



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY

Deputy Director-General

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EINGEGANGEN

20. Mai 2014

Brussels, 14. 05. 2014  
REGIO.G.1/MF/pc (2014) 1549151

Dear Mr. Trilling, Dear Mr. Torkler,

I would like to thank you for the letter and background information you sent to the Cabinet of Commissioner Hahn and our Directorate General regarding the mainstreaming of environmental considerations and the inclusion of the Article 8 requirements (Regulation 1303/2013).

We have now received all Partnership Agreements and also some Operational Programmes. In this respect the obligations on sustainable development in the sense of Article 8 and the related provisions, such as in Annex I of Regulation 1303/2013, are among the important elements which are being assessed by the Commission in view of the adoption of the Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes. Some Member States have well included sustainable development in their programming documents as horizontal principle and with concrete actions. However for several other ones, the Commission has asked for improvements as needed and relevant, in particular in asking for the inclusion of concrete measures that will enable the practical implementation of sustainable development when European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds are being used in this 2014-2020 period. In this sense actions such as the deployment of Green Public Procurement, the development of project selection criteria taking into account environmental mainstreaming or the promotion of environmental management systems are among the ways forward proposed by the Commission in the negotiations with the Member States.

Your letter and suggestions has been shared across the Directorate General. I can assure you that we will take further due consideration of environmental mainstreaming and the

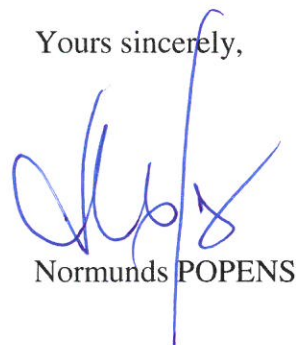
Mr Markus Trilling  
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CEE Bankwatch / Friends of the Earth Europe  
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requirements of Article 8 in the finalisation of the programming document in order to support Member States and their regions in boosting sustainable development through the 2014-2020 ESI funds.

Eventually, I would like to underline that the Commission acknowledges the good work of your organisations and would like to encourage you to continue on this path so that we can all together contribute to a sustainable regional development.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Normunds POPENS', written over the printed name below it.

Normunds POPENS