

## RESOLUTION ON SOCIAL EUROPE

The Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies,

**Bearing in mind** that one of the fundamental wishes of the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies, expressed as early as the Florence Declaration in 1999, is to make progress in the fight against unemployment, the recognition of fundamental social rights, the fight against social exclusion and, in particular, in the field of equal opportunities for men and women;

**Stressing** that the importance given to the implementation of social measures with the aim of improving the well-being of European populations was a constant in the work of the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies;

**Mindful** of the values of the European Union, enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, including, in particular, respect for human dignity and the rights of persons belonging to minorities, pluralism, non-discrimination, solidarity and equality between men and women;

**Taking into account** the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan of the European Commission of 4 March 2021;

**Having studied** the Declaration of the European Council of 8 May 2021 adopted at the end of the Porto Social Summit;

**Reaffirming** that the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights can only succeed if all levels of governance, from European to local level, are involved;

**Considering** the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the measures adopted to address it on the health of European citizens and determined to draw conclusions from this experience, with regard to the resilience of health care systems;

**Taking into account** the work of the working group of the Conference of the European Regional Legislative Assemblies on health inequalities in European social health systems;

**Considering** that it is crucial to develop a European strategy on demographic challenges, as already expressed by the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies in its L'Aquila Declaration in 2011 and Varese Declaration in 2016;

**Observing** that the promotion of gender equality is a central element of the work of Regional Parliaments;

**Bearing in mind** Article 157 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union, establishing that each Member State shall ensure the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women for the same work or work of the same value;

**Aware** of the diversity of European national traditions in the social economy sector;

**Considering** that digital and climate transitions, which are being pursued in an ambitious way by European societies, will lead to significant changes in the employment sector and that challenges in guaranteeing social rights will accompany the emergence of the jobs of tomorrow;

**Taking note** of the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 December 2021 on improving working conditions in platform work;

**Having regard** to Article 34 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which recognises and respects the right to social and housing assistance, designed to ensure a decent existence for all those who lack sufficient resources;

**Reaffirming** that European migration phenomena have a direct impact on European regions and local authorities, which must ensure the protection of the fundamental rights of migrants and their social integration;

**Aware** that a large proportion of asylum seekers from Ukraine are women and children and that many vulnerable people migrate to Europe each year and are a prime target of trafficking networks;

**Stressing** the need to pay particular attention to and ensure the protection of unaccompanied foreign minors present in the territory of the European Union:

**Regrets** that the role of European regions was not recognised in the Declaration of the European Council adopted at the end of the Porto Social Summit on 8 May 2021;

**Calls** for greater collaboration between European, national, regional and local levels of power in the shaping of multilateral and cohesive policies aimed at providing all EU citizens with effective social protection;

**Calls** for the integration of cities and regions into the European Semester process in order to consider budgets and other aspects of economic policy through real multi-level governance, integrating the realities of the regions into the overall reflection on European economic coordination;

**Encourages** the creation of a European Health Union, in which responsibility for health is shared between European, national and regional levels; respecting the principle of subsidiarity;

**Encourages**, in this regard, the further development of the already existing examples of cross-border cooperation in the field of health care, as well as the exchange of these best practices between European regions and territories;

**Calls** on European governments to take strong measures to mitigate the rise in energy prices for households and businesses;

**Calls** on all levels of governance to pay special attention to mental health, especially for young people under 25 and seniors over 60, in order to effectively counter the increased risk of depression and anxiety, as well as for all subjects for the protection of public safety;

**Encourages** its Member States to finance the public health systems to an extent that is no less than the average of the financing of the health systems of the European Union;

**Calls** for measures to ensure access to health care and, in particular, first aid, by increasing access points to health care and facilitating access to them in financial terms and with regard to waiting times;

**Encourages** initiatives to combat cancer, with a particular focus on preventing and overcoming inequalities in this sector, as well as addressing risk factors, including exposure to mutagenic substances in the workplace;

**Encourages** dialogues aimed at improving and ensuring convergence on minimum wages for European citizens and the prospect of effectively integrating the social partners in the negotiations on this subject, in accordance with national traditions on the setting of the minimum wage;

**Encourages** initiatives aimed at supporting and financing anti-pandemic hubs that the Member States will set up in order to prevent and treat any new epidemics also deriving from antibiotic resistance;

**Encourages** initiatives aimed at stimulating the social economy, in particular by establishing conditions conducive to its development, by supporting the development of businesses and organisations in this sector and by recognising its potential;

**Encourages** all policy-makers to remain attentive and to respond effectively to the impacts of climate and digital transitions on the world of work, particularly with regard to the social protection of workers.

**Applauds** the reduction in the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion to 17 million for the period 2012-2019, and welcomes and encourages initiatives aimed at achieving the objectives set out in the European Pillar of Social Rights, including promoting employment and training and reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or exclusion by at least 15 million by 2030;

**Calls** on the European institutions, Member States, regions and local authorities to play an active role in the fight against homelessness and to coordinate their actions, in particular

within the framework of the European Platform against Homelessness, but also to take and encourage other initiatives to eradicate this phenomenon from the European Union by the year 2030;

**Affirms** that the management of the complex migration phenomenon must be tackled together by the European Union with a sustainable overall strategic European vision, and not left solely to the individual countries and territories on which it has a concrete impact. In this regard, it calls for a major involvement of Regional Parliaments in the sharing of European migration policies;

**Encourages** any initiative aimed at eradicating misinformation and instrumentalisation of migrants for political purposes through hate speech based on distrust, in particular through media education policies or education in the socio-political phenomena of our recent European history;

**Calls** on local, regional, national and European leaders to pay particular attention to unaccompanied foreign minors in order to ensure respect for their fundamental rights and their protection from trafficking networks;

**Welcomes** and encourages initiatives to promote the social inclusion of people with disabilities, in particular by harmonising the recognition of their status throughout the European Union, through the future creation of the European Disability Card, but also by strengthening the political will to ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to the labour market compared to other European citizens.

Done in Namur, 17 November 2022