Appendix 4 - Overview of the most relevant negotiating chapters for Cohesion Policy

The selected related negotiating chapters are listed below in accordance with the new enlargement methodology that clusters the negotiating chapters thematically.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Cluster | Related Chapters of the Acquis | Summary |
| Fundamentals | Chapter 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights | EU policies in the area of judiciary and fundamental rights aim to maintain and further develop the Union as an area of freedom, security and justice. The establishment of an independent and efficient judiciary is of paramount importance. Impartiality, integrity and a high standard of adjudication by the courts are essential for safeguarding the rule of law. A solid legal framework and reliable institutions are required to underpin a coherent policy of prevention and deterrence of corruption. Member States must ensure respect for fundamental rights and EU citizens’ rights, as guaranteed by the acquis and by the Fundamental Rights Charter. |
| Fundamentals | Chapter 5 - Public Procurement | EU rules ensure that public procurement of goods, services and works in any Member State is transparent and open to all EU companies on the basis of non-discrimination and equal treatment. |
| Fundamentals | Chapter 18 – Statistics | EU rules require that Member States are able to produce good quality statistics in line with the principles of the European statistics Code of Practice and based on professional independence, impartiality, reliability, transparency and confidentiality. Common rules are provided for the methodology, production and dissemination of statistical information. |
| Fundamentals | Chapter 32 - Financial Control | The EU promotes the reform of national governance systems to improve managerial accountability, sound financial management of income and expenditure, and external audit of public funds. The financial control rules further protect the EU’s financial interests against fraud in the management of EU funds and the Euro against counterfeiting. |
| Internal market | Chapter 2 – Freedom of Movement of Workers | Citizens of one Member State have the right to work in another Member State and must be given the same working and social conditions as other workers. |
| Internal market | Chapter 8 – Competition Policy | EU rules protect free competition. They include antitrust rules against restrictive agreements between companies and abuse of dominant position, and also include rules on concentrations between companies which would significantly impede competition. EU rules also set out a system of State aid control. Governments are only allowed to grant State aid if restrictive conditions are met, with a view to preventing distortion of competition. |
| Green agenda and sustainable connectivity  | Chapter 14 - Transport | The EU has common rules for technical and safety standards, security, social standards, State aid and market liberalisation in road transport, railways, inland waterways, combined transport, aviation and maritime transport |
| Green agenda and sustainable connectivity | Chapter 15 – Energy | EU energy policy covers energy supply, infrastructure, the internal energy market, consumers, renewable energy, energy efficiency, nuclear energy and nuclear safety, and radiation protection. |
| Green agenda and sustainable connectivity | Chapter 21 - Trans-European Networks | The EU promotes trans-European networks (TENs) in the areas of transport, telecommunications and energy to strengthen the internal market and contribute to growth and employment. |
| Green agenda and sustainable connectivity | Chapter 27 – Environment and Climate Change | The EU promotes strong climate action, sustainable development and protection of the environment. EU law contains provisions addressing climate change, water and air quality, waste management, nature protection, industrial pollution, chemicals, noise and civil protection. |

The interconnections between the Chapters are particularly significant in terms of Regional Policy. The ten chapters identified are part of three Clusters. Cluster 1 – Fundamentals, which also covers the areas of economic criteria, functioning of democratic institutions and public administration reform, as well as four chapters: 5, 18, 23 and 32. Furthermore, Cluster 2 on Internal Market combines two chapters: Chapter 2 – Freedom of Movement of Workers and Chapter 8 - Competition Policy, while Cluster 4 – Green Agenda & Sustainable Connectivity includes chapters 12, 15, 21 and 27 as the most important sectoral policies for cohesion policy.