



ISLANDS IN THE EU: FROM STRUCTURAL HANDICAP TO INCLUSIVE TERRITORY

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KEY POINTS

- Permanent handicaps require permanent solutions
- Cohesion Policy cannot be the only tool
- Key policy areas such as the Single Market, Competition Policy & Transport Policy must be applied with a greater degree of flexibility
- The criteria used by Eurostat to define an island region should be reassessed
- A more appropriate legislative framework with respect to the application of state aid in islands and island regions should be defined by the Commission



KEY POINTS

- Priority should be given to providing access to public services, promoting sustainable growth, and fostering full employment, competitiveness and cohesion in European islands
- The impact of Regulation 3577/93 should be assessed
- Unique opportunities for clean energy solutions
- Launch an in-depth study on the extra costs incurred by European islands



WAY FORWARD?

- **Interinstitutional framework with island focus**
- **Interinstitutional study**
- **Stronger cooperation between EP, CoR & EESC with Island organisations**
- **Public Hearing on Entrepreneurship on European Islands** organized by the Network of the Insular Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the EU (INSULEUR) in partnership with the European Economic and Social Committee and in collaboration the European Small Islands Federation (ESIN), 2 June 2017