



XII LEGISLATURE

RESOLUTION

EUROPEAN SESSION 2020. Policy Lines for the participation of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region to the EU law-making process

*approved by a Majority of the regional Legislative Assembly with Decision No.74 of 23 June 2020
in accordance with Article 169 bis of the Legislative Assembly regulation*

Subject: RESOLUTION 'European session 2020. Policy Lines for the participation of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region to the EU law-making process'.

The Legislative Assembly of 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 European Union and 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 24 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 compliance with the subsidiarity principle of EU legislative proposals or proposals based on Art.352 TFUE;
- 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 18 June 2007 ('Determinazione della forma di governo della Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia e del sistema elettorale regionale, ai sensi dell'articolo 12 dello Statuto di autonomia' *'Friuli Venezia Giulia Region's institutional framework and electoral system, in accordance to Art.12 of the Statute of Autonomy'*), Art. 17, which provides for the participation of the Region in the EU law-making process.
- Art. 169 bis of the internal Regulation of the Legislative Assembly of Friuli Venezia Giulia, providing for the 'European Session', in the course of 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 relations 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 2020 (ECWP) – 'A Union that strives for more', 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) 37 *final* and related annexes dated 29 January 2020, as well as the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'Adjusted Commission Work Programme 2020' COM (2020) 440 *final* and related annexes dated 28 May 2020;

WHEREAS

On the 20th of April 2020 the President of the Regional Legislative Assembly opened the 'European Session' and transmitted the 2020 ECWP to the Presidents of the relevant Assembly Committees, together with the FVG Report on the Compliance of regional legislation with EU law for 2019, and the 2020 Council of Ministers' Programme Report on the participation of Italy in the EU, for them to be examined pursuant to the Regional Assembly's Internal Regulation.

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, especially those which are more relevant to and have the greatest impact on the Region:

Such right is granted to the Regional Legislative Assembly by Protocol No. 2 to the Treaties on European Union and on the Functioning of the European Union, and by 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, and thus enabling them to monitor compliance of EU law with the principle of subsidiarity;

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

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that in its session held on 30 April 2020, the Regional Council approved the document 'Participation of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region to the EU law-making process. Identifying relevant initiatives for the Region in the 2020 ECWP' in its Minutes No. 652/2020, whereby it highlighted the EC 2020 initiatives that are deemed as most relevant to Friuli Venezia Giulia, and which it intends adopting.

WHEREAS

Due to the COVID 19 epidemic outbreak which has affected EU Member States, the European Commission was forced to update its work programme for the present year by introducing a series of exceptional measures by means of subsequent initiatives and by issuing an adjusted ECWP 2020 through a Communication to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions COM (2020) 440 *final* dated 28 May 2020 and related annexes;

Both the ECWP 2020 – 'A Union that strives for more', set out in the Communication from the Commission COM (2020) 37 *final* of 29 January 2020 and the 'Adjusted Commission Work Programme 2020' set out in the Communication COM (2020) 440 *final* of 28 May 2020 - comprise an introductory general document and the relative annexes describing programmed activities divided by the following 6 priorities:

- I. The 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 and the relative adoption deadline, and the choice of the ones that are relevant to the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia for the year 2020 was based on these;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT - The results of the preliminary work of the Regional Legislative Assembly's 5th Permanent Committee and especially the interventions of the MEPs elected within the North-East Italy Constituency -Elena Rizzi, Marco Dreosto and Marco Zullo- on the 15th and on the 16th of June 2020, as well as of the representatives of the following local public institutions: the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI) and the Italian Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AICCRES), the Government of Carinthia, the regional social and economic associations, the research institutes and the Universities of Trieste and Udine, the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA), the National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (OGS), the Area Science Park, the Experimental Zooprofilactic Institute of Venice (ISZVe), the Regional Student Group of Friuli Venezia Giulia, the AdSP del Mare Adriatico Orientale (North-Eastern Adriatic Port Network Authority),

the FVG Airport, the Transport and logistics industries' group of Confindustria Udine, Confindustria of the North-Adriatic, Italian Confederation of Craft Trades and Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (CNA) and CNA Trieste, Confcooperative Friuli Venezia Giulia, Legacoop FVG, UECOOP FVG, Coldiretti FVG, the General Confederation of Italian Agriculture FVG, the Italian General Confederation of Enterprises, Professions and Self-Employment FVG (Confcommercio FVG), Confesercenti FVG, Federdistribuzione and the Chamber of Commerce FVG, all of which have delivered their written observations.

- The opinions received by the 5th Assembly Committee from the Presidents of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th permanent Assembly Committees, who heard, according to their respective areas of competence, 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, and the contribution of 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 sittings of 22 and 23 June 2020 and within the Assembly on 23 June 2020;

CONSIDERING the geographical position of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region as crossroads between the Latin, the Slavic and the German cultures and its historic vocation as Italian gateway to the East and European gateway to the sea, which resulted in its willingness to take on an active role within Europe and laboriously accomplish this goal following the overcoming of borders;

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:

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

WISHES that the objective 'A European Green Deal' be accomplished, triggering a genuine revolution in the continent's industrial system and turning Europe into the world leader in the transition towards a green, fair and socially sustainable economy, and thus highlights the need for both local authorities and local businesses to receive financial support in order to contribute to the achievement of this goal.

CONSIDERS the following initiatives particularly relevant to the FVG region: The **European Climate Law enshrining the 2050 climate neutrality objective** (legislative, Article 192, para.1 TFEU, Q1 2020) and **The European Climate Pact** (non-legislative, postponed to Q4 2020)

ENDORSES the Regional Council's proposal to put forward the candidacy of Friuli Venezia Giulia as pilot region for testing a strategy aiming at a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions economy, given that its surface area is small enough compared with the European continent, but big and diverse enough for testing and evaluating the consequences of applied policies on the territory and, where appropriate, re-enacting them throughout the EU territory;

CONSIDERS, therefore, that, differently from other EU Regions and Countries, which are required to achieve neutrality by 2050, the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region should commit to achieve this goal within a shorter timeframe, presumably at least 5 years earlier than the 30 years set in the rest of the EU, aiming at an annual average emission reduction of at least 4%. This shall be achieved by improving the energy efficiency of the 'FVG-Region system' and by increasing the production of energy from renewable sources; At this regard, given the importance, the complexity and the extent of these environmental topics, a debate with neighbouring regions would be welcome;

CONSIDERS furthermore that the objectives which have been set in order to implement the European Green Deal should be properly monitored, also in view of the above mentioned candidacy of Friuli Venezia Giulia as pilot region for the Green Deal, and of its resulting target average annual emissions reduction of at least 4% as compared to currently observed average emissions;

STRESSES the effectiveness, under current circumstances, of the subsidy for the purchase of fuels, and the importance of working towards the elimination of diesel fuels used for heating and a CO₂ emission reduction, and not least of investing in energy-related income measures in the photovoltaic sector;

OFFERS to accompany law proposals with an environmental sustainability assessment or an evaluation clause aimed at measuring the environmental impact of the actions undertaken, in order to guarantee effective and constant monitoring on the environmental impact of regional policies;

ACKNOWLEDGES the relevance of objective 8 '**Sustainable and smart mobility**' and of the Initiative '**Strategy for sustainable and smart mobility**' (non-legislative, Q4 2020).

CONSIDERS that, as part of the strategy for sustainable and smart mobility, the goal of promoting electric transport should be pursued within the private automotive transport sector and especially the local public transport sector, as prevalently done so far also by the EU.

PROPOSES that the regional administration's car fleet be reconsidered with the aim of reducing polluting emissions;

CONSIDERS that the infrastructural and non-infrastructural potential of the port of Trieste has to be taken into account;

NOTES the need to make cycling paths accessible to all and states the difficulties in crossing major traffic arteries and anthropogenic barriers, which represent a serious obstacle only to be overcome through special measures. With regard to these cross-territorial issues, it stresses the need for debate with neighbouring regions.

ACKNOWLEDGES the importance of the FVG Region's project for a 'smart' connection between the towns of Codroipo and Palmanova, promoting sustainable and intelligent mobility by integrating different kinds of transport: cycling, pedestrian and eco-friendly public transport, the latter being able to grant a frequency and quality of service comparable with those of private transport and suitable to be replicated in almost the entire plain of Friuli, whilst aiming at reducing pollution and the incidence of road accidents.

RECOMMENDS, given the diversity of European ports in terms of size, governance framework, type and volume of traffic, to leave the choice of the most appropriate ways of reaching goals and targets to individual Member States according to their specific territorial features, rather than applying a single approach at European level and require common goals and targets;

RECOMMENDS that the review of the regulation 1315/2013 be coordinated with that of Directive 94/2014 on the deployment of an alternative fuels infrastructure ('AFI Directive or DAFI), not least in view of the Green New Deal;

RECOMMENDS, therefore, for EU legislation to also consider the development of new technologies for alternative fuels such as hydrogen, which is being implemented by Spain and France in the maritime sector and by Germany in the land transport sector, so as to back up decarbonisation and sustainability choices.

WISHES for a remission of tax on alternative fuels or electricity used by ships at berth in EU ports, in order to speed up the decarbonisation of transport and avoid competition between ports of EU Member States.

RECOMMENDS the inclusion of the topic of digitalization in the review of Regulation TEN-T;

WISHES that funding sources be implemented in order to achieve the above mentioned priorities and that the financial envelope of the 'Connecting Europe Facility' (CEF) funding programme be increased through a

rise in the rate of funding for works and planning, so as to empower European ports, infrastructures and logistic hubs and enable them to be the driving force behind the economic recovery post-COVID19.

WISHES for the new CEF Programme (CEF II) to include investments in the development of the last railway mile – connecting the national railway to the port – in its priorities, so that port systems can increasingly contribute to the environmental sustainability of freight transport, thanks to the development of long and complex logistic chains -from origin to destination-, where ports become the keystone of the supply chains.

STRESSES the complementarity of the CEF and Interreg Programmes and wishes for the Managing Authorities of the European Territorial Cooperation Interreg Programmes– at transboundary, transnational and interregional level – to include Policy Objective No.3 of the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy, concerning passenger and freight transport, in their respective Cooperation Programmes.

STRESSES the need to acknowledge the potential of a complex and integrated regional system able to integrate the whole regional ports system in the logistics and intermodal transport system according to the TEN-T axes.

WISHES for an acceleration in the development of the railway connection between the three programmed TEN-T transport corridors, in order to deliver the expected benefits to air transport thanks to intermodal transport;

RECOMMENDS to regionally-elected MEPs to monitor the development of the Mobility Package and to support the position of Italy, in order to prevent economic and social dumping.

WISHES for an amendment to current legislation on combined transport, which allows a maximum of 42 tons for intermodal transport compared to the 44 tons allowed in Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, and other countries with strong intermodal vocation.

RECOGNIZES the importance of objective No.4 '**Sustainability of food systems**' which, amongst others, will be implemented through the '**Farm to Fork Strategy**', of objective No.6 '**Sustainable production and consumption**', which will be implemented through the '**New Circular Economy Action Plan**' and through the '**Empowering the consumer for the green transition**' initiatives, and not least of objective No.7 '**Protecting our environment**', implemented through the '**EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030**' initiative.

RECOGNIZES the central role of seas, oceans and inland waters in climate processes, in the health and wellbeing of citizens, in food supply, in biodiversity conservation, in ecosystems, renewable energy sources and other resources.

WISHES for the protection of water resources and in particular of the river Tagliamento - the last great river of Central Europe-, being water a strategic resource for the near future and now more than ever a precious asset, which needs to be protected in order to ensure the sustainability of human intervention on the territory.

RECOGNIZES the need to mitigate the effects of climate change; however, where this is not possible, it is extremely important to take further action aimed at exploiting new resources, especially in the fisheries sector, which has experienced an invasion of allochthonous species in recent years. At this regard, it is necessary to guarantee the survival of businesses whose existence is based on fisheries. This will require study and research initiatives in support of future legislative actions aimed at adapting sectoral regulations to new necessities.

WISHES, therefore, that projects involving research institutes of excellence of the Region as well as those of other European regions be supported, in order to create new synergies in the study of climate change mitigation in marine ecosystems;

WISHES that EU general environmental policies be reconciled with the preservation of territorial peculiarities, in the awareness that establishing general boundaries for environmentally protected areas (SCI and SPA) could have dramatic effects on sectors such as that of fisheries, putting a large number of enterprises out of business.

WELCOMES the Plan presented by the European Commission aiming at a more environmentally-friendly agricultural production and at boosting biodiversity, and including a reduction in the use of pesticides and antibiotics as well as the improvement of fertilizers amongst its targets. This will grant the wellbeing of farmed animals and a more sustainable fishery, whilst reducing the volumes of food waste and discarded packaging.

DISAGREES with the substantial cut in financial resources of the 2021-2027 CAP proposed budget, since the agricultural sector has already been severely affected by the crisis, and its ability to keep up with the production and with the care of rural areas is crucial. Nevertheless, the Commission has provided for further constraints, preventing farming businesses from heavily investing in techniques and processes aimed at granting both economic and environmental performance. Less aid and more requirements and constraints will result in less revenue and in a reduced ability to invest in the future.

WISHES therefore for the European Council and the European Parliament to take steps towards restoring consistency and providing European agriculture-related sectors the means to accomplish their mission of granting food safety, market supply - both in terms of quantity and quality - and sustainable management of our ecological heritage.

RECOMMENDS to support the increase in EU resources for the Common Market Organization's (CMO) promotion of the wine, fruit and vegetable sectors, as well as to allow them to be used for promotion in EU countries too during the COVID19 crisis by setting higher EU co-financing rates and by focussing new programs on quality, labelling, e-commerce and sustainability more than has been done to date.

WISHES, accordingly, for an increase in the CAP financial envelope aimed at the implementation of sustainable agricultural models, in order to provide a strategic sector for the recovery such as agriculture with sufficient resources to contribute to the 'green' turning point sought after by the EU. Undeniably, farmers are the first allies in protecting the ecosystem and one of the categories most affected by climate change.

WISHES that new criteria for the allocation of CAP financial envelopes amongst Member States be introduced, since Italian agriculture presents one of the highest rates of biodiversity in the whole world, the highest added value per hectare of land, and not least the highest rate of employment per hectare of land, all of which needs to be taken into account.

OBSERVES that, while there's no doubt that fiscal harmonization between territories must be pursued, it cannot be applied to agriculture: the standardisation of methods of cultivation wanted by the EU clashes with the geomorphological specificity of the territories.

WISHES that the European Commission, when entering into agreements with non-EU countries, would demand the same quality requirements granted by European products, so as to ensure a consistent level of safety for European citizens. The certification of the designation of origin should be respected along the entire food supply chain and all relevant actors within the institutions should take action in order to protect FVG regional products of excellence.

WISHES for increased attention and support to the specificity of businesses so as to provide greater protection of FVG regional products.

CALLS FOR a close monitoring on the much dreaded introduction of new custom duties;

REQUESTS that the EU and the institutions at all levels undertake strong actions aimed at cutting bureaucracy and simplifying procedures, especially with regard to IT, thus removing a huge obstacle for the competitiveness of businesses.

OPPOSES to the European Commission's proposal to centralise CAP at national level; Regions should be allowed to develop their own farming policy, whilst maintaining their constitutionally granted powers;

WISHES that the European legislation be amended in order to create managing authorities at regional level and tackle inefficiencies in the use of resources allocated to the fisheries sector.

WHEREAS the agri-food chain, as shown during the emergency, has proven extremely worthy in providing food supplies at contained prices, and since the recent Recovery Plan identified the retail sector as one of the 14 fundamental ecosystems for the economic recovery, it is recommended that businesses of FVG Region operating in the above sector be put in a position to work in synergy in order to make better use of the opportunities offered by EU initiatives.

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

RECOGNIZES the importance of Objective No.9 and of the Initiative '**Digital Education Action Plan**' (non-legislative, estimated adoption Q3 2020)

CONSIDERS it important to follow the legislative process, particularly with regard to the digitalization of education, given the bearing that EU legislative policies can have on regional competences with regard to education.

ACKNOWLEDGES, consistently with the pursued 'European digital sovereignty', the importance of investing in data centres.

CONSIDERS it essential for digitalization to be planned in such a way as to promote the development of mountain and inland areas as well, in order to overcome isolation and disparities between these territories and the city;

ACKNOWLEDGES the relevance of objective No.14 '**A new industrial strategy for Europe**', implemented through the following initiatives: '**Industrial Strategy**', '**Single Market Enforcement Action Plan**' and '**SME Strategy**'.

CONSIDERS it necessary for SMEs to receive adequate support during the digital transformation as well as during the organizational adjustment towards a production model based on sustainability, circular economy and Corporate Social Responsibility;

CONSIDERS it necessary, since the regional production system is mainly made up of small businesses, to closely monitor the issue of the definition of SME and microenterprise (2003/361/EC), given its possible bearing on legislation at regional level.

ACKNOWLEDGES the relevance of objective No.16 '**Towards a European Research Area**' and of the initiatives '**Communication on the Future of Research and Innovation and the European Research Area**' (non-legislative, Q2 2020) and '**Communication on Horizon Europe research and innovation missions**' (non-legislative, Q4 2020).

CALLS, therefore, on MEPs to closely monitor the development of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), also as far as the Horizon Europe Programme is concerned, given the potential impact of the resources put in place on the future of research in the FVG Region.

UNDERTAKES, consistently with the role of culture and creativity as elements of contamination, interdisciplinarity, cross-sectorality and valorisation of Europe's varied social and cultural heritage, and not least as key elements for the implementation of new paradigms and politics of change, which are also provided for in the programmes Horizon Europe and Creative Europe, to recognize the role of cultural clusters, including the Culture and Creativity cluster.

III. With regard to priority 3 'An Economy that Works for People'

WELCOMES the adjustments made to EU social funding programmes and the establishment of the SURE Fund, aimed at mitigating the risk of unemployment to the benefit of businesses and workers in the most

affected countries and, in particular, it welcomes the additional funds of the REACT-EU instrument allocated to the cohesion policy, amounting to EUR 55 billion for the period 2020-2022;

WISHES, therefore, for the additional resources of the current European Social Fund (ESF) to support mainly:

- The maintenance of jobs, also through short-term work programmes and support for the self-employed aimed at protecting their income;
- The creation of new jobs, especially targeted at the most vulnerable categories;
- Measures for youth employment;
- Education and training, including safety at work;
- Skills development, especially in support of the twin green and digital transition;
- Measures to improve access to social and health services, including those for children.

RECOGNIZES, as a consequence, the importance of objective No.18 '**Social Europe**', whose following Initiatives are deemed as particularly relevant to the FVG Region: '**A Strong Social Europe for Just Transitions**', '**Fair minimum wages for workers in the EU**', '**Reinforcing the Youth Guarantee**', '**European Unemployment Reinsurance Scheme**'.

WISHES for EU legislation to provide for income support policies as a safety net for European citizens who find themselves out of work.

WISHES for the harmonization of Member States' fiscal policies, also in order to establish a genuine common management of effective instruments of income redistribution.

WISHES for a swift implementation of all necessary measures aimed at harmonizing growth of border areas, including tax harmonization. Only once the principle of reciprocity and harmonious growth between States is re-established will it be possible to pursue the objective of cross-border conurbation that border municipalities in Friuli Venezia Giulia, Slovenia and Austria are committed to.

WISHES, therefore, that States and Regions be allowed to adopt fiscal measures aimed at establishing a progressive tax harmonization within the EU, so as to grant all businesses the same conditions, in compliance with fair competition and in the interest of solidarity between countries and sustainability of *governance* systems;

CONSIDERS it necessary to evaluate more advanced convergence indicators than the simple 'GDP per capita', since on the one hand the latter does not allow to highlight inequalities, similarly to all average indicators, and on the other hand it does not do justice to the PPP (purchasing power parity), which represents the real measure of purchasing power.

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

ACKNOWLEDGES, due to their geographical proximity, the relevance for the FVG Region of the **partnership with the Western Balkans** led by the European Commission. For the same reason, it expresses its interest in the forthcoming EU-Western Balkans Summit in Zagreb, as well as in the **opening of negotiations with Northern Macedonia and Albania**, which will also affect the enlargement methodology and the consolidation of investments, and not least in **the new Eastern Partnership post-2020**, which is of relevance for Friuli Venezia Giulia.

CONSIDERS it essential to include Croatia in the Schengen Treaty as soon as possible.

ACKNOWLEDGES the importance of the research institutes of excellence of the FVG Region, such as the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). Both operate at global level and within areas characterised by peculiar complexities from a geopolitical point of view, whilst focussing their activities and interaction modalities on scientific diplomacy.

COMMITTS, therefore, to the debate with European Institutions on the EC annual legislative programme and, in order to maximize the benefits of the Horizon Europe programme at regional, national and EU level, calls upon MEPs elected in FVG to back the request, in favour of ICGEB and ICTP, to apply article 18 para. 10 of the Rules of Participation in the Horizon Europe Programme with regard to work programmes 'Mission Cancer', 'Mission Climate', and not least to the 'Cluster Health' and 'Cluster Climate-Energy and Mobility' work programmes.

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

ACKNOWLEDGES the importance of objective No.31 '**Fostering skills, education and inclusion**', implemented through the initiative '**Updated Skills Agenda for Europe**' (non-legislative, Q3 2020). Given its interconnection with the measures aimed at digitalization and in the light of the legislative competence of the Region in the field of vocational training, this initiative is considered relevant to related regional policy actions.

WISHES, in order to strengthen the sense of belonging to the values of the European Union, as well as to give young people the opportunity to experience studying and training in other EU countries, for the funding allocated to the European mobility programmes Erasmus and Erasmus +, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps to be further increased through the EC Recovery Fund, and would welcome the extension of the above programmes to other age groups.

WELCOMES Initiative No.32 '**A New Pact on Migration and Asylum and accompanying legal proposals**' (non-legislative and legislative, Articles 78 and 79 TFEU, Q1 2020), due to be adopted in the 2nd Quarter of 2020, since it aims to develop a comprehensive approach focused on establishing a balance between the principles of solidarity and responsibility and to overcome the issues that have emerged within the policies of the 2015 European Migration Agenda, not least in the light of the proximity of FVG with the Balkan migration route.

ACKNOWLEDGES the importance of Objective No.34 '**Protecting health**', the implementation of which cannot be separated from an analysis of the management and outcomes of the first stage of the pandemic, - from 25 January to 3 May 2020 - and from a reflection on the transition and on the priorities of the so-called Phase 2 of the emergency.

NOTES that, as far as health is concerned, the first phase of the emergency has led to a slowdown in the service system, which must now return to normal while keeping up with the monitoring of COVID-19 spread.

WISHES, therefore, for a reorganisation of healthcare activities alongside all the required economic and social measures, and for the activation of services aimed at taking charge of the health of citizens and which, rather than being focused solely on hospital care, treat health in all its aspects (biological, psychological and social). This integrated approach of health and social services has already been implemented by the Friuli Venezia Giulia Health Care System through recent Health Reform interventions.

WISHES that, as stressed by experts, mental health management be considered as a key element in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic; this is a collective responsibility that must be faced by Governments and the civil society with the support of the United Nations, since underestimating the psychological impact of the pandemic could result in social and economic long-term costs.

WISHES for recovery measures, in order to mitigate the social and economic impact of the pandemic and to promote social inclusion, cohesion and equity, to target the following priorities:

- maintaining and supporting voluntary work programmes at local level;
- developing and spreading digital knowledge amongst the population and making it accessible to all;
- granting vulnerable people access to safe places;

- strengthening prevention programmes in early life;
- planning and developing mental health programmes;
- improving safety in the workplace;
- expanding and supporting social protection programmes;
- reducing social benefits bureaucracy;
- increasing the guarantee of adequate salaries;
- backing up work-support measures (for job-maintenance, access to employment, gender equality, insurance of containment measures);
- supporting measures to combat loneliness and pathological isolation.

WISHES for the EU to meet the expectations of its citizens through concrete and immediately operational measures built around the values of solidarity, equality and fairness, so that no one is left behind. As stressed by the European Commission itself in the first draft of the 2020 Work Programme, it is necessary 'to find common solutions to common challenges' in order to 'build stronger, more cohesive and more resilient European societies'.

CONSIDERS two important initiatives within the objective 'Protecting Health' as particularly relevant, namely '**Europe's Beating Cancer Plan**' (non-legislative, Q4 2020) and '**A Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe**' (non-legislative, Q4 2020).

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

ACKNOWLEDGES the key role of Regions in the process of building the European Union; as stated in Protocol 2 annexed to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, regional and local authorities, by virtue of their democratic investiture, are key actors in the European Union's policy-making process, since being close to the citizens, they are able to understand their requests and expectations. Only with the involvement of Regions can Europe reach a truly democratic dimension, based on participation and on the implementation of the principle of subsidiarity.

EXPRESSES APPRECIATION for the willingness stated by the Governor of Carinthia to cooperate with neighbouring regions and in particular with Friuli Venezia Giulia for the benefit of citizens living in border areas and in order to enhance cross-border cooperation within the European context.

ACKNOWLEDGES the importance of the Conference on the Future of Europe, which will determine the fate of the Union, and wishes for an amendment to the Treaties, which should give the democratically elected European Parliament the sovereign power of legislative initiative and overcome the rigid legislative procedures, based on unanimity, which hinder the progress of common policies.

ACKNOWLEDGES the relevance for the FVG Region of Objective No.35 '**Consumer Agenda**', to be implemented through '**A new Consumer Agenda**', a non-legislative initiative due to be adopted in the 4th quarter of 2020.

CONSIDERS it necessary to ensure that the guidelines on certifications and on the related controls are genuinely harmonised without sacrificing a high level of quality guarantees.

CONSIDERS it necessary to maintain the commitment to protect Italian geographical indications both within Europe and internationally, as well as to persist in combating unfair practices in the agri-food sector.

ACKNOWLEDGES the relevance for the Region of strategic objective **No.41 - New Strategy for the Implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights**.

ACKNOWLEDGES the importance, with regard to the **quality of legislation**, of the European Commission's initiative **No. 42, 'Better Regulation'**. Its aim is to ensure that EU legislation benefits end-users without imposing unnecessary burdens on citizens and businesses, especially SMEs.

CONSIDERS it, therefore, also necessary to develop EU legislation from the user's point of view and to apply the digital principle consistently, cutting unnecessary additional burdens. It deems as appropriate to support the above mentioned Initiative, in the knowledge that simplification and burden reduction are likely to provide maximum benefit to businesses and citizens affected by the negative effects of over-regulation and inadequate procedures.

WISHES, therefore, in the light of the collaboration of the 'REG HUB network' with the European Commission's Fit for Future Platform, for this Legislative Assembly to also become part of it, so as to represent the FVG Region and enable it to keep up cooperation and mutual exchange of both technical and political expertise with EU institutions, in order to achieve quality legislation.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

About State Aid

RECOMMENDS, in order to allow regional policies aimed at the recovery of the production system to work in synergy with corresponding European policies, that the intensity of State aid be modified or the Temporary Framework adopted from March onwards be extended.

About the future of European Programmes and the Multiannual Financial Framework

WISHES for the opportunity to use residual European Funds with simplified procedures, as well as for a one-year extension of the current 2014-2020 programming, in order to have additional resources to help businesses and the socio-economic fabric cope with the crisis caused by the pandemic.

WISHES, moreover, for the introduction of new instruments to support the recovery of businesses and of the socio-economic fabric, since it considers the proposed use of residual funds of European programmes inadequate for dealing with the serious consequences of the crisis; being at an advanced stage of programming, virtuous regions such as Friuli Venezia Giulia would actually be penalised, since they have fewer unspent resources to reallocate to 'Covid-19 actions'.

WISHES, however, that simplified control and audit rules will make it possible to immediately use the residual funds for actions in response to the Covid-19 crisis.

WISHES for a one-year extension of the current programming, with additional resources made available to combat the effects of the crisis.

WISHES for the debate on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 to lead to a swift and ambitious agreement between States, which should not set limitations in the role and autonomy of regional and local administrations, so as to allow resources to reach regional and local authorities, small businesses and actors in the third sector too.

WISHES for resources and liquidity to be made available as soon as possible, it being a necessary condition for dealing with the issues caused by the COVID-19 outbreak and for preventing a negative impact on the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the whole EU.

REQUIRES that this resolution be sent to the Senate of the Italian Republic and to the Italian Chamber of Deputies for the formulation of the Chambers' Resolutions, which contribute to the political dialogue with EU Institutions, in accordance with article 9 of Law 234/2012.

REQUIRES that this resolution be sent to the President of Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region in accordance with article 24, para. 3, of 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 18 June 2007, on the follow-up to the observations on the European Commission's

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 further contributions made by the Region to the European decision-making process.

REQUIRES, furthermore, that this Resolution be submitted to the Italian Conference of Presidents of the Legislative Assemblies of the Regions and of the Autonomous Provinces and, in order to ease circulation of information on the Region's participation to the EU law-making process, to also be submitted to the European Committee of the Regions, to the Conference of Presidents of European Regional Legislative Assemblies – CALRE, and to all stakeholders within the FVG territory.

THE PRESIDENT
Piero Mauro Zanin

THE SECRETARY COUNCILOR
Simone Polesello

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
Franco Zubin