



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
REGIONAL POLICY

The Deputy Director-General

Brussels, 23/12/2005
REGIO B2/UH/nm D(2005) 220862
CAD 14289

Subject: Supporting the Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE)

Dear Mr Di Stasi,

Thank you very much for your letter of 15 November 2005 to the president of the Commission, Mr Barroso, concerning the recently founded Institute of the Regions of Europe and its initial activities, which he passed to the Directorate General for Regional Policy for reply on his behalf.

The Commission considers cooperation among regions, perhaps in particular involving those in the Member States that have recently joined the European Union, of crucial importance for economic, social and territorial integration. With its decisions of 16-17 December 2005 on the future financial perspectives for 2007-2013, the Member States of the Union have confirmed the Commission's initial proposal that cooperation programmes should be considered as one of the three top priority objectives of European cohesion policy alongside the objectives of promoting convergence, on the one hand, and regional competitiveness and employment, on the other hand. The total allocation for cooperation programmes has been set at 7,500 million euros over seven years.

Along with my colleagues in the Directorate General for Regional Policy, I look forward to opportunities for linking with the Institute on areas of mutual interest.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

Jean-Charles LEYGUES

Mr. Giovanni Di Stasi
President of the Congress of Local and
Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

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