

XII LEGISLATURE

REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

Decision n. 101 of 30th March 2022 unanimously approved by the Regional Legislative Assembly

Subject: Resolution “European Session 2022. Policy lines for the participation of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region in the EU law-making process”.

THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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. 234/2012, 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 2022 (ECWP) - 'Making Europe stronger together' - 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(2021) 645 *final* and related annexes dated 19th October 2021;

GIVEN THAT on 7th January 2022 the President of the Regional Legislative Assembly opened the 'European Session' and transmitted the ECWP to the Presidents of the relevant Assembly Committees, and that subsequently the Report on the Compliance of regional legislation with EU law for 2021, and the Communication of the Regional Government identifying the initiatives within the 2022 ECWP considered of interest for the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia were also transmitted, 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 11th February 2022, the Regional Government approved in its Minutes No. 205/2022 the document 'Participation of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region to the EU law-making process. Identifying relevant initiatives for the Region in the 2022 ECWP', in which it highlighted the EC 2022 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 2022 (ECWP) – 'Making Europe stronger together', 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 2022;

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 2022 initiatives, the actions of the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience (PNRR), and the activities already carried out by the Board itself, also 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 Universities of Udine and Trieste; the National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (OGS); the Regional Environment Protection Agency of Friuli Venezia Giulia (ARPA FVG); the North-Eastern Adriatic Port Network Authority - AdSPMAO; by various trade associations of the region, including Confindustria Udine (Confederation of Manufacturing and Service Companies), Confartigianato Udine (Confederation of Craft Trades), the League of Friuli Venezia Giulia Cooperatives (Legacoop FVG), CONFAPI (Italian Confederation of small and medium-sized private industry), AIAB FVG (Italian Association for Organic Agriculture FVG), and Federdistribuzione; by the unions UIL FVG (Italian Labour Union) and CISL FVG (Confederation of Trade Unions); by the Coordination of Retired Self-Employed Workers - CUPLA FVG; by cultural institutions such as the Friulian Philological Society; 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 Member of Italian Parliament Tatjana Rojc; 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 (AICCRE FVG). These Public Hearings took place on 21st March 2022, in the Legislative Assembly Chamber in Trieste;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the written contributions of MEPs Elena Lizzi e Marco Dreosto, of Senator Raffaella Marin, of the North-Eastern Adriatic Port Network Authority - AdPSMAO, of ARPA FVG, of UIL FVG, of the Confederation of Cooperatives of FVG (Confcooperative FVG), of Legacoop FVG, of the Universities of Udine and Trieste, of Confindustria Alto Adriatico and Confindustria Udine, of the National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (OGS), of Federdistribuzione, of AICCRE FVG and ANCI FVG, of CUPLA FVG, of the Friulian Philological Society 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; 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 24th March 2022 and within the Assembly on 30th March 2022;

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 some **preliminary considerations and remarks** originating from the fact that, due to the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, our economic, social and cultural framework is facing a sudden and almost daily re-assessment;

NOTES that the European Commission's Work Programme for 2022, published in October 2021, is necessarily no more in line with the current situation (March 2022), which was determined as a result of the conflict, with all the dramatic effects this entails first of all in humanitarian terms, as well as in terms of management of the flow of thousands of refugees who are estimated to arrive in the region and who will have to be guaranteed adequate protection and social, health and educational assistance, in order to face the emergency and, presumably, in the medium-long term;

CONSIDERS that the perspectives outlined in the priorities of the Commission document are, in fact, altered: let's just think of the economic consequences suffered by families and businesses in terms of supply of energy and raw materials, with an exponential and often unjustified increase in the costs of energy and fuels which, in addition to impacting heavily on the family budgets of every citizen, has even forced some important FVG industrial realities to shut down, or to temporary or even prolonged production standstills, given the impossibility to cope with the new tariffs. The impact has been particularly devastating for SMEs, which are at the heart of the regional productive fabric, and for many self-employed workers. All this has led to the need to reconsider the possibility, albeit residual, of resuming the use of fossil sources, thus putting a brake, hopefully in the short term, on energy transition projects involving the use of gas and other renewable energies;

RECOMMENDS, therefore, that in this specific situation, action should be taken at EU level to rebalance market prices in the short term, in order to make green transition projects feasible again;

CONSIDERS furthermore, in the light of these weeks' global scale events and tensions, now unavoidable to devise a strategy to shape a European industrial policy that targets greater self-sufficiency in critical and semi-finished raw materials, in order to reduce the strategic dependence of our production chains on supplies from non-European markets. It also means defending jobs on our areas and guaranteeing greater stability to the economic system as a whole, stimulating opportunities to invest in entrepreneurial projects capable of ensuring sustainable development;

ACKNOWLEDGES, finally, that the intergenerational relationship is governed by the principles of responsibility, equity, care and solidarity; and that it guarantees the protection of the environment as a fundamental right of the individual and as an interest of the whole community, in order to promote the conditions for sustainable and integral human development.

Now therefore, the Regional Legislative Assembly of Friuli Venezia Giulia expresses the following remarks on the ECWP for 2022:

ON THE NEW INITIATIVES

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

CONSIDERS of interest for the FVG Region the initiatives of the ECWP included in Objective No. 1, **"Zero Pollution" Package**, an action plan with clear targets to reduce air, water and soil pollution in

order to achieve pollution neutrality on a path that goes hand in hand with the EU's climate neutrality objectives;

REPRESENTS the need to regulate as soon as possible the tolerable level of odoriferous nanoparticles, and of those particles that also play an important role in the transmission of respiratory diseases and the onset of neoplasms;

REQUIRES also the definition of specific regulatory limits to emissions from the combustion of woody materials such as pellets, because even micro-particles emitted this way can be very harmful for human health;

RECOGNISES the need for the introduction of a European legislation, non-existing at the time being, that includes a harmonised measurement of the emissions of the heavy transports and the port logistics;

CONSIDERS necessary, in the framework of the "Zero Pollution" package, to monitor the Initiative *b) Integrated Water management – revised list of surface and groundwater pollutants*;

UNDERLINES how, with regard to the analysis of pollutants, the Laboratory of the Regional Environmental Protection Agency of the FVG (ARPA FVG) operates within the national network of laboratories provided for by Law No.132/2016. It stresses that the laboratory also serves as a reference for the determination of the "Watch List" of emerging pollutants provided for in European legislation (Commission Decision (EU) 2015/495, updated first by Decision 2018/840 and then by Decision 2020/161), and it puts itself at the forefront, at national level, in the search for these substances thanks to ever new important investments in support of technological aspects and technical and scientific know-how;

WELCOMES the fact that the ARPA FVG laboratory is currently the test site of the Italian National System for the Protection of the Environment (SNPA) with the largest number of accredited tests, and it is the first laboratory to have tested and accredited the new tests provided for in Directive (EU) 2020/2184 for drinking water within the year 2021, thus placing itself as a reference point for other national and European environmental protection agencies and bodies;

WISHES, in the course of the investment season aimed at green, digital and sustainable conversion that will start after the approval of the PNRR, and with a view to a further strengthening of the laboratory, that the Agency will receive substantial funding over the next three years. This should allow a further improvement of services and performances, and support the search for new substances introduced into the environment, on the basis of European indications and regional production activities and consumption processes. It also hopes for the Agency's workforce to be increased and reinforced;

POINTS OUT that, in the framework of the Initiative "*Flagship 9: Consolidating EU's Knowledge Centres for Zero Pollution*" included in the Annexes to the Communication of the European Commission COM(2021) 400 *final*, the ARPA FVG Laboratory has all the features to become a national centre of excellence; asks therefore that the competent structures of the FVG Region commit themselves to do everything they can in order to achieve this prestigious result;

ACKNOWLEDGES, with regard to the quality status of marine-coastal water bodies, that between 2009-2014 and 2015-2020 there has been a general deterioration in ecological status;

STRESSES, at the same time, that monitoring should be analysed in the broader context of measurement and classification systems, and not limited to pure absolute numerical data. In fact, the deterioration of the status of water bodies in the sea and in the lagoon depends on the evolution of European legislation, which has introduced much lower limits of mercury to be detected, compared to the past. Moreover, the classification must be made no longer on the basis of sediments but on the basis of the "biota" (the whole of animals and plants living in a particular type

of natural environment), with the additional burden that finding biota fish with certain characteristics and sizes is especially difficult in the lagoon environment, where they are rather rare. The reference legislation defining how to classify water bodies is the “*Directive establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy*” (Directive 2000/60/EC), transposed in Italy by Legislative Decree 152/2006; currently, the water management plan for the Eastern Alps district, which absorbs the regional water protection plan, contains the classification of water bodies carried out under the above-mentioned rules. In summary, the worsening figures on the status of water bodies in the sea and lagoon originates from the evolution of the reference legislation;

COMMITTS itself, together with the other competent bodies within the Regional Administration of FVG, to report this critical matter, by representing at EU level the need to revise the limits currently foreseen to define the status of lagoon waters; and by proposing, to this end, the adoption of a new and specific protocol, other than the marine one currently used, to assess the situation of lagoon waters taking into account their specific characteristics, which substantially differentiate them from the marine-coastal ones;

RECOMMENDS, then, with regard to the verification of pollutants, the importance of further promoting digitalisation, in particular by means of investments aimed at enabling the creation of unique database systems, in order to overcome the problems arising from the non-uniformity of the systems used at European and national level, and from the consequent difficult comparison of the data thus collected. This criticality affects also the action of the decision-makers. It is therefore necessary to set as a goal the uniformity of analytical performance, at least at European level;

UNDERLINES, finally, the commitment to an ever increasing synergy between the regional Health and Environment Services, as evidenced also by the adoption of Decision No. 27/2021, by which the FVG Region transposed the 2020-2025 National Prevention Plan (PNP), which pursues the objectives of reducing environmental impact and proposes a cross-sectoral and integrated strategy;

CONSIDERS of interest, in the framework of the Policy Objective “**Climate measures**” Package the Initiative *b) EU Framework for harmonised measurement of transport and logistics emissions (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Articles 91 and 100 (2) TFEU, Q4 2022)*, and highlights how the transport and logistics sector is called upon to contribute to the decarbonisation of the European economy, too;

CALLS, with regard to the measurement of CO₂ emissions, for the adoption at least at European level of a shared method of data collection and processing, enabling the precise assessment of the contribution of each economic sector to global emissions;

UNDERLINES, always in the context of the “Climate measures” Package, the importance that activities linked to the sea have in the European economy and, clearly, for that of Friuli Venezia Giulia, too; this, also considering the recent strategy designed by the European Commission (17-21 May 2021) for the policy of the sea for the current decade, aimed at making the transition envisaged by the European Green Deal a reality in the economy of the seas and oceans (the so-called “sustainable blue economy”);

CONSIDERS, in this regard, essential the actions and activities carried out in order to understand and mitigate ongoing changes to the marine ecosystem as a consequence of new climatic and anthropogenic pressures. The effects of new generation pollutants, such as pharmaceuticals and antibiotics, and the increase in submarine noise as a result of the growing maritime traffic, are added to already known problems that affect the natural resilience of coastal ecosystems. In the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, coastal ecosystems are home to important tourist and industrial activities;

HIGHLIGHTS, in relation to sustainable ways of fish and shellfish farming, the importance of this sector for our region. Sustainable shellfish farms are a noble form of farming, as widely demonstrated by the scientific research carried out;

ENSURES the adoption of sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and tourism management policies, together with policies for the conservation of marine biodiversity, as specified in the recent Regional Law No. 3 of 4th March 2022 ("*Rules governing fishing tourism, fish-tourism and activities related to professional fishing and aquaculture*");

RECALLS that the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, with the active contribution of research bodies and local universities and in collaboration with institutes of excellence based in FVG, such as the National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (OGS), is playing internationally a significant role for development cooperation and, in the context of the REBUILD project (direct follow-up to the previous PATH-DEV), specifically in relations with some of the most important municipalities in Libya for the training of young people and for supporting the certification process in the Mediterranean fisheries and aquaculture sectors;

STRESSES the importance of energy storage. In the necessary transition towards forms of renewable energy, we should not forget those that enable us to manage the transition itself: first of all, the "cleanest", the hydroelectric one; anyway, also the creation of reservoirs and deposits of methane gas and underground hydrogen should be put in the spotlight;

HIGHLIGHTS unfortunately that, in addition to the incentive of alternative energy sources, in this difficult historical situation originating from the conflict in Ukraine, the need to reactivate energy production now "outdated" such as coal in order to deal with the energy emergency, with the utmost attention to minimising environmental impact and sustainability;

EXPRESSES its interest, always with reference to the priority "A European Green Deal", for the issue related to the *Trans-European Transport Network*. The Trans-European Networks (TENs) in the sectors of transport infrastructure, energy and telecommunications (as stated in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Art. 170), aim to promote the interconnection of national infrastructure networks and their interoperability, taking into account in particular the need to link islands, landlocked- and peripheral regions to the central regions of the EU. In December 2021, the European Commission proposed an update of the current network;

EXPRESSES its satisfaction for the inclusion, as a result of the aforementioned update, of the Dry Port of Ferneti-Trieste between the nodes of the main net, the so-called *core network*;

COMMITTS itself to take action, together with all the other actors involved, for the recognition of the Port of Monfalcone as node of the *core* net, similarly to what already happened for the Port of Trieste. Membership of the core or global network is not a matter of mere prestige, but of economic opportunities and facilitation: the nodes on the *core* network will have access to much more funding for infrastructure enhancement under the CEF2 2021-2027 Program ("*Connecting Europe Facility*") than the ones included in the *comprehensive* network;

COMMITTS itself, in the same way, to support also the inclusion of Porto Nogaro, currently part of the *comprehensive* network as inland port on the waterway system of Northern Italy, in the *core* network. A greater flow of financing benefiting Porto Nogaro would in fact allow to value exponentially its favourable location, only 11 km from the Dry Port of Cervignano that is already part of the *core* network, and thus opening an additional range of opportunities for the improvement of inter-modality and logistics to those already deriving from the strategic position intersecting the Baltic-Adriatic Corridor, that develops in North-South direction, and the Mediterranean Corridor that develops from Barcelona to Kiev in the West-East direction;

CONSIDERS with deep concern, instead, the intention of the European Commission, expressed in the update of the network presented in December 2021, to create the new "Western Balkans" corridor that should unite Bavaria with the Balkan countries, up to Turkey. This terrestrial connection between Turkey and Central Europe, in its current design, completely bypasses the territory of Friuli Venezia Giulia: if realised, important flows of traffic on the "Motorways of the sea" that at the time

being made of Trieste their port of call would be lost, with negative consequences for the entire logistics chain and for the whole regional economy;

EXPRESSES the interest of the FVG Region in the initiatives of the 2022 ECWP included in Objective No. 3, **Circular economy**, with particular reference to the *Initiative on the right to repair*;

ENDORSES the Commission's initiative to strengthen the "right to repair", the right of consumers to repair products instead of just replacing them, with special reference to electronic tools, and the definitions of the concepts of circularity and sustainability of products there introduced: durability (*lifespan*), reusability, upgradability, reparability. Welcomes, in particular, Regulation (EU) 2021/341 especially where it states that manufacturers of devices such as televisions, refrigerators, washing machines and dishwashers must comply with certain design and implementation criteria so that they are easy to repair even outside the official circuits;

CONSIDERS that the draft constitution, with Slovenia and Croatia, of the "North Adriatic cross-border Hydrogen Valley", the first cross-border hydrogen cluster whose letter of intent has been signed in recent days, is of extreme importance for the economic and productive fabric of FVG. The project, which is expected to contribute decisively to the transition to clean energy, aims to cover all segments of the hydrogen supply chain, from production, storage, transport and distribution to the benefit of different categories of users and more sectors;

NOTES that hydrogen can be produced and used not only for the handling of maritime and rail vehicles to it connected, but also for the conducting of transformative or industrial activities; considering the specificity of the FVG as a marine territory in which the port facilities have a decisive role, the same could therefore potentially become attractive for private industrial investments to develop in the harbour areas, with relapse of positive effects in occupational terms for our region conservatively estimated in hundreds of jobs;

WELCOMES with interest the proposal from the representatives of the production categories on the hypothesis of creating a chain of solar and photovoltaic technology production and electrochemical (bacterial) accumulations on the regional territory, with the aim of at least partly demarcating itself from dependence on other countries in relation to goods of such broad strategic importance;

EXPRESSES also interest in the prediction of the closure of the cycle of this hypothetical supply chain through the design and installation on the territory of WEEE (Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment) waste recovery plants, including end-of-life photovoltaic panels; and expresses interest for the extraction of precious metals that will soon become the critical point of the supply chain of alternative energies and technological innovation;

CALLS, in the field of circular economy, for the adoption of measures that allow the development of settlements that can be qualified as Ecologically Equipped Production Areas, which, with the integrated management of centralised services, can aim to meet the sustainability objectives of local development, while increasing the competitive capacity of established companies also in terms of product innovation;

REITERATES, with a view to energy self-sufficiency, the issue of the regeneration, for energy purposes, of abandoned buildings and buildings within urban contexts, industrial areas, former military zones, and the importance of the support to the Energy Communities;

WELCOMES, in this regard, the numerous initiatives to support the Energy Communities themselves under the European Commission's "Horizon 2020" funding programme; and supports the establishment of renewable Energy Communities, as non-profit entities, set up to overcome the use of oil and its derivatives, and to facilitate the production and exchange of energy generated mainly from renewable sources, as well as forms of efficiency and reduction in energy consumption;

RECOMMENDS to increasingly promote the development of "critical environmental awareness"

aimed at the proper management and disposal of municipal waste. Since this is a cross-cutting issue that embraces the priorities of “A European Green Deal”, of “An Economy that works for the people” and of “Promoting our European way of life”, it calls for the creation and implementation of environmental education campaigns and ecological awareness campaigns for schools, families, adults and local communities on the ground, where possible also through the commitment of Community resources to this end;

CONSIDERS of interest for the FVG Region Objective No. 5 **Biodiversity and “Farm to Fork”**, that the European Commission declined in its main goals aiming at: reducing food waste; ensuring the sustainability of food production by reducing the use of chemical pesticides by 50% within 2030; reducing sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and aquaculture by 50% within 2030; allocate 25% of the agricultural area to organic crops by the same date;

SHARES, in particular, the goal of making healthy food derived from an agriculture that is ideally free of herbicides and pesticides available to consumers, at appropriate prices, and to ensure that production is quantitatively sufficient and adequate to achieve this objective;

IDENTIFIES to this end, and with regard to the protection of human health as well, as actions to be promoted in principle and to be implemented concretely: an increase of areas to be used for organic crops, and a decrease in the percentages of use of plant protection product;

STRESSES that at this time of great instability, due to the current international situation, the overall scenario has suddenly changed. The ongoing war in Ukraine has caused an exponential increase in the cost of raw materials, which risks forcing many farmers to exit, temporarily or definitively, from the market due to the economic unsustainability of production costs;

POINTS OUT, moreover, that the multiple consequences of this change of scenario risk making it even more difficult to achieve the already delicate objective of balancing the following factors: the need to reduce the use of agro-pharmaceuticals; the increase land for organic crops; a production quantitatively sufficient and of good quality; and affordable prices for the final consumer;

CONSIDERS that the approach to prefer and encourage is to allow the consumer to choose the foods to be purchased on the basis of an overall assessment of the characteristics that define the quality of the product;

SHARES the criticism of the proposed European nutrition labelling system called “Nutriscore” for food classification. The system, although based on theoretically easy-to-read criteria for consumers, in fact leads to excessive simplification which could create approximations that undermine the realistic assessment of the products; there is even the paradox of high quality and valuable foods, such as, for example, extra virgin olive oil, that risk being classified as unhealthy. “Nutriscore”, moreover, puts on the same level, in terms of classification, foods of a very different nature, penalising in particular the excellence of agro-food products and the production chains linked to protected denominations of origin, of which FVG is particularly rich;

NOTES that, in order to allow the consumer to make a rational choice, a labelling system which does not assess individual foods *per se* is preferable. It would be better to adopt a labelling system assessing the various foods’ influence within the individual ration and in the variability of each person’s own diet. It is also essential, in order to protect both consumers and producers themselves, to ensure transparency not only on the labelling of products, but also on the origin and traceability of the raw materials used in the process;

WISHES, all that taken into due account, that the FVG Region will take an active part in Europe to propose a simplification of the production chain, in order to promote best practices aimed at reducing costs for the final consumer;

CONSIDERS it necessary, in order to guarantee access to quality food at reasonable prices, to take

action on the field of processing and distribution, in order to find an agreement between all the actors involved in the supply chain and rebalance their margins, so that producers are given a fair remuneration that will enable them to remain on the market;

SHARES the importance of implementing awareness-raising, training and information campaigns aimed at disseminating the culture of conscious consumption and reduction of food waste, as well as food recovery and donation for social solidarity; highlights also the importance of promoting educational pathways aimed at education for healthy eating and environmentally sustainable food production;

UNDERLINES that, considering both the climatic and production specificities of Friuli Venezia Giulia and the complexity of the process of converting traditional to organic production, priority must be given to finding the right balance between meeting national and European parameters relating to organic crops on the one hand, and ensuring the overall sustainability of the system on the other. It is a matter of defining a strategy that looks at the general framework, inspired by a principle of flexibility that allows the management of specific alert situations (for instance: while respecting the already established and periodically monitored limits to the use of plant protection products and fertilisers, consider their utilization if their usefulness cannot be excluded, i.e. in the case of plant diseases that cannot be successfully treated with alternative methods yet);

ACKNOWLEDGES, however, that the issue of the “Farm to Fork” Strategy identified by the Commission is extremely broad, so any assessment that takes into account only the views of producers or, alternatively, that of consumers is likely to be partial and misleading;

HOPES therefore that action will be taken to promote and stimulate a certain production ductility that will enable companies to quickly convert their production, in order to be able to timely detect the change of consumers’ needs. It furthermore stresses that the approach to this issue cannot be purely economic only, but must take into account social dynamics, primarily the employment levels of workers in the sector;

WELCOMES the Commission’s initiative presented in the Communication COM(2021) 689 *final*, aimed at the adoption of a “Contingency Plan to Ensure Food Supply and Food Security in times of crisis”, which foresees the creation of a European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism (EFSCM). Stresses, in this regard, that the consequences of the pandemic first, and the situation of conflict in Ukraine in recent days, require consideration to be given to the importance of careful planning and programming, including at European level, to ensure the supply of food even in difficult or emergency times;

HIGHLIGHTS the importance, for a region with a deep agricultural vocation such as FVG, of the adoption of the “Rural Pact”, launched by the European Commission on 20th December 2021 as part of its Long Term Vision for the Rural Areas. The Pact must be an opportunity to reiterate the concept that rural areas are a resource, and not a problem; to overturn the dichotomy “centre-periphery” with which we normally approach the topic; and to bring marginal territories back to the centre of discussion and political planning, in response to a demand for political recognition that has persisted for decades;

REITERATES the importance of the “Rural Pact” also having in mind the consequences of the problems triggered by the Ukrainian conflict. It is important to develop a logic of increasing the production capacity, focusing on the producers and supporting them with incentives and training for a sustainable, organic agriculture defined by short supply chains;

CALLS for regional and local authorities, by their very nature the bodies closer to citizens, to play the role of key actors in order to implement the Pact in practice. Agriculture, digital connectivity, mobility and renewable energy are the strategic areas that must support the development of rural areas, because they have the inherent potential to counteract the depopulation of these areas, facilitate

generational renewal and generate new economic and social opportunities. Youth and women, in particular, must be put at the centre of the process;

EXPRESSES interest to monitor the results that will be presented during the Rural Pact High-Level Conference, which will be held in Brussels the next June, and will be the occasion to opportunity to take stock of commitments taken and ideas put forward and to define the next steps of the process;

CONSIDERS it necessary to monitor the initiative *Sustainable use of pesticides – revision of the EU rules*. In particular, it is of paramount importance to carry on working for the protection of pollinating insects and for strengthening cooperation between farmers and beekeepers, and for the adoption of agro-environmental measures able to support the presence of spontaneous vegetation in agro-ecosystems as well. If appropriate techniques to favour healthy and resilient bee colonies in order to obtain healthy and quality products are implemented, at the same time agriculture would be given the necessary support in relation to pollination of crops;

REITERATES the need to promote educational and awareness-raising initiatives aimed at understanding the close link between bees, the environment, agriculture and man, in order to stimulate the acquisition of a mind-set open to understanding the deep connections between all environmental components. It also commits to promote food education initiatives aimed at fostering the knowledge of the production methods and of the nutritional features of products derived from beekeeping; and to raise public awareness of the environmental and social impacts of the consumers' consumption choices, also in order to highlight the importance of buying locally made products;

HIGHLIGHTS the importance of the European Biodiversity Strategy 2030 for strengthening the role of protected areas; for activities and good practices on environmental education; for quality agro-food production and supply chains; for new youth entrepreneurship and participatory processes: all of them, topics that are among the foundations of the longed-for rebalancing between nature conservation and human activities;

EXPRESSES interest in the very recent Communication COM(2022) 133 *final* of 23th March 2022, "*Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food systems*", in which the European Commission analyses the rise in food prices and the disruptions along the supply chain, partly due to the war in Ukraine. In its Communication, the EC recalls the need for a "fundamental reorientation of EU agriculture and EU food systems towards sustainability", and it also calls for addressing the deficiencies revealed by the developing crisis "in ways that enhance the transition towards sustainable, resilient and fair food systems in the EU and globally".

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

EXPRESSES interest for the Objective No. 10 **Digital in education and skills**, declined in the Initiatives *a) Recommendation on improving the provision of digital skills in education and training* and *b) Recommendation on the enabling factors for digital education*;

NOTES that there is a substantial alignment between the priorities set out in the European Commission Work Programme, and the regional and national programming on education and research, in particular with the trajectories defined in the PNRR. The issue of digitalisation in education is transversal in FVG's regional labour and education policies, being linked both to the structural funds programming (especially the European Social Fund) and to specific projects such as innovative networks on the IP4FVG Digital Innovation Hub (ARGO system);

STRESSES the need to enhance digital skills not only for young people, but also in adults of working age, by developing both lifelong learning and vocational guidance. This necessity is shared across the entrepreneurial fabric and the regional education and training system;

CONSIDERS that the increasing gap between the growing demand for labour by companies on one hand, and the lack of availability on the market of people with at least a minimum of competence on the other, proves that training courses must be designed and implemented more and more in line with the real employment needs expressed by bodies and companies;

RECOGNISES, therefore, the fundamental importance of the dual training system (to which the PNRR allocates more than EUR 600 million on a national scale), developed in a certified safety context, which trains young people both in their strictly operational skills and in the awareness of their rights as future workers. It also recognises the need to enhance the experience of post-diploma training offered by the Technical Institutes of Higher Education (ITS), in the belief that this is the right formula to be supported and further promoted;

STRESSES that vocational training, especially if increasingly geared towards the development of digital skills, can also be a key driver of combating the worrying phenomenon of early school leaving;

WELCOMES the fact that many measures included in the European Social Fund Plus 2021/2027 (ESF+) - PPO 2021/2027 – and in the *“Piano di Azione Zonale per l’Apprendimento PiAZZA”* 2022/2024 - *Programma Nazionale per la Ripresa e la Resilienza* (PNRR) Measure 5, Component 1, Investment 1.1 financed by NextGenerationEU – *“Programma Garanzia Occupabilità dei Lavoratori”* GOL 2022/2025 envisage, with regard to the FVG Region, specific tools and training courses for young people and adults. Among these activities, fight against functional illiteracy and the development of soft and digital skills are listed;

UNDERLINES that the possibilities offered by digital technology and the experience of the last two years of the pandemic, which has also seen an exponential increase in the various forms of ‘agile’ work in the territory of the PVG, can together be an opportunity for development. In particular, it calls for studies and research to be carried out to assess whether, as a result of appropriate infrastructure investments, certain areas subject to depopulation and abandonment by young people, such as mountain or internal ones, can instead be transformed into attractive digital poles at international level for smart workers;

HIGHLIGHTS the importance of closing the gender gap on the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education paths. It furthermore calls on Universities and Higher Education Institutes to create and implement, also through pilot projects, highly specialised training courses that would enable certain professionals, i.e. of the craft sector, to obtain certifications and credits which are currently difficult to get;

CONSIDERS it important, in order to free Europe from an excessive dependence on software multinationals, of promoting education and the dissemination of measures aimed at using Open Source Software. This, besides being able to be developed, maintained, inspected and certified safely, could also contribute to the creation of new job opportunities in the territory;

IDENTIFIES collaboration between all territorial actors, public and private, as a development line to be pursued in the context of activities related to European integration. In this sense, it calls for a fundamental driving-force role to be played by the Region;

RECALLS, in the field of education linked to European integration, the need to act in such a way as to harmonise as much as possible the way students access the various European Universities, as there are still too many differences between Member States to date. It also considers it important to promote an automatism that allows an easier and immediate mutual recognition of qualifications, especially of those allowing the exercise of the liberal professions, within the 27 EU countries;

ENDORSES all the digital initiatives aimed at preserving the legacy and cultural identity of the various souls of Friuli Venezia Giulia region, for example pointing out the vast programme of digitisation of photographic sources, audio-visuals and press publications developed since 2006 by

the Friulian Philological Society. This work, which includes more than 250 thousand digitised pages, is not only an offer of highly valuable content for education and professional growth, for study and research; it represents also an opportunity for lifelong learning, an important resource for active ageing, an extraordinary occasion to provide “smart” content for tourism, and a job opportunity for specialists and young people in the region, too.

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

CONSIDERS relevant the Objective No. 14, **Small and medium sized enterprises**, which specifically includes the Initiative *Facilitating small and medium sized enterprises’ access to capital*;

SHARES the strong concerns of the business community, and in particular SMEs, about the EU “taxonomy” introduced by the European Commission, an initiative aimed at channelling investments towards sustainable activities and, this way, at supporting the goal of a zero-emission economy by 2030. SMEs, in particular very small and micro enterprises, which form an important part of the regional productive fabric, especially in the craft sector, suffer from structural undercapitalisation and, because of their size and capital ratios which are generally less performing than large firms, are often penalised in access to credit. The entry into force of excessively rigid benchmarks is likely to result in a credit squeeze for SMEs, or to an access to capital at higher rates for them;

NOTES the need, for the process of defining the instruments to be identified at European level, to take account of the specificities and characteristics of SMEs and to provide them with at least one step-by-step implementation line giving them more time to adapt to the new rules. It also considers it important to identify ad hoc measures for cooperative enterprises;

CALLS for the EU to give concrete support to businesses, especially SMEs, in their processes of environmental management and improvement. It can be done if the EU becomes actively involved in a policy of promotion of these processes, to be implemented through funding, contributions and facilities for companies that voluntarily join them. Virtuous examples, thanks to these incentives, can also act as a stimulus for other actors who decide to follow the same path of “environmental labelling”;

EXPRESSES special appreciation for the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), a tool to promote continuous improvement of environmental performance, and for the quality label *EU Ecolabel*, that distinguishes products and services which, while guaranteeing high performance standards, are characterised by a reduced environmental impact throughout the whole life cycle;

SUGGESTS that reward mechanisms, consisting of economic and financial benefits or exemptions from a series of taxes, obligations and charges should be provided for and implemented in favour of companies in possession of Safety and Health Management System certifications;

CONSIDERS it necessary, also with a view to implementing the PNRR, to provide for specific resources, instruments and projects aimed at the relaunching and transforming the retail sector. This, with the objective of leading to an evolution of the system capable of producing positive, direct and indirect impacts on the economic system of the territories in which the retail companies operate, in terms of both the profitability of businesses, and of protection and growth of employment levels;

CALLS on the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, in view of the fact that some of the first calls issued in the PNRR for research and development focus mainly on the needs of large universities and large research bodies, to promote actions aimed at a recalibration of the characteristics of the calls for tenders, in order to meet the real territorial needs. FVG is in fact equipped with structures of absolute excellence at international level, but they are usually small and medium-sized: the regional research and innovation system therefore risks being penalised. Since the objective of the PNRR is

homogeneous growth and the reduction of gaps, it is necessary to rethink its actions in order to create redistribution effects in favour of smaller research and innovation realities;

BELIEVES that the development of inner areas should be strongly stimulated: *Smart Villages*, potentially an already strong driving force for the territory, must be accompanied by interventions that can impact on residentiality and demographic policies, with specific attention to the issues of housing and innovative living, in order to increase the attractiveness of these areas and facilitate the inflow of both skilled and unskilled labourers;

RECALLS, in the framework of the priority “An economy that works for the people”, the historical experience of cross-border work shared by the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and its bordering (Austria and Slovenia) and neighbouring (Croatia) countries. The situation is all too often affected by obstacles to mobility for workers themselves, who are penalised by non-harmonised national and regional legislation (with particular reference to social security and direct taxation) which does not take in due account their peculiarities;

EXPRESSES interest, also to fight the phenomenon of irregular and undeclared cross-border work (unfortunately not yet completely eradicated), in considering the possibility of establishing new instruments, one of which could be a permanent mechanism for consultation between the competent authorities of Italy, Austria, Slovenia and Croatia, in order to examine the various problems now acting as obstacles to the mobility of cross-border workers;

PROPOSES to also consider the possibility of promoting the creation of an own body, dedicated to the analysis of the dynamics of cross-border work. As a best practice that could be followed, it takes as an example the Special commission for the relationship between Lombardy Region, European institutions, the Swiss Confederation and the Legislative Assembly of Lombardy: this commission carries out this task, with regard to cross-border workers employed in the Swiss Confederation and residing in Lombardy.

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

SUPPORTS, given the geographical location of our region, the need to closely monitor the developments related to EU's enlargement to the Western Balkans, and to the evolution of the internal political situation of the countries of the area. The path of some of these states, in progressive but not always linear evolution, could suffer from moments of arrest due to influences that could modify their geopolitical balance, especially in the light of the dramatic evolution of these weeks;

CONSIDERS however, as very important the EU action aimed at prioritising the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood, and recalls the active involvement of the FVG Region in relation to development cooperation projects, with particular reference to the aforementioned REBUILD project, of which it is a co-contractor and which has, as the target of the initiative, the Libyan municipalities of Sirte, Zliten, Benghazi, Tripoli, Tobruk. The main objectives of the project are the traceability and certification of fish according to the current EU legislation, to allow access of Libyan sea products to European markets; strengthening local training institutions and training processes to enable young Libyan fishermen to acquire the appropriate skills needed to improve their ability to contribute to local development; carrying out a pilot test to verify the compliance of infrastructure with EU legislation in order to export Libyan fish to EU countries.

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

CONSIDERS that Objective No. 28, **Education Package**, should be closely followed, with specific reference to initiatives a) *European strategy for Universities* and b) *Building bridges for effective*

European higher education cooperation;

STRESSES that universities and higher education institutions in our region play a key role, because they contribute on a daily basis to strengthen the Union's innovation capacity by developing students' skills and competences, and also because they encourage them to become active citizens, protagonists of cooperation and positive change for our local communities, territories and Europe as a whole;

HIGHLIGHTS, moreover, how the opportunity offered by 2022 - European Year of Youth can be a stimulus to further consolidate projects and new methods of cooperation, in order to create a "European space" dedicated to higher education, recalling in particular the partnership for excellence EUN - European Universities Network, initiative of the Erasmus+ programme aimed at creating the European Higher Education Area as a form of strategic cooperation between universities, student organisations, government authorities and the Commission;

WELCOMES both the participation of the University of Trieste in the Transform4Europe consortium and the recent accession, by the University of Udine, to the consortium European Cross-Border University – ACROSS, which includes ten universities located in four border regions covering the entire European Union, under German coordination. Among these ten universities, the cross-border partner of the Friulian one will be the University of Nova Gorica, with which collaborations are already in place in the field of teaching and research, thus placing itself in a perspective of developing cross-border academic and scientific relations even more important ahead of 2025, when Gorizia and Nova Gorica will share the joint status of European capitals of culture;

REMEMBERS, finally, the initiative of transalpine collaboration promoted by the Region and aimed at involving the Universities of Udine and Trieste in the action 'Alpine Region's Universities for a Green Transition' of the macro-regional strategy EUSALP;

STATES, always with regard to the priority "Promoting our European way of Life", that the task of the regional legislator, when it comes to cultural policies, must first of all be to encourage, support and promote the activity of structures already existing and active for decades. The goal is not to avoid the adoption of non-usual lifestyles, characterised by the cliché imitation of other contexts' typical ones; it is in fact to avert the loss of our community's values and collective memory, as well as to prevent the flight abroad of young people attracted by better living and working conditions. It is precisely the duty of decision-makers and of all those involved in cultural activities to preserve our heritage in the best way: enhancing our identity is the first, significant step towards the construction of a united Europe of peoples, based on solidarity, to which we aspire and that we can truly accomplish only through the deep link with the local communities we belong to;

NOTES that the PNRR dedicates ample attention to the issue of welfare and, in particular, of *active ageing*, introducing several measures, closely linked to each other, both to strengthen territorial social services aimed at maintaining, as far as possible, an autonomous dimension (Mission 5) and by strengthening health care, mainly rooted in the national territory (Mission 6);

CONSIDERS however that, on the basis of demographic projections and changes in the lifestyle of older people, who are increasingly active, healthy and open to technology, and whose life expectancy is growing, the issue of ageing should be addressed as an opportunity which sees the so-called 'Silver Economy' as one of the potential factors for reviving the economy, increasing competitiveness and innovation. Especially urgent is the need to fight the growing phenomenon of isolation and loneliness, and more generally to protect the mental and psychological well-being of citizens: this problem is not only related to elderly people;

STRESSES that, a fortiori in an area such as FVG with a particularly high population ageing rate, a strategy of policies development is needed not only to counteract, but to guide and convey the global context of demographic change through specific measures such as: promoting home care instead of

residentiality, by designing more “elderly-friendly” and/or innovative housing arrangements, with the aim of maintaining as much as possible senior people in their homes by strengthening support-, social- and health services; developing telemedicine and an IT system capable of releasing clinical data in real time; developing intergenerational initiatives at residential level; training; and fighting loneliness, isolation, and sedentary lifestyle;

POINTS OUT that a profound change in the medical-health paradigm is desirable, in order to consider chronic health-, prevention-, monitoring- and continuity of care issues, of equal priority just like medical performance issues;

SHARES therefore the philosophy of the forecasts of Measure 5 of the PNRR, one of whose most important lines of activity (approximately EUR 300 million) aims to finance the conversion of Healthcare Residences (RSA) and retirement homes for the elderly into groups of autonomous apartments, equipped with necessary stuff, devices and services currently present in the institutionalised context, in order to ensure maximum autonomy and independence of the person;

UNDERLINES the importance, at this historic moment, to pay the utmost attention to the management of migratory flows exacerbated by the escalation of the Ukrainian conflict, and in particular that of unaccompanied foreign minors. Reiterates the need for the overall management of the migration phenomenon that must be tackled together by the EU with a sustainable overall strategic European vision, and not left to the individual countries and territories on which it has a concrete impact.

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

NOTES, with regard to the priority “A new push for European democracy”, that the dynamics of involvement of the Regions in the governance of the PNRR, and in particular in terms of the relations between centre and periphery, have been characterised by a substantial compression of regional autonomy which, in the face of a marked centrality of the state, ends up pushing territorial and local institutions towards the side-lines. With a specific risk, therefore, of weakening the role of the Regional Legislative Assemblies, which tend to be left out of the management of the recovery phase;

CONSIDERS as appropriate to identify methods and mechanisms to enhance the role of Regional Legislative Assemblies in the implementation phase of the PNRR, especially given the broad areas of regulatory power of the Regions in most of the areas of action set out in the Plan;

INTENDS, at this stage, to strengthen the degree of coordination between the FVG Regional Legislative Assembly and the other regional ones, especially with reference to interregional projects. To this end, priority should be given to the institutional seat of the Italian Conference of the Presidents of the Legislative Assemblies of the Regions and of the Autonomous Provinces;

PROPOSES, so as to recognise the role of the legislative assemblies, an effective cooperation between these legislative bodies in order to follow a strategy based on the circulation and sharing of good practices and on the combined action of steering instruments such as the European Sessions on the one hand; and a regular information flow from the Regional Governments to the Assemblies on the other, in order to label the Regions as a driving force for the implementation of European policies;

STATES that only through the effective involvement of regional authorities, and in particular of the Regional Legislative Assembly, with regard to the Next Generation EU and the PNRR, will an effective local “grounding” of the 2022 ECWP be possible, drawing on the substantial resources provided by these two financial instruments;

INTENDS to support citizens’ participatory processes so that the collective growth of awareness leads to an active citizenship, able to take responsibility for common goods, to foster forms of

dialogue and therefore, as a last resort, to create positive synergies between initiatives promoted by citizens and public administration policies, in order to converge on effective collaborative practices;

NOTES with interest that specific approaches have been introduced in several European countries to promote citizens' participation in public choices, in the areas of budgeting (e.g. participatory budgets) or territorial or environmental transformation, in particular major infrastructure projects. These approaches specify, from time to time, how participants should be identified, on which topics, with what powers, through which paths and with which outcomes;

UNDERLINES however that the promotion of the various forms of participation of citizens and their right of initiative strengthens and complements the role of elected politicians, especially those elected at regional and local level. Being the closest to the territory, of which they are an immediate expression, it is their task to effectively convey the demands and needs of the communities they represent from the local level to the highest one in Brussels, thus giving concrete expression to the principle of subsidiarity so solemnly laid down in the Treaties;

STATES, moreover, that the assessment of the effects of public policies on ecosystem services and on intergenerational equity is an unavoidable activity for any public decision-maker. The sustainability assessment of public policies, based on shared indicators and concrete, comprehensible and transparent scientific data, would allow us to build the debate on objective evidence, also in accordance with the principles of "Better regulation" postulated by the European Commission in order to produce quality and future-proof regulation ("Fit for Future");

CONSIDERS, finally, that the task of politics at all levels, from European to regional and local, is to build the conditions for the creation of shared choices based on the pillars of transparency, awareness and accountability.

ON THE REFIT INITIATIVES

CONSIDERS of interest for the FVG Region the Initiative No. 21, *Revision of the pharmaceutical legislation*;

SHARES the importance of the initiative, which is considered relevant and central, in particular in the light of the lessons that the two years of the pandemic so far have given to EU citizens and national and regional health systems, and the impact of COVID-19 on local communities;

HIGHLIGHTS that Europe has not carried out a comprehensive review of general pharmaceutical legislation for almost twenty years;

RECALLS that all EU citizens should be guaranteed equal access to safe, modern and affordable treatments: in this respect, medicines play a key role in therapeutic options for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases;

RECALLS also that the European pharmaceutical sector contributes significantly to the EU economy in terms of creating highly skilled jobs and in terms of investing in innovation. Moreover, digitalisation and innovation in the use of statistical data collected on the ground offer new opportunities for the development and use of medicines themselves;

SHARES the concern that the European population is ageing and the EU is thus facing an increasing burden on emerging diseases and health threats, such as Covid-19;

POINTS OUT that a further factor to be taken into account is the growing trend that the EU is gradually becoming more dependent on third countries with regard to the import of medicines and their active ingredients. Issues such as antimicrobial resistance and environmental sustainability of

medicinal products are also of great concern;

WELCOMES the fact that during the pandemic the European Union has, in order to provide timely responses to emerging health needs, launched a pathway aimed at accelerating and making homogenous the evaluation, the placing on the market, the transposition by Member States and the supply of new therapeutic options for the treatment of Covid-19, such as new monoclonal and antiviral antibodies;

WELCOMES the fact that, in the face of an emergency situation, it is still the European Commission which manages the negotiation procedures, the purchase and supply of the above mentioned medicines on behalf of all the Member States;

RECOMMENDS in this regard, in view of the benefits gained in this process, that the coordination and harmonisation of regulatory frameworks (with particular reference to patent deadlines) should be extended to cover a wider range of medicines, beyond the pandemic emergency, and the provision of instruments to facilitate a general price alignment;

WISHES that the lessons learnt from the difficulties in the use of medicines (which occurred especially at the beginning of the pandemic due to the need to find a balance between the need for speed in procedures, testing and use of new products), as well as the issues of incentives for innovation and the quality of medicines, will be a boost for the EU to cooperate more in the pharmaceutical field, both between institutions and Member States and at international level. greater protection of the quality of the health of citizens requires not only the availability of medicines, but also an appropriate organisation that ensures their security of supply, the timeliness of distribution and reasonable prices;

NOTES that in the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe the Commission intends to respond to still unmet medical needs, with particular reference to rare diseases;

HIGHLIGHTS that rare diseases are to be considered a real public health problem, due to the fact there is still a lack of knowledge about them, which can lead to a delay in diagnosis, and consequently to compromise the quality of life also due to treatments that do not comply with the patient's real needs;

WELCOMES therefore the commitment of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region in the treatment of rare diseases and the excellent role achieved by its professionals and structures, at national and European level;

UNDERLINES how, in the context of the 24 European Reference Networks for Rare Diseases (ERN), three are Italian and one of them, the Network of rare metabolic hereditary diseases, specifically refers to the Regional Coordination Centre for Rare Diseases of the Region FVG, located at the integrated Health and University Authority of Central Friuli (*Azienda Sanitaria Universitaria del Friuli Centrale - ASUFC*).

ON THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE AND 2022 EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH

WELCOMES the European Commission's decision to define 2022 as the 'European Year of Youth', recognising the fundamental importance of young people's participation in building Europe of the future, the great opportunities offered to them by the green and digital transitions and the importance that they, especially those with fewer opportunities and from disadvantaged backgrounds, are also supported through youth work to acquire relevant knowledge and skills and thus become active and committed citizens, inspired by a sense of belonging to Europe;

SHARES the underlying objectives of the European Year of Youth, with specific reference to the

integration of policies in their favour in all relevant areas of the Union, in line with the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, in order to foster the informed participation of young people at all levels of the decision-making process;

RECALLS, in this regard, the *local dialogue* on the Conference on the Future of Europe held last September in Trieste, in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, in the presence of the President of the European Committee of the Regions, Apostolos Tzitzikostas. During the event, more than 40 young local administrators of FVG presented their views on the construction and consolidation of the 'House of European Democracy';

RECOMMENDS the widest possible involvement of young politicians and young local administrators: closer links with regional and local authorities and, through them, with the European Committee of the Regions could help bridge the gap between the EU and its citizens and shape the European institutions of the future;

RECOMMENDS, furthermore, the establishment of stable networks of dialogue and comparison, including at cross-border level, between young administrators, in order to exchange and share best practices on European policies that directly affect local territories and communities. These networks, to be opened up also to those involved in associations, in cultural circles and in the various expressions of civil society, can and must become a direct interlocutor of regional and local authorities and support them in the development of "future-proof" laws and policies;

BELIEVES, however, that obtaining adequate political training is of paramount importance for young people who take on the experience of local administrators: it is necessary to value, by giving them the appropriate tools, young people who demonstrate skills, political passion and social commitment, talent and perspective vision;

WELCOMES therefore the numerous initiatives put in place for this purpose by associations and bodies operating in the region. In particular, it points out among these activities the support provided by AICCRE FVG to the initiatives of the European Youth Parliament, which since 1987 has been an active network with the aim of involving young European citizens in the institutional life of modern society, encouraging debate and intercultural dialogue. This year the EYP will meet from 19 April to 23 April precisely in our region, in Pordenone.

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 SECRETARY-GENERAL
Franco Zubin