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Subject:	Council conclusions on urban and territorial development

Delegations will find in the Annex the Council conclusions on urban and territorial development, as approved by the Council on 14 December 2020.

Council conclusions on urban and territorial development

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- (1) ACKNOWLEDGES the contribution of the Leipzig Charter on sustainable European Cities of 25 May 2007 in establishing a coherent framework for integrated and sustainable urban development in Europe, fostering national, regional and local development policies;
- (2) ACKNOWLEDGES the contribution of the Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020 of 19 May 2011 and its predecessor, the Territorial Agenda of the European Union of 25 May 2007 in strengthening territorial cohesion as stated as an objective of the European Union, fostering a balanced and sustainable development of the European territory and the integration of a territorial dimension within policies at all governance levels;
- (3) ACKNOWLEDGES the contribution of the Riga Declaration of 10 June 2015 as a roadmap towards the establishment of the Urban Agenda for the EU;
- (4) ACKNOWLEDGES the contribution of the Pact of Amsterdam of 30 May 2016 in establishing the Urban Agenda for the EU, fostering multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder cooperation in urban development, addressing better regulation, better funding and better knowledge at the European scale;
- (5) RECALLS its Conclusions of 24 June 2016 on the Urban Agenda for the EU, in which the Council called on the Commission and the Member States to play an active role in the implementation and facilitation of the Urban Agenda for the EU, engaging relevant key partners, including representatives of urban and regional authorities;

- (6) RECALLS the European Parliament resolution of 3 July 2018 on the role of the city in the institutional framework of the Union, in which the European Parliament underlined the significance of the Leipzig Charter, the Urban Agenda for the EU and the key role of cities in preparing, designing, financing and implementing key Union policies;
- (7) REFERS to the Bucharest Declaration of 14 June 2019, in which the Ministers responsible for urban matters agreed to support the implementation and continuation of the Urban Agenda for the EU in line with a New Leipzig Charter in order to foster a coherent policy framework for urban development, taking into account the subsidiarity principle and the need for a better alignment of the Territorial Agenda of the EU with the Urban Agenda for the EU;
- (8) WELCOMES the report to the Council on the Urban Agenda for the EU by the European Commission of November 2017 and its assessment study of the Urban Agenda for the EU of November 2019;
- (9) WELCOMES the opinions of the European Committee of the Regions on the New Leipzig Charter and, on Equivalent standards of living of 14 October 2020 as well as on the renewed Territorial Agenda of 8 October 2019;
- (10) WELCOMES the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the Territorial Agenda of the EU, the Leipzig Charter and the Urban Agenda for the EU of 18 September 2020;
- (11) UNDERLINES the importance of pursuing the common good using the transformative power of cities. This includes general welfare, reliable public services of general interest as well as reducing and preventing new forms of social, economic, environmental and territorial inequalities, especially between urban and rural areas;
- (12) UNDERLINES the relevance of interlinking urban, rural and other territorial dimensions following the place-based approach as an overarching principle for all places and policies and, in line with the principle of subsidiarity and responsibilities;

- (13) HIGHLIGHTS the role of Cohesion Policy to implement integrated and sustainable urban development strategies and projects as well as integrated territorial development to achieve convergence and territorial cohesion between places and across spatial levels;
- (14) WELCOMES the New Leipzig Charter with its key principles of good urban governance serving as a comprehensive strategic framework for integrated, resilient and sustainable urban development aiming to strengthen the transformative power of cities for the common good;
- (15) WELCOMES the Document “Implementing the New Leipzig Charter through multi-level governance: Next steps for the Urban Agenda for the EU” as a further development of the Urban Agenda for the EU, advancing multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder cooperation in urban development, pursuing the objectives of the New Leipzig Charter;
- (16) WELCOMES the Territorial Agenda 2030 as an action-oriented policy framework to promote territorial cohesion in Europe and provide strategic orientation to strengthen the territorial dimension within all policies and at all levels of government, including across borders, aiming at a sustainable future for all territories and people;

URBAN DIMENSION

- (17) CALLS on the Commission:
 - a) to continue playing – within its responsibilities and capacities – an active role in the further development and implementation of the Urban Agenda for the EU in line with the strategic principles set out in the New Leipzig Charter;
 - b) to continue facilitating – within its responsibilities and capacities – the implementation of the Urban Agenda for the EU through the provision of support by the European Urban Initiative, in close cooperation with the Member States and by ensuring the engagement of the relevant Directorates-General in the process;

- c) to ensure – within its responsibilities and capacities – the continuity, coherence and coordination of the Urban Agenda for the EU by supporting, where relevant, the implementation of the set of actions and recommendations emerging from current and future Thematic Partnerships or other multi-level and multi-stakeholder delivery modes established under the Urban Agenda for the EU;
- d) to align – within its responsibilities and capacities – its actions on strengthening the urban dimension of EU policies with the Urban Agenda for the EU, in particular regarding its political priorities, work programme and legislative work;
- e) to report back regularly in the context of the European Urban Initiative on the implementation and results of the Urban Agenda;

(18) CALLS on the Member States:

- a) to foster – within their responsibilities and capacities – the establishment and continuation of national or regional urban policies following the guidelines of the New Leipzig Charter aiming for the common good and strengthening integrated, resilient and sustainable urban development;
- b) to take the appropriate steps – within their responsibilities and capacities – to implement and develop further the Urban Agenda for the EU in line with the strategic principles set out in the New Leipzig Charter;
- c) to ensure – within their responsibilities and capacities – that cities are capable to act in order to respond to current and future challenges;
- d) to support, where relevant, the implementation of the actions and recommendations emerging from current and future Thematic Partnerships or other multi-level and multi-stakeholder delivery modes established under the Urban Agenda for the EU;

(19) ENCOURAGES local and regional authorities:

- a) to take the appropriate steps to put into practice the objectives and implement the principles of the New Leipzig Charter in line with their respective competences and the principle of subsidiarity;
- b) to take the appropriate steps to implement and develop further the Urban Agenda for the EU in line with the strategic principles set out in the New Leipzig Charter and, in line with their respective competences and the principle of subsidiarity;
- c) to cooperate with other local and regional authorities of all sizes, the private sector, local communities, knowledge institutions, social partners and civil society in advancing the objectives of the Urban Agenda for the EU;

(20) INVITES the European Parliament:

- a) to take into account, where relevant, the results and recommendations of Thematic Partnerships or other multi-level and multi-stakeholder delivery modes established under the Urban Agenda for the EU when discussing relevant new and existing EU legislation;
- b) to establish a continuous link between the Urban Intergroup and the Urban Agenda for the EU process;

(21) INVITES the European Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee:

- a) to provide input and support, within their competences, to the further development and implementation of the Urban Agenda for the EU in line with the strategic principles set out in the New Leipzig Charter, contributing to the objectives of the Urban Agenda for the EU;

(22) INVITES the European Investment Bank:

- a) to contribute to the work of Thematic Partnerships or other multi-level and multi-stakeholder delivery modes established under the Urban Agenda for the EU;
- b) to reflect, as appropriate, the strategic principles of the New Leipzig Charter and the objectives of the Urban Agenda for the EU in its lending, grant-loan blending and advisory services approach in the urban context, taking into account the need to support sustainable urban and regional development strategies;

TERRITORIAL DIMENSION

(23) CALLS on the Commission:

- a) to contribute to the priorities of the Territorial Agenda 2030 ('Territorial Agenda') and further strengthen its efforts to promote territorial cohesion in Europe, the territorial dimension in EU policies, and to coordinate the relevant sector policies;
- b) to further promote integrated territorial development and the uptake of relevant tools and instruments through Cohesion Policy and other relevant EU policies;
- c) to facilitate and promote – within its responsibilities and capacities – the implementation of the Territorial Agenda and its pilot actions;

(24) CALLS on the Member States:

- a) to promote and strengthen cooperation on the priorities of the Territorial Agenda at the European level and work towards territorial cohesion by engaging relevant stakeholders in all sector policies and at all levels of government;
- b) to take into account the priorities of the Territorial Agenda in regional strategic, spatial and territorial planning processes and documents;
- c) to put the priorities of the Territorial Agenda into action and come forward with proposals for pilot actions to perpetuate the implementation process, as appropriate;

- (25) ENCOURAGES local and regional authorities:
- a) to engage relevant stakeholders and apply the Territorial Agenda by considering its priorities in their spatial planning and overarching development strategies and policies as well as to come forward with proposals for new pilot actions;
- (26) INVITES the European Parliament:
- a) to consider the priorities of the Territorial Agenda in EU legislative processes;
- (27) INVITES the European Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee:
- a) to contribute to the implementation of the Territorial Agenda by encouraging their members and local and regional authorities in Europe to apply and promote its priorities, strengthening territorial tools like ITI or CLLD and integrated territorial development through its consultative work;
- (28) INVITES the European Investment Bank:
- a) to contribute to the pilot actions, as appropriate, in particular to support the development of better funding approaches in the territorial context.
 - b) to reflect, as appropriate, the priorities of the Territorial Agenda in its lending, grant-loan blending and advisory services approach, taking into account the need to support sustainable territorial development.
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