



XII LEGISLATURE

RESOLUTION

EUROPEAN SESSION 2021. Policy Lines for the participation of the Friuli Venezia Giulia autonomous Region in the EU law-making process

*Approved unanimously by the regional Legislative Assembly with Decision No. 89 of 23rd June 2021
in accordance with Article 169 ter of the Legislative Assembly Internal Regulation*

Subject: Resolution 'European session 2021. Policy Lines for the participation of the Friuli Venezia Giulia autonomous Region in the EU law-making process'.

The Legislative Assembly of the Friuli Venezia Giulia autonomous Region

HAVING REGARD TO

- Art. 117, para. 5 of the Italian Constitution, which recognizes the participation of Regions in EU law-making process;
- Protocol No. 2 to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which recognizes Regional Legislative Assemblies' entitlement to monitor the compliance of EU legislation with the subsidiarity principle;
- Art.24, para.3 and Art.25 of Italian Law No. 234 of 24th December 2012 (General rules on Italy's participation in EU law-making process and for the implementation of EU legislation and policies), governing the participation of the Regions in the EU law-making process and in particular the role of regional Legislative Assemblies in monitoring the compliance of EU legislative projects or proposals based on Art.352 TFUE with the subsidiarity principle;
- Art. 9 of Italian Law No. 243/2012, governing the political dialogue of Regions and Regional Legislative Assemblies with the national Parliament and EU institutions;
- Friuli Venezia Giulia Regional Law No. 17 of 18th June 2007 (concerning the Region's institutional framework and electoral system, in accordance with Art.12 of the Statute of Autonomy), Art. 17, which provides for the participation of the Region in the EU legislation process.;
- Art. 169 *ter* of the Internal Regulation of the Legislative Assembly of Friuli Venezia Giulia, providing for the 'European Session', during which a joint examination of the European Commission's annual Work Programme and of the annual Italian Government's Report to the Parliament on its relationship with the European Union, as well as of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Report on the Compliance of the regional legislation with EU law, is carried out;

HAVING EXAMINED the European Commission Work Programme 2021 (ECWP) - 'A Union of vitality in a world of fragility' - set out in the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, to the European Council, to the European Economic and Social Committee and to the Committee of the Regions, COM (2020) 690 *final* and related annexes dated 19th October 2020;

GIVEN THAT on 18th May 2021 the President of the Regional Legislative Assembly opened the 'European Session' and transmitted the ECWP to the Presidents of the relevant Assembly Committees, together with the Report on the Compliance of regional legislation with EU law for 2020, with the Communication of the Regional Government identifying the initiatives within the 2021 ECWP considered of interest for the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, and with the first Government's 2021 Quarterly Report as in Art.14 of the national Law 234/2012, for all of them to be examined, in accordance with the Regional Assembly's Internal Regulation;

THAT the European Session represents the first step in the participation of the Regional Legislative Assembly in the EU law-making process and in the political dialogue with EU institutions, since, in the light of the priorities outlined by the Regional Council, it is the opportunity for the Regional Legislative Assembly to express its choices with regard to the ECWP initiatives which are more relevant to and have the greatest impact on the Region;

THAT such right is granted to the Regional Legislative Assembly by Protocol No. 2 to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and by the national Law No. 234/2012, both providing for the

participation of Regional Legislative Assemblies in the very first stages of the adoption of EU legislative and non-legislative proposals, enabling them to monitor the compliance of EU law with the principle of subsidiarity;

THAT the 'European Session' of the Regional Legislative Assembly, which represents a time of joint discussion on EU policies relevant to the Region, can further generate guidelines for the Regional Council's activities within the debated areas, in accordance with Art. 169 *ter* of the Internal Regulation of the Legislative Assembly of Friuli Venezia Giulia;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that in its session held on 12th March 2021, the Regional Council approved in its Minutes No. 406/2021 the document 'Participation of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region to the EU law-making process. Identifying relevant initiatives for the Region in the 2021 ECWP', in which it highlighted the EC 2021 initiatives that are deemed as most relevant to Friuli Venezia Giulia and which it intends adopting;

HAVING EXAMINED the above mentioned European Commission Work Programme 2021 (ECWP) – 'A Union of vitality in a world of fragility', which groups the planned activities under the 6 following priorities:

- I. A European Green Deal;
- II. A Europe fit for the Digital Age;
- III. An Economy that works for people
- IV. A stronger Europe in the world
- V. Promoting our European way of life
- VI. A new push for European democracy

Each of the above-mentioned priorities includes single initiatives, which are expected to be adopted in 2021;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, faced with an escalation of the Covid 19 health crisis and with the urge to develop and support the policies put in place by the Region in order to counter the pandemic's effects on the economic and social regional system, with motion No.203 of 10th December 2020 the Regional Legislative Assembly set up the 'Board for the Third Restart' of Friuli Venezia Giulia, which comprises the Presidents of the Assembly's Groups, sided by the Presidents of the Committees and of the Committee for legislation, monitoring and evaluation, besides the President of the Region, the Regional Minister for Finance and the Regional Minister accountable for relations with the Regional Legislative Assembly. The Aim of the Board is to devise a general strategy for the recovery to be implemented in all sectors, after attesting the consistency of the single measures that are being implemented, not least with regard to the governance of the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience (PNRR);

CONSIDERING, therefore, that due to the interconnection between the European Commission Work Programme 2021 initiatives and the actions of the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience (PNRR), this year's regional stakeholder's Public Hearings, provided for in the Internal Regulation of the Regional Legislative Assembly for the European Session, should be held by the 5th Assembly Committee together with the Board for the Third Restart of Friuli Venezia Giulia;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the outcome of the Public Hearings that were attended by the University of Udine; by the excellence Research Centres based in the Region, including the National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (OGS), the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) and the Area Science Park; by IAL FVG, as well as by the trade associations of the region, including UIL (Italian Labour Union), the Transport and Logistics industries' group of Confindustria Udine, The CIA - Italian Farmers Confederation, AIAB FVG (Italian Association for Organic Agriculture FVG), CONFAPI (Italian Confederation of small and medium-sized private industry) and Federdistribuzione; and the outcome of the Public Hearings attended by the institutional

representatives, including the MEPs elected within the North-East Italy Constituency, Elena Lizzi and Marco Dreosto; the Members of Italian Parliament Tatjana Rojc and Luca Sut; the representatives of local public institutions, the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI) and the Italian Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AICCRES). These Public Hearings took place on 16th and 21st June 2021 respectively, in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region headquarters in Udine;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the written contributions of Senator Raffaella Marin, of the Autorità di Sistema Portuale del Mare Adriatico Orientale (North-Eastern Adriatic Port Network Authority), of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), of ARPA (Regional Environmental Protection Agency of Friuli Venezia Giulia), of Confartigianato FVG (Confederation of Craft Trades) and of AIAB FVG (Italian Association for Organic Agriculture FVG);

and the opinions received by the 5th Assembly Committee from the Presidents of the relevant Assembly Committees, who, according to their respective areas of competence, heard at a hearing the Vice President and Regional Minister for Health; the Regional Minister for Finance responsible for the cross-sectoral ROP ERDF 2014-2020, for Interreg Italia-Slovenia and for the Conference of Regions; the Regional Minister for Local Autonomies, Local Authorities, Security, Immigration, Fellow Countrymen Abroad and Minority Languages; the Regional Minister of Labour, Training, Education, University, Research, and Family; the Regional Minister for Environment, Energy and Sustainable Development; the Regional Minister for Infrastructures and Territory and the Regional Minister for Agriculture and Food, Forestry, Fishery and Mountain Resources, as well as the President of the Committee for Legislation, Assessment and Legislation-Monitoring of the Legislative Assembly;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the debate held in the 5th Assembly Committee at the sitting of 22nd June 2021 and within the Assembly on 23rd June 2021;

STATES its interest in taking part in EU law and policy-making and therefore in monitoring the European Commission's initiatives, with regard to the priorities set out below, on which it expresses the following considerations and remarks:

ON THE NEW INITIATIVES

I. With regard to priority 1. 'A European Green Deal'

CONSIDERS of interest for the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia the Initiatives of the European Commission Work Programme included in Objective No.1, '**Fit for 55 package**', specifically designed to achieve the 2030 climate objective and concerning renewables, given the close correspondence between many of these measures and the ones set in place by the Region and aimed at reducing CO2 emissions;

NOTES that, if mitigation has global effects and must necessarily be addressed by international policies, adaptation is a challenge faced at national and even more at regional level. Each territory has its own vulnerabilities, is impacted differently by climate change and can take advantage in its own specific way of the opportunities offered by these changes. Therefore, adaptation strategies must be contextualised and based on the specific regional climate backdrops. It therefore commits to cooperate on all levels in order to favour policies that provide integrated solutions by linking adaptation and mitigation with social objectives;

CONSIDERS it necessary to monitor the legislative Initiative '*f) Revision of the Regulation on the inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry*';

RECOMMENDS limiting the use of potentially agricultural land for energy production in view of the need to reduce land consumption;

RECOMMENDS to effectively support measures promoting energy efficiency in buildings and in industrial production processes;

CONSIDERS of interest for the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia the Objective No. 2 '**Circular economy package**', with regard to its sustainable products policies and to the revision of the Ecodesign Directive on environmentally friendly planning and on energy efficiency, since these initiatives are closely bound to the regional dimension of environmental protection;

CONSIDERS it necessary to monitor the '*a) Sustainable products policy initiative, including a revision of the Ecodesign Directive*'. In this respect, it underlines the role of the Regional Agencies for Environmental Protection, and specifically of ARPA FVG, in introducing and implementing voluntary instruments for sustainability aimed at spreading tools, methods and approaches to support enterprises and territories with a view to the green transition, as a new pivot for national and EU environmental policies;

ACKNOWLEDGES the importance of regional IT-systems, including O.R.SO. (*Osservatorio Rifiuti Sovraregionale*, 'Supraregional Waste-Observatory'), as a means of electronically acquiring production data and of managing urban waste and waste treatment plants, aimed at feeding constantly updated data for various institutional purposes (information, planning and control), and at supporting Provincial and Regional Waste Observatories in their control and planning activities;

HIGHLIGHTS that, as for urban waste, in 2016 the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia reached 65% of separate waste collection, thus reinforcing its position as one of the best-performing Italian regions;

CONSIDERS it necessary to monitor the Objective No. 2 on Circular economy, and calls for the adoption of measures capable to reverse the current trend, observed by waste production indicators, that shows the amount of waste that is generated and collected, sorted by type of waste or material, recorded a 7% per capita increase of WEEE (Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment) production;

NOTES that new consumers' demands should be carefully taken into account, since they need to be combined with sustainability also through a reorganization of the distribution sector. In order not only for distribution, but for the whole production sector to comply with sustainability criteria, the durability of products, their reparability and recyclability must be clearly defined, and all parts of the production chain must be fully liable for the implementation of the established sustainability parameters;

CONSIDERS it important to strengthen the role of the Ecologically Equipped Production Areas and to conceive a collective brand for Friuli Venezia Giulia manufacturing goods, for them to be recognized as "eco-friendly" in terms of production standards and characteristics. This way regional products could differentiate themselves from other national or foreign products, thus gaining in competitiveness;

CONSIDERS of interest for the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia Objective No.3, '**Biodiversity and toxic-free environment package**', specifically Initiative '*a) Action plan for the development of organic production: on the way to 2030*';

RECOGNIZES that, in reducing the environmental impacts of human activities, the quantitative evaluation of such impacts must be taken into account. It calls for accessible databases, standardized methods, as well as for the empowerment of data-analysis, knowledge and competence activities aimed at measuring environmental indicators such as efficiency -, performance -, sustainability - and decoupling indicators - i.e. indicators of the energy-efficiency and of the decarbonisation of the energetic mix, as well as the

environmental and climatic footprint. Such indicators allow to estimate the degree to which the hoped-for degree of sustainability has been achieved or not, and therefore the effectiveness of the adopted policies;

CONSIDERS it necessary to promote a gradual transition towards organic farming in line with the market's ongoing growing demand for organic products. The European strategy should call for all agricultural production, including the traditional one, to be characterized by a high environmental sustainability. If all agricultural production were to be oriented towards sustainability, this would enable us to gradually move towards a zero impact production. The European strategy should support a gradual transition towards organic farming by promoting a bottom-up impulse, that is by spreading an *organic-aware* culture among consumers in the first place;

NOTES nonetheless that contemplating *thus and simply* a 25% share of organic farming without foreseeing any economic instrument to compensate agricultural producers and entrepreneurs could cause unsustainable costs for the agricultural production system of the Region. Therefore, it deems as necessary to adopt appropriate compensation measures;

UNDERLINES the necessity to consider organic farming, such as contemplated by EU regulations, as a laboratory for testing solutions aimed at improving the overall agri-food sector with regard to both production methods and monitoring traceability of the whole production chain, up to processed and transformed goods. Particular attention should be dedicated to mountain areas, where farming already mostly makes use of organic methods;

CALLS for contributions from European, national and regional institutions in support of agri-food production activities in mountain areas, specifically aimed at mountain pasture and 'malga' (traditional mountain cheese huts) activities, as these belong to fragile economic systems that are nonetheless necessary to protect the natural heritage of mountain areas;

CONSIDERS it essential, for the agri-food sector, to promote research, training and education and to boost digitalization, in particular aimed at the traceability of products, keeping into account the outcomes this would bring with regard to both social sustainability and preservation of the European way of life;

NOTES that, in order to increase the environmental sustainability of agricultural production as a whole, it is necessary to further enhance farmers' training. The goals set to farmers by the *Green Deal Strategy* make it necessary to provide them with widespread training; moreover, European, national and regional institutions should implement effective measures aimed at reducing both the level of bureaucracy and administrative burdens, and at simplifying procedures with a view to a better legislation process;

RECOMMENDS, finally, to carefully monitor the phase in which the European Commission will present its legislative initiatives on the development of organic production, in order to monitor the possible impact of such initiatives on the regional territory;

ACKNOWLEDGES the relevance of the Initiative '**Zero pollution action plan for water, air and soil**', underlining the importance of ARPA FVG's classification of the environmental and chemical state of transitional and sea-coastal waters, aimed at evaluating the reaction of this environment to anthropic pressures especially through the analysis of the environmental parameters (salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen) impacting plant and animal communities. It also highlights the importance of the work carried out by ARPA FVG, which drew up and implemented the 'Program for the Assessment of Air Quality' together with a project aimed at reorganizing the monitoring network. ARPA FVG also conceived models for data integration in metering stations in order to obtain an assessment of the air quality on the whole regional territory;

UNDERLINES, with a view to developing synergies on a large scale, the participation of the Region and of ARPA FVG to the Project LIFE PREPAIR 2017, a European integrated project designed to improve air quality in the Po river Valley basin. The project aims at reducing air pollution levels, especially particulate air pollution, by acting on the sectors that are considered the most impacting: woody biomass utilization; road transport; heating of buildings; agriculture (due to the use of fertilizers and to animal farming);

ENDORSES the path set out by the Regional Government with Decision No.701 of the 7th of May 2021, which aims at updating the regional plan for air quality by setting the following goals: 1) helping achieve and comply with law requirements concerning the air quality in Friuli Venezia Giulia by improving the air quality in areas of the region that still present issues due to specific air pollutants; 2) helping reduce levels of pollutants in Friuli Venezia Giulia following a precautionary principle, that is also in areas where legal limits are already complied with and referring to the WHO indications (Air Quality Report 2020 UE50); 3) helping achieve a sustainable development of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region by supporting ecological transition policies aimed at mitigation and adaptation to climate change (European Green Deal); 4) helping increase people's and all stakeholders' awareness on the issue of air quality, which amongst others could be achieved by creating a digitalized systematic database including all information on the implementation of the Plan, making such information more easily available;

ACKNOWLEDGES, to this end, the significant role of ARPA FVG in monitoring background values (BV) of soil quality. Their assessment is a key element in the environmental regulatory process in Italy, as they can be used as reference values in operating procedures aimed at managing environmental matrices in specific critical conditions, such as for instance contaminated areas and areas of diffuse pollution;

ACKNOWLEDGES the relevance for the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia of Objective No.4 '**Sustainable and smart mobility**' and its Initiatives. The strategy '*Sustainable and smart mobility*' lays the foundation for the EU transport system to achieve its twin green and digital transformation and to become more resilient to future crises. The European Green Deal's goal is to reduce emissions by 90% by 2050 also thanks to a smart, competitive, safe, accessible and affordable transport system. The transport system is critical to European businesses and global supply chains but, at the same time, it is not without costs for our society: greenhouse gas and pollutant emissions, noise pollution, road accidents and traffic congestion. This push to transform transport comes at a time when the entire sector is still reeling from the impacts of the coronavirus. With increased public and private investment in the modernisation and greening of our fleets and infrastructure, and by reinforcing the single market, we now have a historic opportunity to make European transport not only more sustainable but more competitive globally and more resistant to any future shocks;

CONSIDERS that mobility should be available and affordable for all, that rural and remote regions should remain connected, and the sector should offer good social conditions and provide attractive jobs.

UNDERLINES the initiatives set out by the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia to support sustainable mobility for people and goods, also at cross-border level, starting from the substantial investments made on the interoperable railway rolling stock on the Italian, Slovenian and Austrian railway networks as well as the current initiatives to ensure continuity and integration of local public transport services;

RECOMMENDS that a European legislative framework will be defined, in order to support the development of cross-border connections, including those benefiting tourism, which is a key sector for Friuli Venezia Giulia. This should be done accordingly to the many existing and planned initiatives and in consideration of the bonds between communities, which can favour the activation of such services, that in turn are made more attractive also thanks to pricing incentives and better quality;

WISHES for the creation of a network of different modalities of passenger transport, in order to favour service integration also at cross-border level that should include, but not be limited to, the context of local public transport. This network should encourage the use of both public and private means of transport: trains, buses, taxis, car and bike sharing and other services, through experimental and fully operational interventions in compliance with the MAAS (Mobility As A Service) model;

WISHES for the local public transport fleet to be implemented and updated, and for the rolling stock to be updated, in order to promote environmental sustainability through the adoption of more environmentally-friendly means of transport such as those fuelled by biogas, electricity and hydrogen;

WISHES that, in order to achieve such goals, not only national and regional resources will be used, but also available EU resources and specifically those of the Connecting Europe Facility CEF 2021-2027 and of the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience (PNRR);

WISHES in particular for the following interventions to receive a proper level of funding also through the PNRR: the railway Udine-Cividale; the completion of the railway Sacile-Gemona; the 'Ciclovia Trieste-Lignano-Venezia' - the cycle path stretching from Trieste through Lignano Sabbiadoro to Venice, crossing the regions Friuli Venezia Giulia and Veneto for 150 Km; and the 'Ciclovia Alpe Adria' - the cycle path stretching from Tarvisio to Grado, (a key route for boosting slow tourism) together with the *Rete Ciclabile Regionale* – the regional cycling network. It also wishes for the involvement of the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia in the governance and management of the above mentioned resources;

CONSIDERS as relevant the 'c) *EU 2021 Rail Corridor Initiative, including the revision of the Rail Freight Corridor Regulation and actions to boost passenger rail*'. It regards as essential to assess the overall impact of new infrastructures on the environment and on people's wellbeing, considering their entire lifecycle even if they are oriented to reduce CO₂ emissions and improve air quality. An integrated vision should be fostered, aimed at preventing a mere shift of environmental issues from one sector or from one area to another, and at the same time at keeping into account the forecast scenarios linked to current climate change. The Legislative Assembly moreover considers the upgrading of the railway stretch 'Venezia-Pordenone-Udine-Gorizia-Trieste' of the utmost importance;

EXPRESSES its interest about the announced legislative Initiative 'b) *Revision of the Regulation on the trans-European transport network (TEN-T)*'. The EU guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network set out the creation of a TEN-T network, that will be structured on two levels: a global e.g. 'comprehensive network', to be achieved by 2050, aimed at ensuring linkage and accessibility of all EU regions; and a central e.g. 'core network' at EU level, to be achieved by 2030, based on a 'corridors approach'. The central network corridors will have to include at least three different transport modalities, cross at least three Member States and provide access to maritime ports. The central network consists in 9 main corridors: 2 North-South corridors, 3 East-West corridors and 4 diagonal corridors. The Region Friuli Venezia Giulia is crossed by 2 of such corridors, the Mediterranean Corridor and the Baltic-Adriatic Corridor, comprising three ports, namely Trieste, Monfalcone and Porto Nogaro, and four dry ports, namely Trieste, Gorizia, Cervignano and Pordenone. Among these logistic hubs, up to today, the dry port of Cervignano and the Port of Trieste are part of the 'core network' - they are 'core hubs'; and the ports of Porto Nogaro and Monfalcone are comprised in the global network - they are 'comprehensive hubs'. Being part of the central or global network implies significant funding: the nodes of the 'core network' will have access to significantly more funding for implementing infrastructures within the Program CEF2 2021-2027 – 'Connecting Europe Facility' – as compared to those included in the 'comprehensive network';

WISHES thus for the inclusion of the ports of Monfalcone and Porto Nogaro and of the dry ports of Trieste, Gorizia and Pordenone in the 'central network' to be supported in view of the revision of the Regulation on the

trans-European transport network (TEN-T) (Regulation (EU) No.1315/2013). This would give a great added value to the implementation of infrastructures and to the integration of the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia in the transport network and in EU markets. In this regard, it also wishes the inclusion of the new railway yard of Cargnacco on the railway stretch Udine-Cervignano (stretch to be doubled);

RECOMMENDS that the EU commitment to include the port of Monfalcone and the dry port of Trieste in the EU central hub goes hand in hand with a strategic plan in which port hubs are a driving force benefiting the economy of the Region and of its whole territory. Port hubs should not be seen as mere 'logistic inner harbours', but rather as a unifying element that can benefit of the positive effects of the recovery and relaunch, amongst others, of the manufacturing industry, which is deeply rooted in the entrepreneurial and social environment of Friuli Venezia Giulia;

WISHES for interregional mobility to be developed also through the so-called 'Motorways of the sea', which can connect the main maritime resorts with new maritime stations both for logistic and touristic purposes so as to foster a new kind of eco-friendly mobility that could prove key to relaunch tourism on our coastline;

CONSIDERS it essential for the development of maritime cargo transport to be supported by efficient and sustainable infrastructures, and to this end it deems as necessary to ensure systematic dredging of regional channels and ports;

RECOMMENDS to harmonize the existing regional territorial and urban development planning instruments with a view to revising the Regional Development Plan (PURG, i.e. 'General Regional Urban Plan'), which dates back to 1978, as a key instrument for the infrastructural relaunch of the Region;

UNDERLINES the initiatives put in place by the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia in the framework of the European Macro-regional Strategies, e.g. EUSALP for the Alpine region and EUSAIR for the Adriatic and Ionian Region. It highlights in particular its participation both in governmental political bodies, which can steer policies and their respective implementation tools, and in the various working groups that are committed, amongst others, in the field of intermodality and interoperability of freight and passenger transport, including rail and sea transport, and of communication networks;

ACKNOWLEDGES the importance of upgrading the network of regional and interregional waterways;

II. With regard to priority 2. 'A Europe Fit for the Digital Age'

WELCOMES priority 2. '**A Europe Fit for the Digital Age**', and specifically Initiative No. 5 '*Europe's digital decade*', which was described in the recent Communication of the European Commission '*2030 Digital Compass: the European way for the Digital Decade*' – COM (2021) 118 *final* of 9 March 2021: the vision for 2030 outlined by the Compass is that of a successful digital transformation, based on digital *leadership* and empowered citizens, translating into a more resilient and prosperous society. The Communication foresees a solid *governance* mechanism and a monitoring system measuring the progress of the EU towards the key targets for 2030, to ensure that our path leads us to the achievement of common targets. These guidelines will pave the way for a series of legislative and non-legislative initiatives of interest for the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia in terms of road and digital connectivity, which will become the reference point for the development of integrated measures aimed at strengthening regional infrastructure;

ENDORSES the objectives representing the cardinal points of the digital strategy, that is 1) a digitally aware and skilled population and highly skilled digital professionals; 2) secure and performant sustainable digital infrastructures; 3) digital transformation of businesses; 4) digitalisation of public services. It endorses in

particular the above mentioned objective No. 2) stating that by 2030 'all European households will be covered by a Gigabit network, with all populated areas covered by 5G';

NOTES the expected strong increase in the use of data transfer services, especially on the transmission of video products. The 5G technology will allow objects to be connected (Internet of Things) and capable of sharing data with each other as well as to access aggregated information. The benefits and fields of application are huge, for instance in the transport sector for assisted driving and road safety, or in the health sector for remote diagnostics, as well as in hospital and medical robotics. It notes, at this regard, the importance of assessing the impact of new sources in advance before installing them, and not least of strengthening the monitoring of the actual electromagnetic field on existing installations;

CONSIDERS it necessary, in this context, to start a real digitalization process of both private businesses and public services. Thanks to the digitalization of processes, relevant data are made available to all stakeholders (citizens, companies, public administrations) to gain information, both specific and cross-referenced, statistical analyses, evaluations, risk assessment and other kinds of surveys. Computerised data management also allows to build data-sharing systems based on the use of business intelligence to support decision-making processes, also concerning environmental issues;

WISHES for the Connecting Europe Facility – CEF 2021-2027, which has a budget of 33,71 billion Euros, to be used to reinforce investments in the European infrastructure networks in the fields of transport, energy and digitalization. The digital component of the CEF will contribute to the development and distribution of innovative, safe and sustainable cross-border digital infrastructures that will allow the development of digital networks and services and help achieve Europe's vision of the digital decade by 2030. The programme will also provide key transport axes, such as road, rail and maritime routes and ports, with high-speed connectivity, so that citizens will benefit from faster and more resilient connections offering better online education and learning, access to more efficient digital services and enhanced potential for remote collaboration;

UNDERLINES that, as things stand, the so-called digital divide is still significant, since too many areas are cut out from, or not adequately covered by, broadband and network services. This is partly due to the geographic peculiarities of the area and to the existence of many small municipalities spread throughout the whole territory. Therefore, in order to foster a homogeneous growth, it hopes for digital technologies to reach the Friuli Venezia Giulia region in its entirety, especially in mountain and remote areas, which currently suffer the most in terms of poor digitalization;

CONSIDERS the role of local authorities as decisive in ensuring that the opportunities provided by common policies are regularly seized at regional level, especially in terms of making good use of the EU programming funds. In this respect, it believes extending broadband and network services uniformly across the territory is a fundamental step to offer citizens and businesses efficient and reliable services, which should become a pre-condition for the future economic and social development of Friuli Venezia Giulia, in a perspective and forward-looking vision that goes beyond the short-time frame;

NOTES, therefore, that the new CEF funding instrument for the digital sector should also benefit the digital connectivity of Friuli Venezia Giulia, as it plays a fundamental role in bridging economic, social and territorial gaps in both cross-border and remote inner areas, as well as in mountain area;

ENDORSES, furthermore, the inclusion of the 'Italia a 1 Giga' Plan in the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience (PNRR). Its goal is to grant 1 Gbps connectivity to ca. 8,5 million households, businesses and institutions in the NGA grey and black market failure areas, including also ca. 450,000 real estate units located in remote areas (the so-called scattered houses), which are not included in previous public intervention plans;

HIGHLIGHTS that the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia choose to lay optic fibre - Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) – in several remote areas ahead the adoption of the 'Italia a 1 Giga' Plan, and hopes that the Region will take part in the governance of the PNRR also with regard to the implementation of the Ultra Broadband specifically;

NOTES that one of the objectives of the European digital decade regarding healthcare foresees that 100% of medical records and social security records be digitalized and available online. Considering the high level of digitalization of the Regional Healthcare System and the investments the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia is expected to make also thanks to the PNRR funds, it considers it useful to oversee EU proposed measures in order to ensure the investments that are being made by the Region are in line with European objectives and can, possibly, be increased through EU funds;

CONSIDERS it fundamental to promote the dissemination of free 'open source' software systems in order to be strong and autonomous while avoiding to be dependent on the services of few corporations, not least since Europe is fully capable of fostering a software segment that could also prove very useful in terms of employment. It points out that in the Italian public administration the use of proprietary software where free or open source software with similar performance is available has long been banned. It highlights that, although this ban is in force, it is not widely observed, which results in an ever increasing economic financial burden due to the economic and technological disadvantage of being dependent on the services offered by a restricted number of corporations;

CONSIDERS it fundamental to promote a conscious use of information technologies both by young people and adults, besides strong synergetic actions to support IT training courses for elderly people who need to acquire basic computer skills so as to enable them to take part in remote social activities and reduce their condition of isolation;

WELCOMES the adhesion of the Region in the Broadband Competence Offices Network (BCO), an initiative which has been endorsed and supported by the European Commission as an element of bonding between Member States for the coordinated development of priorities, strategies, policies and proposals for action;

CONSIDERS relevant Objective No. 6 '**Data package**' and in particular legislative Initiatives '*a) Data Act*' and '*b) Review of the Database Directive*'. The Region Friuli Venezia Giulia has set up and coordinates, through the Central Directorate for Health, Social Policies and Disability, a regional group on *privacy in healthcare* consisting of the privacy representatives of healthcare agencies and Scientific Institutes for Research, Hospitalization and Healthcare – IRCCS. Since their activity of guidance on the subject is acknowledged also at national level, being aware of any changes in the European legislation on data will favour a swift adaptation at regional level, as well as the revision of the European legislation on data based on the experienced already gained within our Region;

WELCOMES with interest Objective No. 8 and the homonymous legislative Initiative '**A trusted and secure European e-ID**': defining a European interoperable model for a reliable, safe and sure digital identification (e-ID) of citizens will benefit both digital healthcare - given that all regional online services rely on digital identification - and the creation of a European space for medical data and/or cross-border healthcare cooperation initiatives;

EXPRESSES interest in following the Initiative '*Improving the working conditions of platform workers*' of 'Objective No.9 '**Platform Workers**', which is closely connected to the regional competences in matters of employment;

EMPHASISES how the so-called 'smart working' and 'remote working' modes have become widely spread following the COVID-19 pandemic, and therefore deems as necessary for the European Commission too to

analyse the typologies of work listed under the term 'smart working' and to verify which rights and protections are recognized for such workers;

CONSIDERS as relevant Objective No. 10 '**Industrial Strategy for Europe**' and welcomes with particular interest the initiative 'Updating the new industrial strategy for Europe';

POINTS OUT the priority of the issue of regenerating industrial and military abandoned areas, which is of interest for certain economic categories and many local administrations, and it foresees an urban upgrading of dismantled factory buildings;

III. With regard to priority No. 3 'An Economy that Works for People'

CONSIDERS as relevant Objective No.18 '**Fair economy package**', specifically including initiative 'c) *Communication on a new occupational safety and health strategy framework*':

NOTES furthermore that within the same Objective No.18, the Initiative 'd) *Action plan for the social economy*' is of particular interest in the light of the future implementation of the regional reform of the tertiary sector. In fact, it believes that the above mentioned Initiative could benefit the planned regional measures aimed at supporting the sector's growth, fostering the creation of new social enterprises through support measures. The net of services should be maintained and developed through medium and long-term strategies, also by transforming associate businesses of the tertiary sector in other forms of social enterprise;

COMMITTS to bringing to the Government's and to the EU's attention the peculiar condition of cross-border workers, whose rights are recognized by EU legislation but often not implemented in the case of workers who are not 'resident' in the State in which they are employed;

WISHES for the harmonization of the social security and welfare systems to take into account the difficult condition of cross-border and posted workers and to favour the harmonization of wages and ease the reconciliation of contributions;

COMMITTS to bringing to the attention of tax, social and welfare authorities of its neighbouring countries the need to implement the law granting tax and welfare benefits to cross-border workers, including the extension of the national measure of 'unique and universal allowance';

ACKNOWLEDGES the relevance for the regional economic system, as well as for the regional healthcare and social systems, of Objective No. 23, '**Excise duties package**' and specifically of legislative Initiatives 'a) *Revision of the tobacco taxation Directive*' and 'b) *Amendment of the Directive on general arrangements for excise duties*' and commits to monitoring their development, in order to achieve harmonization in cross-border areas;

CONSIDERS the scope of taxation a matter of the utmost importance for the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia due to its position on the border with other States that benefit from lower tax systems, which creates adverse competition conditions for enterprises based in the Region, especially those in the transport sector. As a consequence, it is going to monitor the European Commission's initiatives on taxation and raise awareness of State authorities on this issue through the Italian representatives in Brussels, in order to facilitate, as much as possible, the fiscal convergence between bordering areas and to favour the Simplified Logistic Areas, and also to avoid competitive dumping within the European Union;

UNDERLINES the relevance of the issue of raw materials shortage, highlighting how speculative manoeuvres, against which single territories have very little defence, can threaten the whole manufacturing sector. This issue should be put on top of the agenda, in order to devise a perspective strategy to protect European manufacture, and therefore also that of Friuli Venezia Giulia, from such threats;

COMMITTS, therefore, in synergy with national authorities too, to encourage EU implementation of emergency policies capable of countering speculative bubbles on raw materials, possibly through the creation of strategic reserves;

ACKNOWLEDGES the principle of intergenerational justice as the legal basis for steering public policies to the benefit of new and future generations, and commits itself to linking indicators of fair and sustainable wellbeing to its regional Budget and Economic Planning;

IV. With regard to priority 4. 'A Stronger Europe in the World'

ENDORSES Objective No. 24 '**Strengthening the EU's contribution to rules based on multilateralism**' and the Initiative '*Joint communication on strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism*'. It recognizes the importance of the role of the EU as leader in the global response to secure a safe and accessible vaccine for all, and to strengthen the global multilateral system as well as bilateral, regional and global partnerships, while still giving full priority to our Eastern and Southern neighbourhood, to the Western Balkans and to Africa. It considers such priority relevant for the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, which has always been committed to the cooperation with the Western Balkans and to carrying out projects together with countries of our Eastern and Southern neighbourhood;

RECOMMENDS to make use of the support of scientific diplomacy, offered by Research Institutes based in Friuli Venezia Giulia, including the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), The World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries (TWAS), the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnologies (ICGEB), the National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (OGS), the Central European Initiative (InCE), the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA), the Area Science Park, the Universities, the International Centre for Mechanical Sciences (CISM) and the network of technical-scientific parks, such as Friuli Innovazione. Scientific diplomacy could help strengthening the cooperation with geographic areas identified as priority ones in the Commission's Work Programme, using the networks that the above mentioned international Institutes of excellence developed with their own Member States and with the Scientific and Research Institutions of such countries, and not least with key players in the field of expertise at pan-European level;

WELCOMES Objective No. 25 '**The Arctic dimension**' with its '*Joint Communication on the Arctic*'. The European Commission's geopolitical attention for the Arctic region is an element of novelty; therefore, it hopes for the adoption of a coordinated European programme on the Arctic region, aimed at fostering scientific research initiatives with the participation of important Institutes of Excellence including those based in the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, such as OGS, as the Arctic represents one of the key areas for research on the effects of climate change and on the presence of resources yet to be explored;

CONSIDERS Objective No. 28 '**Research, innovation, education and youth**' and the initiative '*Communication on the global approach to research, innovation, education and youth*' of vital importance for the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia;

ACKNOWLEDGES the value of scientific research as the driving force behind the social, cultural and economic development of the regional territory and of the whole country, given the contribution of science in shaping the critical awareness of citizens, supporting political decision-makers and training human capital, to the benefit of the development of the economic production system of the Region and of the country;

ACKNOWLEDGES the important contribution given by research and by the dissemination of scientific results to innovation and competitiveness of the production sector, also in form of training, meant not only at building younger generations' cultural and professional background but also as lifelong learning aimed at the updating and redirection of production categories;

CONSIDERS it crucial to support scientific research for the study of global trends such as sustainability, climate change, energy supply and food safety;

NOTES that more attention should be paid to the study of seas and oceans and to the protection of marine ecosystems, which play a big part in climate action and nonetheless are not sufficiently addressed in the 2021 EC Work programme;

CONSIDERS it just as necessary to pay greater attention and resources to actions aimed at reducing natural risk factors that have a strong impact on particularly vulnerable areas, such as Italy and Friuli Venezia Giulia. Earthquakes, floods, landslides and tsunamis do not have merely a climatic impact, but also social and economic consequences;

V. With regard to priority 5 'Promoting our European Way of Life'

CONSIDERS that the Initiative of the '*Proposal to establish a new European biomedical research and development agency*' included in Objective No. 31 '**European biomedical research and Development**' is to be followed. The European Commission plans, in fact, to recommend strengthening the common framework for detecting and responding to serious cross-border health threats as well as the roles of existing agencies;

WISHES for the assignment of the headquarters of the future European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) to a city within the Region or to another Italian city, also on the basis of the presence of Institutes of scientific excellence on the regional territory, such as the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB);

WELCOMES with interest the **new strategy on pharmaceuticals** announced by the European Commission, which will examine the safety of Europe's supply chain and ensure that citizens can rely on safe and high quality medicines, at affordable prices;

HIGHLIGHTS the recent investment, in line with the European strategy on pharmaceuticals, made by the Regional Administration and ICGEB to build research laboratories for the production and quality certification of biosimilar drug processes, which being publicly owned are unique in Italy and Europe;

WELCOMES with interest Objective No. 32 '**European health data space**' and the homonymous legislative initiative. The Regional Healthcare Service of Friuli Venezia Giulia is one of the few in Europe that has an integrated health and social information system with a significant databases' and registers' history. In addition to this, over the years the geographical position of the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia has favoured several cross-border cooperation projects between neighbouring regions for a safe, efficient and interoperable exchange of healthcare data. Taking part in the definition of the new European health data space represents an opportunity to make the region competitive in this sector;

WELCOMES with interest objective No. 33 '**Follow-up initiatives under the new pact on migration and asylum**', given the pressure the Balkan migration route puts on our regional territory and believing that the management of migration should be undertaken by Europe as a whole and not by single countries. It also believes that channels of legal access should be created in order to avoid huge irregular arrivals by citizens of third countries;

WELCOMES with interest Objective No. 36 '**Follow-up to the European Education Area and the updated skills agenda**' and the two Initiatives '*a) European approach for micro-credentials*' and legislative Initiative '*b) Individual learning accounts*', given the primary competence of the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia in the field of learning and professional training;

ACKNOWLEDGES the need to support and strengthen training activities, based on interdisciplinary programmes and on the development of soft skills, aimed at bridging the knowledge gap that can undermine the competitiveness of the economic productive system in front of global scenarios. This can also be achieved by supporting the activities of regional training institutes, e.g. non-profit social organizations that work alongside educational institutions;

CALLS FOR new and more substantial national and European support measures for a scientific and university training more linked to the business sector, in order to encourage the meeting between the worlds of research and enterprise, with a view to innovation. This can help develop entrepreneurial paths, laboratories for sharing know-how and research structures which could eventually pave the way for start-up enterprises;

UNDERLINES the need to invest in human capital by supporting doctorates, also in cooperation with the world of industry, focusing on educational paths to be designed in accordance with the needs of institutions and enterprises, and also taking advantage of the post-graduation training provided by Technical Institutes of Higher Education;

HIGHLIGHTS the need to invest in young people and in the future through training, basic and applied research, and not least the transfer of research results into the economy and by disseminating knowledge and scientific culture among the population, so as to avoid a lack of understanding of phenomena and the spreading of fake news, which often generates disagreement with the measures taken by Institutions;

NOTES that, given its geopolitical location and the presence of several research institutes on its territory, the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia has a privileged position for attracting talents and promoting the mobility of young researchers, who are able to bring know-how and added value to the system and, at the end of their experience, to bring the values learned in Friuli Venezia Giulia and Europe back to their countries;

HIGHLIGHTS that the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia has created a net of synergistic relationships between scientific and research institutes on its territory that is unique in Europe, and that can yield an added value thanks to the sharing of systems and means available to research;

SUPPORTS the need, brought to light by the recent pandemic, to invest not only in applied research, which can help us solve current problems, but also in basic research, which prepares us to deal with what is still unknown to us. It therefore considers it necessary to invest in 'foresight', i.e. in strategic forecasting in order to respond to the needs that will arise from phenomena we don't know yet, but are already foreshadowed by weak signals of change that are currently taking place. Working from this perspective at European, national and regional level can help us solve future issues. Becoming a player and cooperating with European partners

in strategic regional and macro-regional foresight means contributing to the investigation of global phenomena while mainly solving problems that arise within the Region. To this end, it considers essential to strengthen cooperation between research institutes, universities and regional structures;

VI. With regard to priority 6. 'A New Push for European Democracy'

CONSIDERS of interest for the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region Objective No. 38 '**Rights of children**', together with the initiative '*EU strategy on the rights of the child*': in this respect, it acknowledges its importance in relation to the strategies put in place by the Regional Central Directorate for Health, in a broader approach to protect and safeguard minors' rights;

UNDERLINES, specifically for the actions aimed at tackling educational poverty and hardship, as well as their inter and transgenerational transmission, the following lines of action:

- improving minors' relationship with their family with a view to prevention, as well as reinforcing local educational initiatives aimed at promoting minor's social relational and autonomy skills and competences;
- upgrading minors' care processes as well as targeted and specific socio-educational interventions, in order to allow minors to stay in their family and parents to recover and strengthen the necessary parental skills for an effective educational relationship with their children;
- dissemination and experimentation of the National Guidelines for Intervention with children and families in conditions of vulnerability and economic hardship, through dedicated training and information initiatives aimed at caregivers working for local services and educational agencies;
- reinforcement and dissemination of family foster care and other forms of light foster care, starting from a qualitative/quantitative reconnaissance of experiences that are currently underway locally, aimed at promoting good practices as well as the exchange and updating of existing ones;
- the Region's joining of the national experimental project known as 'Care Leavers', which foresees the definition of personalized planning to benefit those who, becoming of legal age after having been fostered outside their original household, show to possess the actual capabilities required to embark on autonomous housing, work and personal life.

URGES, given the need to bring back into an integrated and consistent framework all services, measures and projects dedicated to minors and families and not least taking into account the exacerbation and surfacing of social and psychological issues following the COVID-19 emergency, particularly among pre-adolescents and adolescent minors, to reinforce the following actions:

- in-depth qualitative analysis of the different forms of social educational services, in order to better understand which actual, emotional, socio-relational and cognitive needs of children/young people and their parents they address. This should be achieved by promoting the professional figure of community animators as facilitators of processes aimed at activating the cultural, social, expressive and relational potential of the individual and of the group in relation to a given community;
- systematization of services/interventions/projects benefiting vulnerable families through:
 - a) professional fostering projects aimed at fragile parents and families affected by complex situations with an eye to specific phases of the life cycle (early childhood, pre-adolescence and adolescence);
 - b) support to difficult parenthood, e.g. parents in conditions of fragility and/or absence of a suitable parental network, thanks to home-based actions aimed at building a safety net around each family unit while facilitating access to local services in the field of maternal or child care;

- implementation of National Guidelines of intervention for vulnerable families, improving access to childcare services through the activation of family support solutions;
- completion of the upgrading of foster care processes for minors who need to be taken out of their family of origin;

CONSIDERS also of crucial interest and relevance for the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia the Objective No. 43 '**Long-term vision for rural areas**' and the Initiative '*Communication on the long-term vision for rural areas*', in order to reaffirm a strategic vision for rural, internal and mountain areas.

REFIT INITIATIVE

HIGHLIGHTS, with regard to Initiative No. 8, 'Revision of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Fishery Statistics, repealing Regulation (EC) No. 1921/2006, Regulation (EC) No. 762/2008, Regulation (EC) No. 216/2009, Regulation (EC) No. 217/2009 and Regulation (EC) No. 218/2009', that all European regulations in force were agreed keeping into account primarily the characteristics and needs of fisheries in the seas of Northern Europe. Therefore, such regulations are hardly applicable to the fisheries sector of the Mediterranean Sea and even less to that of the Adriatic Sea. Moreover, considering that European regulations foresee a reduction both in the number of days of activity, to the detriment of trawl fishing in particular, and in fleet capacity, it stresses that the restrictions laid down by European policies could have an extremely negative impact in terms of survival of businesses in this sector. They could lead to easily imaginable consequences on employment in coastal communities and on the economic activities linked to the fisheries sector. It therefore deems as important to support national actions aimed at showing how 'competitive sustainability' means defining balanced rules, able to reconcile the equally important needs of protecting environment and marine resources with the socio-economic impact of fishing-related activities.

Regarding the Guidelines on State Aid

RECOMMENDS to take action for the upgrading of alpine refuges and hiking trails, which are quite often owned by non-profit associations and organizations such as the CAI – Club Alpino Italiano (the Italian Alpine Club), as their redevelopment is strongly limited by the constraints on State Aid: a major example is the case of the "Rifugio Corsi", which despite being the only way to reach the Jôf Fuort-Montasio Chain is currently in a state of deterioration and abandonment. An exemption from these restrictive rules is believed a necessary measure to support redevelopment interventions by non-profit associations and organizations. Upgrading the network of mountain refuges is moreover crucial to promote the slow and sustainable tourism foreseen in the *Green New Deal*.

REQUIRES this Resolution to be sent to the Senate of the Italian Republic and to the Italian Chamber of Deputies, within the political dialogue with EU Institutions, in accordance with article 9 of the national Law 234/2012.

REQUIRES this Resolution to be sent to the President of Friuli Venezia Giulia autonomous Region, in accordance with article 24, para. 3, of the national Law 234/2012.

COMMITTS the Regional Government to inform the Regional Legislative Assembly, in accordance with Article

17 para. 2 of Regional Law No.17 of 18th June 2007, on the follow-up to the observations on the European Commission's 14 initiatives and on any position taken by the Region at European and national level, especially in the Italian Conference of Regions and Autonomous Provinces, as well as on any further contribution made by the Region to the European decision-making process.

REQUIRES, furthermore, this Resolution to be sent to the Italian Conference of the Presidents of the Legislative Assemblies of the Regions and of the Autonomous Provinces; and, in order to spread information about the participation of the Friuli Venezia Giulia autonomous Region to the EU law-making process, requires this Resolution to also be forwarded to the European Committee of the Regions, to the Conference of the Presidents of the European Regional Legislative Assemblies – CALRE, and to all the stakeholders within the Friuli Venezia Giulia territory.

THE PRESIDENT
Piero Mauro Zanin

THE SECRETARY COUNCILOR
Simone Polesello

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL
Stefano Patriarca