

**CONCLUSIVE REMARKS BY COMMISSIONER DANUTA HÜBNER**

**AT THE PLENARY SESSION  
OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

**COHESION POLICY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE**

**STRASBOURG (4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2006)**

Mr President,  
Honourable Rapporteurs,  
Honourable Members of the Parliament,

First of all, I would like to say that the process that has brought us to this stage of preparation for the new generation of Cohesion policy clearly proves that the Community method works and that the European institutions have the capacity to find the consensus that is needed.

Secondly, what I see today is that we have a policy for the whole territory of the European Union, a policy adapted to the challenges of globalisation, of enlargement, of increased diversity, consistent with the principle of equity, adaptable to very different regional contexts and responding to the needs of cities and territories.

Thirdly, I leave this debate with a full awareness of your preoccupations: those related to specific situations in individual regions, those related to the need for flexibility on various aspects and those related to the links

between the Lisbon Agenda and Cohesion policy. We keep them in mind, both whilst negotiating the programmes and during the implementation process.

Fourthly, I am sure that the Members of the European Parliament you will play an active role in promoting this policy in their constituencies through dialogue with citizens and with all partners. We very much count on you.

Fifthly, the challenge now is to work towards timely implementation, to reinforce management and financial control structures in the Member States and regions to share experience and the lessons already learned, to maximise benefits derived from good experience and to eliminate the risk of problems recurring.

We have made this policy a major contribution to Plan D, and we are open to working further with you on it.