

Cohesion policy

Title



The main pressures and drivers causing biodiversity loss are well known and include habitat loss or change, introduced species, pollution, over-exploitation, and climate change. The principal pressure is habitat fragmentation, degradation and destruction due to land-use change. Nearly 30 % of the fragmented EU land is mostly due to urban sprawl and infrastructure development.

Urban sprawl, for example, can impact land changes through the transformation of urban-rural linkages. Infrastructure development involves both settlement expansion as well as the expansion of transport networks.

Making better use of the €326 billion Cohesion (regional) Policy (in 2011 prices), second largest EU fund, will be a decisive tool for shaping EU's future resource efficient and low carbon economy. It could play a crucial role in steering local economies and in accelerating the transition progress towards building sustainable economies within ecological limits. While the total budget can only serve as catalyst to a transition towards a low carbon economy it is crucial that funding is concentrated while allowing for regions to support their potential.



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Related topics

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Briefings and position papers

- [Cohesion Policy 2014 -2020: NGO recommendations for Trialogue](#) (September 2012)
- [Joint NGO Briefing: Ex ante conditionalities in the Common Provisions Regulation: a crucial tool to improve quality and delivery](#) (March 2012)
- [Joint NGO Briefing: Cohesion Policy: Green investments to deliver sustainable prosperity and jobs](#) (March 2012)
- [Joint NGO Briefing: Greening the Cohesion Policy: Supporting and improving climate thematic concentration](#) (February 2012)
- [Joint NGO Briefing: Biodiversity investments under Cohesion Policy - a smart contribution to reach EU 2020 objectives](#) (2012)
- [Green Infrastructure Briefing](#) (2011)
- [Statement on Cohesion Policy](#) (January 2011)
- [Briefing on integrating Biodiversity within Cohesion Policy](#) (August 2011)



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