



Conference of the Regional Legislative Assemblies of the European Union

RESOLUTION ON THE PRIORITIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S

2016 WORKING PROGRAM

The **Conference of the European Regional Legislative Assemblies** welcomes the document on the European Commission's **2016 Working program**, in which its priorities are expressed in detail, by which the European Commission's legislative and non-legislative activities will be guided for this year.

The document also contains a reference to some initiatives under the REFIT program (European Commission's Regulatory Fitness and Performance program), that aim to simplify the EU legislation and to reduce regulatory costs without compromising the strategic objectives. The ultimate goal is to contribute to the implementation of a clear and stable regulatory framework, which will also promote growth and employment.

In this perspective, it highlights some legislative proposals which, for various reasons, will be repealed. Others, however, will be implemented during 2016.

THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES,

after a thorough examination of the document on the European Commission's 2016 Working Program and of the current and future policy priorities of major impact on the regional territorial system

- considers it important that the Commission will continue to express its commitment to ensure the respect for the **subsidiarity principle**, implementing an **integrated** and multilevel policy **approach**, and it calls for a greater involvement of local and regional authorities in the European decision-making process. It is needed, in fact, that the regional level develops a greater capacity for programming and implementing in its areas of competence, with the aim of building a true **European governance**, result of a real synergy between local, national and European level;

- affirms the need to work better and synergically, at all levels, in order **to promote the implementation of cohesion policies**, by promoting the **simplification** of the body of rules and

of the burden of bureaucracy, that slow down the transposition process of the European legislation in individual Member States.

1. calls on the Commission to pay particular attention to the implementation of the **ESI Funds**, involving both the Committee of the Regions and the same CALRE. That review should be made on the basis of the new economic situation and of the assessment of the achievement of the European objectives, taking into account the levels of performance of the main EU programs and the results obtained from financial instruments. The **principle of flexibility** should be a guiding principle in order to make the EU budget more sensitive to unexpected events, thus increasing the capacity of the EU intervention in this regard;

- urges the Commission to take into account the obvious gap between not only the different European regions in general, but also the different Outermost regions in particular, according to article 349^o of the TFEU, thus working for a proper allocation of available resources to support growth, even in the face of the **mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020**, which should be completed by the end of 2016;

- points out, simultaneously, the need to enhance the **relationship between urban and rural poles**, to be considered as genuine centers for development and regional innovation, which contribute substantially to the implementation of Europe 2020 strategy and of the **European Urban Agenda**, keeping in line with the objective of the territorial cohesion enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty;

- congratulates the Commission on having included among its priorities the establishment of **partnerships for the integration of migrants and refugees**, and underlines the need to strengthen the cooperation and the exchange between local and regional authorities also at international level;

2. calls on the Commission to provide guarantees so that the revised **Europe 2020 strategy** will give a sufficient prominence to the **territorial dimension**, ensuring the effectiveness of the coordination in all relevant areas of the EU policies;

- agrees with the request of the Committee of the Regions, that local and regional authorities are given the right role in the implementation of the **Small Business Act**, in order to better exploit the growth and innovation potential of small and medium-sized enterprises, encouraging the growth and the sustainable competitiveness of the EU;

- highlights the importance of the exchange of good practice on fostering **competences and qualifications in the Member States** and promoting the acquisition of competences functional to the real needs of the market, in particular by encouraging the learning and the professional training of young people, usually most affected by **unemployment**, in a constant effort to fight against early school leaving, one of Europe 2020 objectives;

- recommends the implementation of initiatives aimed at improving the effectiveness of **employment services**, so that they can carry out a coordinated and functional action in order to reduce structural and long-term unemployment, by providing active and inclusive support in a way which can get the unemployed back into the labor market and by promoting the synergistic dialogue with the business community;

- affirms the need to foster the development of an economic model based on **collaborative consumption**, able to exploit the benefits resulting from the exchange and sharing of goods, services and knowledge, as a determining factor in reducing, where possible, the negative impacts of consumption on environment;

- calls on the Commission to encourage the implementation of legislative proposals for the so called **circular economy**, on waste and recycling, highlighting the positive externalities of such practices in terms of growth, sustainable development and employment;

- appreciates the "**Union Energy**" Package, which includes important objectives on energy efficiency and energy efficiency in the building sector, in support of renewable energy production, highlighting the role of local and regional institutions in this important process;

- welcomes the initiatives linked to the Communication of the Commission, concerning **the amendment or repeal of the legislation that do not comply** with the current needs of European Union Countries, in the framework of implementing the so-called *better regulation* principle, that includes regulatory simplification, reduction of administrative burdens for businesses and territorial impact analysis. In this regard, the CALRE supports the work of the Committee of the Regions in matters of **territorial impact assessment** of European policies, considering the interest shown by the Commission on the results achieved at local and regional level as unsatisfactory;

- underlines the role played by regional and local authorities in the management of the **migratory crisis**, renewing its call for a strengthened cooperation between the latter and the Commission, in the framework of the **implementation of the European program on migration**;

- highlights the need for an **overhaul of the Dublin system**, so that it allows to **reconcile security requirements in the territories with the offer of a better welcome**, ensuring appropriate conditions concerning integration and social inclusion of migrants, in particular of refugees.

- believes that a **better allocation on a local level of the European Structural and Investments Funds** constitutes a necessary condition in order to support integration policies. It is precisely with this in mind that it hopes that in the framework of the review of the current financial framework an **increase in resources** is foreseen, allocated to the **refugee problem** and **migration flows** in the coming years, which have proved to be insufficient to date.

It is essential for these resources to be properly distributed within the Member States, in view of the major role played by local and regional authorities in the management of such crises and their commitment in the fight against terrorism, an increasingly important issue, also in the light of the new attacks in the heart of Europe;

- urges that the sustainable urban development measures can fully benefit from a **flexibility clause on investment** enabling them to stimulate growth and employment in all European urban areas.

- states that the **TTIP** should be considered as **an important opportunity for growth and employment** for the European Union, promoting the removal of trade barriers with the

United States. It recommends, however, that the agreement must be based on the **protection of the highest quality standards**, respecting the environment and consumers and without prejudice to the **powers of local and regional authorities** in their definition and not forgetting the importance that certain productions have within the economy of insular regions.

- calls on the Commission to implement the initiatives on the **active participation** of European citizens, by simplifying the access to the power of initiative, placing emphasis on the fundamental role played by local and regional authorities as bridge between Europe and its citizens.

The CALRE, through its president and the members of its standing committee, regarding the issues coming within its respective areas of responsibility is committed:

- to forwarding this Resolution to the President of the Council of Europe, the President of the European Commission, the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, the President of the European Parliament and of the REGI Committee of the Parliament and to the President of the Committee of the Regions

- to sending and sharing the contents of this Resolution with the Associations representing the European regionalism in order to achieve a common synergistic reflection, which will have to be organized during the current year.

- to sharing this Resolution with the respective national Associations representing the regional Parliaments and with each individual Parliament, to picking up possible analysis or official acts and to sending them to the Secretariat of the CALRE.