.

Amendment 5

Article 10 – paragraph 2 – point b – new
Budget

Commission proposal	EP amendment	Helsinki-Uusimaa position
No dedicated definition.	***b. Resources from the ERDF and the ESF shall be allocated as follows:*** ***(a) 72,9 % (i.e. a total of EUR 270 050 000 000) for less developed regions;*** ***(b) 17,2 % (i.e. a total of EUR 63 720 000 000) for transition regions;*** ***(c) 9,9 % (i.e. a total of EUR 36 670 000 000) for more developed regions;*** ***(d) EUR 2 120 511 053 as additional funding for the outermost regions identified in Article 349 TFEU and the NUTS level 2 regions fulfilling the criteria laid down in Article 2 of Protocol No 6 to the 1994 Act of Accession.***	***b. Resources from the ERDF and the ESF shall be allocated as follows:*** ***(a) 72,9 % (i.e. a total of EUR XX) for less developed regions;*** ***(b) 17,2 % (i.e. a total of EUR XX) for transition regions;*** ***(c) 9,9 % (i.e. a total of EUR XX) for more developed regions;*** ***(d) EUR XX as additional funding for the outermost regions identified in Article 349 TFEU and the NUTS level 2 regions fulfilling the criteria laid down in Article 2 of Protocol No 6 to the 1994 Act of Accession.***

Justification

Helsinki-Uusimaa supports EP's position and allocation of 9.9% ERDF and ESF funding for more development regions. This amendment is necessary to ensure a balanced and predictable allocation of cohesion funding across all regional categories. From regional and local perspectives, earmarked funding for less-developed, transition, and more-developed regions is essential to maintain the place-based nature of cohesion policy and to enablelong-term investment planning across all regions.

Amendment 6

Article 22 – Paragraph 2

Commission proposal	EP amendment (Draft Report)	Helsinki-Uusimaa position
2. (…) (f) reduce economic, social and territorial disparities in less developed, transition and more developed regions, in particular by: allocating **resources** to **less developed, transition and more developed** regions, in accordance with their specific challenges, to be reported in Annex V basedon methodology set out in Annex VII; (…) **New point (v) to be added after (iv)**	***(ii b) ensuring that the minimum level of support to more developed regions correspond to at least to 60% of their indicative average annual allocation in 2028, 55 % in 2029, 50 % in 2030, 45 % in 2031 and 40 % in 2032, 2033 and 2034, calculated by the Commission within the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 from the resources for Investment for jobs and growth goal within the Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 [CPR];***	2. (…) (f) reduce economic, social and territorial disparities in less developed, transition and more developed regions, in particular by: (i) allocating **funding** ~~**resources**~~ to ~~**less developed, transition and more developed**~~ **each category of** regions, in accordance with their specific challenges, to be reported in Annex V based on methodology set out in Annex VII; (…) ***(ii)*** **ensuring that the minimum level of support to more developed regions correspond to at least to 75% of their indicative average annual allocation in 2028, 55 % in 2029, 50 % in 2030, 45 % in 2031 and 40 % in 2032, 2033 and 2034, calculated by the Commission within the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 from the resources for Investment for jobs and**

		growth goal within the Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 [CPR];

Justification

The proposed amendment ensures that minimum allocations are safeguarded for each region, not only categories of regions at national level. **The initial amount of 75% for the year 2028 is based on the Commission President's letter of November 2025**, which introduced that any reduction in funding of more than 25% for transition and more developed regions at national level, compared to the current programming period, must be justified.

Amendment 7

Article 21(2) – Preparation and implementation of the Plan

Commission proposal	EP amendment (Draft Report)	Helsinki-Uusimaa position
The Plan shall include national, sectoral and, where relevant, regional and territorial chapters.	Each Member State shall prepare and implement the Plan at the appropriate territorial level… Regional and local authorities shall be fully involved in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NRP Plan. The Plan shall include national, sectoral, CAP, Social Climate regional or territorial chapters.	Each Member State shall prepare and implement the Plan in partnership with partners as set out in Article 6 [Partnership], including regional and local authorities, and in accordance with their institutional, legal and financial framework. The Plan shall include national, sectoral**, regional and urban** chapters. **These shall set out, in partnership with regional and local authorities, the measures contributing to the relevant specific objectives.**

Justification

The Plan shall include national, sectoral, regional and urban chapters. These chapters shall set out, in partnership with regional and local authorities, the measures contributing to the relevant specific objectives. T"

Amendment 8

Article 22 – paragraph 2 – point b – paragraph 2 – point h – point iii a (new)

Commission proposal	EP amendment	Helsinki-Uusimaa position
	(iii a) supporting the implementation of the territorial and local cooperation initiatives. At least 11% of the total ERDF amount allocated to the Member State within the NRP Plan, other than for technical assistance, shall be allocated to integrated territorial and urban development strategies, as referred in Article 74(1), point (a);	***(iii a) supporting the implementation of the territorial and local cooperation initiatives. At least 11% of the total ERDF amount allocated to the Member State within the NRP Plan, other than for technical assistance, shall be allocated to integrated territorial and urban development strategies, as referred in Article 74 (1), point (a);***

Justification: We welcome the parliaments position, which recognizes the need to increase this support for territorial and urban development from the current 8% of ERDF funds on Sustainable Urban Development.

Amendment 9

Article 31 – paragraph 1

Union Actions – Introducing a dedicated allocation for territorial and urban development allocation

Commission proposal	EP amendment (Draft Report)	Helsinki-Uusimaa position
No dedicated allocation for sustainable urban development under Union actions.	**EUR 512 000 000 for sustainable urban development as referred to in paragraph 1, point (a), of Annex XVI [Union actions].”**	**EUR 4 000 000 000 for sustainable urban development as referred to in paragraph 1, point (a), of Annex XVI [Union actions].**

Justification: Helsinki-Uusimaa supports the position of Eurocities, which calls for a strong enough dedicated funding through the EU facility, which reflects the increased challenges that European cities face. Cities and metropolitan regions are key drivers of Europe's competitiveness, innovation capacity and green transition. Dedicated EU-level urban funding should therefore be retained and further strengthened in the final Regulation.

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Amendment 10

Article 75 – paragraph 4 - new

Integrated territorial and urban development

Commission proposal	EP amendment (Draft Report)	Helsinki-Uusimaa position
		Each Member State shall allocate no less than 11% of its total financial allocation under the ERDF that is implemented under shared management in the framework of cohesion policy, excluding technical assistance, to measures implemented through integrated territorial and urban development strategies in cities and functional urban areas.

Justification

Self explanatory

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