

Joint debate on cohesion policy
European Parliament Plenary session, Brussels
23 June 2011
Intervention by Prof. Danuta Hübner, Chair of the Committee on
Regional Development

I would like to speak on conditionality.

The crisis has led to a rather large loss of economic activity across Europe, it has increased unemployment, it has produced a fall in productivity and strongly weakened public finances.

To these challenges, cohesion policy, which is European growth-stimulating investment policy, must respond by further improving its effectiveness, its results and quality of its interventions.

Over the last year, working closely between member states, Commission and Parliament, we have come to the conclusion that to achieve this a well-designed conditionality and incentives within the policy could be an effective tool.

Today, I am convinced we are well prepared to introduce into the policy framework conditionality instruments that would increase the return on its investment. Conditionality commitments should address the link between policy interventions and progress on institutional, administrative and structural efficiency. In the context of the upcoming negotiations, we should ensure an adequate regulatory framework that would identify success factors for effective growth stimulation through cohesion policy.

I expect that ex-ante conditionality will be fully integrated in the programming process. I also expect that ex-ante conditionalities will be directly linked to the

policy and programme effectiveness, that their number will be limited, that they will be tailored to the specificity of the context and respect agreed criteria.

We must also see that conditionality procedures do not generate additional burdens, that they rather aim at the reduction of burdens and produce no delays in the implementation of policy, programmes and projects.