REPORT

on the New European Bauhaus
(2021/2255(INI))

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
Committee on Culture and Education

Rapporteurs: Christian Ehler, Marcos Ros Sempere

Rapporteur for the opinion (*):
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(*) Associated committee – Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure
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MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on the New European Bauhaus
(2021/2255(INI))

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 4 on quality education, Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and Goal 13 on climate action,

– having regard to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report of 4 April 2022 entitled ‘Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change’,

– having regard to the agreement adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris on 12 December 2015 (the Paris Agreement),

– having regard to the Commission communication of 15 September 2021 entitled ‘New European Bauhaus: Beautiful, Sustainable, Together’ (COM(2021)0573),

– having regard to the Commission communication of 10 June 2016 entitled ‘A New Skills Agenda for Europe – Working together to strengthen human capital, employability and competitiveness’ (COM(2016)0381),

– having regard to the Commission communication of 22 May 2018 entitled ‘A New European Agenda for Culture’ (COM(2018)0267),

– having regard to the Commission communication of 14 October 2020 entitled ‘A Renovation Wave for Europe – greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives’ (COM(2020)0662),

– having regard to the Commission communication of 30 June 2021 entitled ‘A long-term Vision for the EU’s Rural Areas – Towards stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas by 2040’ (COM(2021)0345),

– having regard to the Commission communication of 14 July 2021 entitled ‘Fit for 55: delivering the EU’s 2030 Climate Target on the way to climate neutrality’ (COM(2021)0550),

– having regard to the Commission communication of 8 March 2022 entitled ‘REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy’ (COM(2022)0108),

– having regard to the Council conclusions of 30 November 2021 on culture, high-quality architecture and built environment as key elements of the New European Bauhaus.
initiative,  


– having regard to its resolution of 20 October 2021 on the situation of artists and the cultural recovery in the EU,

– having regard to its resolution of 8 March 2022 on the role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism,

– having regard to its resolution of 17 September 2020 on the cultural recovery of Europe,

– having regard to its resolution of 17 September 2020 on maximising the energy efficiency potential of the EU building stock,

– having regard to its resolution of 17 December 2020 on the EU strategy on adaptation to climate change,

– having regard to its resolution of 20 January 2021 on achieving an effective policy legacy for the European Year of Cultural Heritage,

– having regard to its resolution of 11 November 2021 on the European Education Area: a shared holistic approach,

– having regard to its resolution of 25 March 2021 on cohesion policy and regional environment strategies in the fight against climate change,


– having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the

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3 OJ C 184, 5.5.2022, p. 88.  
5 OJ C 385, 22.9.2021, p. 152.  
6 OJ C 385, 22.9.2021, p. 68.  
9 OJ C 205, 20.5.2022, p. 17.  
12 OJ L 172, 17.5.2021, p. 53.
Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund\[13],

– having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme)\[14],


– having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/818 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the Creative Europe Programme (2021 to 2027)\[17],


– having regard to the ‘New Leipzig Charter – The transformative power of cities for the common good’ adopted at the informal ministerial meeting on urban matters on 30 November 2020,

– having regard to the report by the Open Method of Coordination Working Group of Member States’ Experts of 6 October 2021 entitled ‘Towards a Shared Culture of Architecture: investing in a high-quality living environment for everyone’,

– having regard to the Davos Declaration adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Culture on 22 January 2018 entitled ‘Towards a high-quality Baukultur for Europe’, and to the Davos Baukultur Quality System ‘Eight criteria for a high-quality Baukultur’ developed thereafter,


– having regard to Article 167 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

– having regard to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, in particular Article 17 on the right to property, Article 18 on the right to asylum, Article 19 on protection in the event of removal, expulsion or extradition, Article 26 on the integration of persons with disabilities, Article 34 on social security and social assistance, Article 36 on access to

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\[17\] OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 34.
\[18\] OJ L 202, 8.6.2021, p. 32.
services of general economic interest and Article 37 on environmental protection,
– having regard to the European Pillar of Social Rights, in particular Chapter III on social protection and inclusion, Principle 19 on housing and assistance for the homeless and Principle 20 on access to essential services,
– having regard to the work carried out on the New European Bauhaus (NEB) by the Commission’s Joint Research Centre,
– having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure,
– having regard to the opinions of the Committee on Regional Development, the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs,
– having regard to the joint report of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and the Committee on Culture and Education (A9-0213/2022),

A. whereas Europe finds itself in a moment of ecological, digital and social transition, which is being accelerated by the economic and social impact of COVID-19; whereas Europe’s geopolitical situation is changing as a result of the Russian aggression against Ukraine; whereas populism, extremism and anti-European sentiment are on the rise;

B. whereas the EU has been responding to the challenges of environmental degradation, climate change and the increasing scarcity of natural resources, which require far-reaching and ambitious political action to implement the European Green Deal, which is driving the quest for renewal and innovation within planetary boundaries; whereas, as the ‘soul’ of the European Green Deal, the NEB aims to address Europe’s spatial and environmental needs in a transdisciplinary, sustainable, inclusive and aesthetic way;

C. whereas the transition to a climate-neutral economy by 2050 represents a great opportunity as well as a challenge for the Union, its Member States and businesses from every sector; whereas the NEB needs to reinterpret the original Bauhaus in the light of the climate crisis, war, the pandemic and natural disasters, which are increasing social inequalities;

D. whereas culture and the freedom of the arts contribute significantly to the vibrancy of a society, enabling us to live better together, to build democratic, inclusive and free societies and to regain a sense of shared identity and belonging; whereas everyone should have the right to access and participate in culture; whereas culture is also essential to the exploration of the complex challenges of society and cultural venues are essential places for freedom of expression and debate;

E. whereas culture is a strategic sector for the EU which helps to bolster its economy through its significant contribution to GDP and employment, and its indirect contribution to other sectors and industries; whereas the cultural and creative sectors and industries (CCSI) have been one of the areas hardest hit by the pandemic, are recovering more slowly than the rest of the EU economy and therefore should be further promoted and supported; whereas the NEB can enable further investment in the sector and engage different actors in its implementation on the ground;
F. whereas architecture, urban and territorial planning, mobility, design, the arts, sociology and engineering are complementary and instrumental for building an inclusive, sustainable and beautiful society; whereas these sectors, which play a key role in promoting research and innovation for sustainable development, a sustainable building culture and innovative, space-efficient solutions in line with our green and digital transition, have been disrupted by the COVID-19 crisis;

G. whereas there is an urgent need to develop more sustainable economic models in the construction and energy sectors, which both enable the circular economy and will help combat energy poverty and achieve the Union’s climate goals;

H. whereas buildings are responsible for 40 % of the EU’s energy consumption and 36 % of its greenhouse gas emissions from energy19;

I. whereas the Renovation Wave strategy aims to double the rate of building renovation in Europe, aiming at the renovation of more than 35 million buildings and the creation of up to 160 000 jobs in the construction sector;

J. whereas access to housing is a fundamental right; whereas homelessness and the lack of access to quality, affordable housing constitute a crisis in parts of the EU;

K. whereas cities are places of pluralism, creativity and solidarity; whereas poor planning and design in the public realm and the growth of urban sprawl have resulted in the loss of building quality across Europe; whereas the NEB has the potential to explore opportunities to utilise the limited space in cities in a sustainable, aesthetic and inclusive way, to better connect urban and rural areas, and to ensure the participation of inhabitants in spatial planning and help them reclaim the city as a space created for interaction and cultural activities;

L. whereas building a better future starts with quality education and training, including environmental education, vocational training and lifelong learning, inter alia through online learning opportunities that should be accessible to everyone, as well as upskilling and reskilling; whereas access to quality education is a fundamental right; whereas education and culture are vital for personal development and play a crucial role in the democratic and civic participation of citizens; whereas a high-quality built environment requires training skilled professionals, craftspeople and cultural workers; whereas achieving the Union’s strategic autonomy depends on its ability to excel in education, research and innovation;

M. whereas cultural heritage, which reflects the values of a community, is increasingly impacted by climate change and environmental degradation and faced with other challenges such as underinvestment, bad planning and poorly managed tourist flows; whereas the NEB can contribute to preserving, restoring, adapting and protecting it for the future; whereas professionals in the building sector must contribute to the common good by respecting cultural heritage;

N. whereas NEB projects require both a supportive regulatory framework, complying with

sectoral EU legislation and sustainable public procurement practices;

O. whereas Russia’s war actions are deliberately targeting public infrastructure, housing stock, cultural heritage and other civilian infrastructure in Ukraine;

Main objectives

1. Recalls that the historic Bauhaus movement created a paradigm shift in design, architecture and the arts, with important legacies such as the optimisation of the form-function relationship, with the goal of democratising culture, which delivered radical rethinking and innovation and reflected true cultural and social changes in a progressive artistic and educational context in the aftermath of the First World War, while delivering real life benefits to people; notes that, in the same way, the New European Bauhaus can positively impact our daily lives by creating real changes on the ground and contributing to a just transition;

2. Welcomes the NEB initiative, which aspires to create a pan-European cultural movement that will contribute to a smarter, more sustainable, inclusive and enjoyable living environment and foster local and global knowledge; emphasises that it must primarily focus on improving the quality of people’s lives by creating healthy and affordable living spaces, rethinking the status quo and transforming the spaces, buildings, cities and territories in which they live, including in less developed, suburban, rural, remote or cross-border areas and regions, in line with the Urban Agenda for the EU and building on the successful work carried out by URBACT, while improving coexistence and public space for social and territorial cohesion and democratic life, addressing the spatial segregation and historical exclusion of social groups and protecting the environment during the planning and construction of buildings and surrounding spaces;

3. Recognises the NEB as a creative and inter- and transdisciplinary initiative which brings together architecture, design, the arts and science at the forefront of EU policies for the first time, while aiming to contribute to other Union programmes and initiatives, including its digital and green transitions, making the European Green Deal a tangible, positive and inclusive experience for all and giving it a creative and cultural dimension, thereby launching the next wave of innovation; underlines that the NEB also needs to protect citizens against natural and climate-related disasters by including a safety component in its objectives; notes that this will stimulate new ways of building and the use of innovative, high-quality, sustainable and resilient building materials, including post-disaster restoration;

4. Reaffirms that the NEB has the potential to reshape the way policies are conceived, including by engaging with communities, to nurture policies and legislative developments which have an impact on the built environment and the well-being of the workforce, and to define the environment of the future by meeting the need for spaces that are accessible and adapted to new and changing ways of life, such as spaces for non-traditional household configurations, multigenerational housing, flexible (co-)working spaces, child-friendly urban environments and safer spaces for women and vulnerable people; insists that the NEB must display a level of ambition in line with the Union’s climate commitments and create guidelines for the Member States, including
local and regional authorities, for its implementation;

5. Emphasises that, in order to be successful, the NEB must be accessible, transparent, affordable, socially and geographically fair and inclusive and must actively involve EU citizens, community-based organisations and local residents, ensuring social and territorial diversity and supporting all scales of projects, in a bottom-up way – from project design to roll-out and evaluation – while taking active steps to prevent any elitist approaches or adverse effects of gentrification and enhancing citizens’ consultations and participation; highlights the need to engage young people in the initiative, especially young architects, artists and workers in the CCSI;

6. Highlights the importance of ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities or reduced mobility, special needs and disadvantaged groups, by making public services, cultural, social and economic life accessible to all; highlights in this regard the importance of good design; insists that resources must also target excluded, marginalised and disadvantaged communities;

7. Considers that this innovative cultural movement has the potential to position Europe as a global frontrunner in the area of sustainable architecture, territorial and spatial planning, design, culture, sustainable mobility and logistics, technology, the circular economy, energy efficiency and renewable energies by promoting ways of living, working and engaging in recreational activities better together, which can also be applied beyond the EU; believes that social and technological innovation must be adequately supported, including through public and private investment in research and development;

8. Calls on the Commission to further broaden the reach of the NEB by involving associated and partner countries outside the EU to take part in the initiative, including by means of a permanent dialogue on the NEB; acknowledges that the NEB has the potential to contribute to the post-war restoration of cities, societies and the economy, in particular in the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine and with the involvement of the Ukrainian CCSI and its professionals;

**Funding and governance**

9. Stresses that during the first years of its existence, the NEB has not been able to reach all EU countries and interested parties within them; urges the Commission and the Member States to raise awareness about this initiative and to improve the coordination between all levels of governance, which should have timely and equitable access to information, opportunities and funding; encourages the Commission to hold regular meetings with the Member States and partner countries, and to set up focal points in the Member States to facilitate the implementation of the NEB and access to funding; highlights the importance of adequate resources at EU and national level to support NEB implementation on the ground and tailored funding models and procedures, and to minimise the administrative burden;

10. Encourages the Member States to implement the NEB in their national policies; underlines that the NEB can help address the significant disparities between Member States in terms of their ability to achieve NEB objectives, thereby contributing to a level playing field; encourages all public authorities, including Union institutions, to
incorporate NEB principles into the management of their own built environment and public procurement procedures;

11. Calls on the Commission to create an integrated, non-discriminatory, transparent, accountable and territorially structured model of governance for the NEB, including public involvement and ownership, through appropriate territorial planning and based on an overarching governance framework;

12. Requests that the Commission provide timely information on how to participate in the NEB, including through technical assistance for interested stakeholders and best practices and that it clarify the general criteria for the selection and evaluation of NEB projects and initiatives and for the allocation of funds, in particular:

- supporting the implementation of key policies (e.g. the Green Deal, environmental, industrial, social and cultural policies);

- following the NEB guiding principles of sustainability, inclusiveness and aesthetics, and taking inspiration from the Davos Baukultur Quality System;

- creating new jobs with quality working conditions and business opportunities, which add economic value and improve European competitiveness, in line with sustainable finance principles, with a particular focus on streamlining procedures to apply for the NEB label and EU funding, and on enhancing the viability of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and contributing to the circularity and sustainability of the European economy;

- promoting accessibility by applying specific project criteria, as well as affordability, inclusiveness, gender mainstreaming, diversity, pluralism, safety and the development of civil social capital;

- promoting the participation and connection of all stakeholders, including local and regional governments, civil society and community-led organisations, interested individuals, professionals and their representative organisations;

- involving the CCSI, including cultural creators;

- ensuring alignment of the NEB with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, following the indicators of the 2030 Agenda, the Union’s commitment under the Paris Agreement, the EU’s climate, environmental, biodiversity and energy policies, the European Pillar of Social Rights and core European values;

13. Calls on the Commission to make the principles of the NEB an integral part of all relevant future legislation, while at the same time highlighting the need to synchronise the NEB with existing Union legislation, programmes and initiatives, and ensuring that the existing regulatory framework, such as the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive, supports NEB ambitions and implementation;

14. Calls, in addition, for specific criteria to be developed for the relevant sectors, in particular construction and architecture, energy, mobility, design, technology, tourism,
education and skills, crafts, culture and the arts, and cultural heritage, in close cooperation with stakeholders in these sectors, taking into account sector-specific certifications and standards, and for actions to promote synergies between these sectors; recalls that it is crucial to take into account geographical balance in order to allow the NEB to spread equally around the EU and beyond; emphasises, furthermore, that projects do not have to be cross-national to be awarded the NEB label;

15. Regrets the lack of clarity on funding for the NEB from 2023 onwards; calls for the Horizon Europe Regulation to be amended during the mid-term revision of the current multiannual financial framework (MFF) in order to create an NEB mission funded with EUR 500 million; underlines that the programme should also be supported by other relevant programmes in order to generate additional impact and that existing Union programmes can help achieve NEB objectives; calls on the Commission to ensure that the NEB complements other EU policies, including cohesion policy, and to include support for the NEB in partnership agreements and programmes, supported by the EU’s structural and cohesion policies;

16. Calls on the Commission to table a proposal as soon as possible to make the NEB a new stand-alone EU programme by the next MFF, whereby concrete ideas and objectives should be accompanied by adequate funding; acknowledges the efforts made by the Commission to launch the first calls for projects by taking money from existing programmes, but considers that their impact is not proportionate to the level of ambition of the project; insists that this will require fresh resources with a dedicated and stable budget line; underlines that this new programme must neither reduce funding for other underfunded programmes, in particular Creative Europe, Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, notwithstanding the links and synergies it may create with them, nor divert focus from their agreed political priorities; underlines that NEB resources should notably be dedicated to research and innovation;

17. Calls on the Commission to develop a clear plan for attracting public and ethical private investment, including crowdfunding, with a focus on promoting female leadership in venture capital and start-ups; encourages the Member States, subject to their fiscal scope, to allocate adequate funding in line with NEB principles through their recovery and resilience plans and the European structural and investment funds to projects in line with NEB principles and objectives, in order to stimulate sustainable development and covering partnerships involving public and private entities; notes that this will create tangible results on the ground; underlines that the NEB should also contribute to the creation of spaces and buildings that facilitate entrepreneurship;

18. Expresses the need to go beyond the phases of co-design, delivery and dissemination, ensuring that creative thinking continues throughout all phases; calls on the Commission to set up a transparent and evidence-based monitoring and evaluation mechanism that includes all relevant stakeholders, which should continuously review all NEB activities at EU and national level, including their societal and climate impact, their impact on the development of regions and their actual value creation over time, and report regularly to Parliament and the Council; expects to receive the first monitoring report in 2022;

*Development and focus areas*
19. Believes that the NEB movement should promote more sustainable, socially inclusive and innovative ways of living based on new, holistic models of planning, constructing and inhabiting our built environment, with the meaningful involvement of residents in decision-making processes, in order to suit emerging needs and shifting consumption and mobility patterns, and to help to ensure decent, quality and affordable housing for all, in particular for vulnerable groups, including by combating housing exclusion and homelessness;

20. Considers the NEB an opportunity to envision a well-designed green regeneration of public spaces with the aim of achieving decarbonisation objectives, to retrofit and repurpose obsolete buildings, to transform old industrial areas into new green urban and public spaces, and to build the relevant infrastructure to facilitate physical activity, knowledge and cultural exchanges;

21. Calls for the NEB to promote 15-minute cities in order to make all essential services and amenities accessible to citizens within walking distance and to provide innovative solutions for the development of sustainable urban areas, including sustainable mobility solutions; highlights that the NEB needs to showcase affordable, socially inclusive and energy efficient buildings, and contribute to a modal shift towards public and collective transport and less polluting means of transport;

22. Stresses the importance of transforming, upgrading and retrofitting the existing building stock, including poorly planned and constructed buildings erected by totalitarian regimes, of applying nature-based solutions such as wood and of reducing waste and increasing durability, re-usability and circularity in the built environment; insists that this should include favouring renovation and adaptive re-use over demolition and new builds, as appropriate, removing barriers related to the handling and transport of waste as well as raising people’s awareness about embodied and stored carbon in materials to enable them to make informed choices;

23. Underlines that the NEB should also support initiatives for the construction and renovation of affordable, high-quality and energy-efficient social housing;

24. Calls on the Member States to draw up innovative educational curricula in line with NEB principles and objectives for cultural education and the development of spatial, creative, orientation and drawing skills, and to integrate key NEB principles and green and digital skills within informal, non-formal and higher education, vocational training and lifelong learning, including by up- and reskilling relevant professionals, which will also help to deliver the European Skills Agenda; stresses the importance of raising awareness through education about respecting the environment and cultural heritage, in consultation with the Education for Climate Coalition; calls for the EU to promote such endeavours; calls on the Commission to make mobility opportunities an integral part of the NEB, especially for vocational education and training and university students from related disciplines and skilled professionals within the CCSI;

25. Urges the Member States and the Commission to integrate all aspects of the knowledge triangle – innovation, research and education – by promoting partnerships between higher education institutes, including through the European University Alliances, research organisations, including architectural and cultural research centres, and
industry, including relevant micro enterprises and SMEs, social enterprises and start-ups, in close cooperation with the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and the Joint Research Centre; believes that the EIT’s Knowledge and Innovation Community on the CCSI should put its expertise at the disposal of NEB objectives, especially in Member States and regions where innovation capacity is moderate;

26. Highlights that the NEB could support energy security and efficiency by encouraging investment and incentivising low-energy, zero-emission and low-carbon materials and solutions, including through cooperative and community-owned models for renewable energy production and projects utilising waste heat and integrated energy systems;

27. Points to the pressing issue of rising energy prices and the resulting increase in energy poverty among EU households; underlines that NEB projects have a pivotal role in fighting energy poverty and protecting vulnerable households through innovative solutions for the building, construction, industrial and materials sectors, considering this a precondition for achieving a just and fair energy transition;

28. Underlines that the NEB could facilitate the digital transition by improving connectivity to mitigate the digital divide, achieve more efficient, inclusive, accessible and eco-sustainable solutions, and enhance the use of local resources and skills;

29. Recognises the NEB as a catalyst for bringing about transformative changes in the creative, construction and business ecosystems and a new understanding and quality in planning, designing and building, including by applying digital technologies throughout the whole building life cycle, building capacity for creating innovative models and digital technologies for urban planning by, among other things, fostering cross-border cooperation in data exchange and encompassing the principles of circularity and resource efficiency in moving towards carbon neutrality;

30. Calls for the NEB to create incentives to encourage the use of sustainable and durable technologies and materials, promoting smart energy and environmental solutions and innovation in materials, processes, automation and techniques in a renewable, recyclable and cost-efficient manner that lowers greenhouse emissions, such as prefabricated elements with sustainable materials, photovoltaic or charging infrastructure, bio- and geo-sourced materials, and locally tested building techniques; in this context, stresses the importance of facilitating the supplies necessary for the production of such construction materials, including raw materials, while guaranteeing a level playing field by avoiding market distortion;

31. Acknowledges that the cultural aspect of the NEB is critical to its social and democratic dimension; at the same time, calls on the Commission to define and develop a NEB evidence-based design methodology to ensure that the processes of transforming spaces, buildings, cities and territories are based on scientific research to achieve the best possible outcomes;

32. Welcomes the innovative, integrated approach advocated by the NEB through the efficient use of space, the preservation, restoration, valorisation, promotion and re-use of historical, cultural and natural heritage; calls on the Commission and the Member States to use the NEB as an opportunity to better protect Europe’s rich cultural heritage from the impact of environmental degradation, poorly managed tourism and other
challenges; underlines that through smart renovation, including energy efficiency improvements, transformation and adaptive re-use, cultural and heritage sites can find new and extended uses; acknowledges digitalisation as a means of valorising cultural heritage;

**Implementation**

33. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to connect the NEB to the Renovation Wave, taking advantage of the innovative solutions that the project offers in the comprehensive, holistic, quality and cost-optimal renovation of our building stock; underlines that this should be based on a careful building life cycle analysis and mindful of the site-specific context, including local aesthetic and architectural characteristics, going beyond energy efficiency to include improvements of quality of the indoor environment, renewable energy, durability, accessibility, safety and the eradication of harmful substances; urges the Commission and the Member States to take action to rapidly upscale the rate of renovation, inter alia by avoiding additional barriers that hamper renovation;

34. Believes that the environmental and social impacts of all NEB projects should be assessed throughout their life cycle;

35. Calls on the Commission to further integrate Level(s), the newly established framework for sustainable buildings, to improve sustainability within the sector; underlines the need to optimise the framework to make it more accessible for professionals in the building sector; insists that the framework be updated continuously to include new findings and conclusions from NEB projects;

36. Supports the creation of an NEB label, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, based on clear criteria applied in a comprehensive, holistic and inclusive way, assessing the sustainability-related, economic, environmental and social value of a project and promoting synergies with existing labels and tools, in order to recognise projects and products for achieving key NEB goals and help them get access to funding; calls on the Commission to ensure that EU funding schemes create incentives to apply for the label, including for citizen and community-led projects; calls for market uptake of the label to be explored; underlines that NEB projects in the building sector should be based on a careful building life cycle analysis and life cycle cost analysis;

37. Invites the Commission and the Member States to encourage the direct involvement of local and regional authorities in the design and implementation of projects, including by developing detailed application guidelines and building their capacity to implement the NEB; urges regional and local authorities to investigate how local cultural institutions can benefit from implementing NEB principles, in particular for mitigating their climate footprint;

38. Emphasises, in this regard, that the preparatory action on the ‘New European Bauhaus Knowledge Management Platform’ in the 2022 budget can help streamline guidance and share information on funding opportunities for prospective applicants and can be further expanded from 2023;

39. Emphasises the importance of more flexibility for local and regional authorities to
experiment with NEB projects and underlines the potential of allowing regulatory ‘sandboxing’ to boost innovation within the circular economy and the NEB;

40. Believes that the NEB should be part of a broader Cultural Deal for Europe; highlights that the NEB should embrace and promote the untapped potential of the CCSI, including cultural creators, as drivers of sustainable economic growth and a source for innovative, high-quality services and products, by guaranteeing the involvement of the CCSI, supported by targeted guidelines and opening up new opportunities for collaboration, mutual learning, capacity building and cultural exchange, while ensuring fair working conditions and the fair remuneration of those involved; emphasises that the environmental sustainability of cultural events linked to the NEB should be promoted;

41. Calls on the Commission to allow Parliament to be more closely involved in the relevant NEB bodies such as the high-level roundtable;

42. Calls for the future NEB Lab to contribute to research and innovation within the focus areas of the NEB; highlights the need for the NEB Lab to make innovative recommendations, to collaborate with other institutions, national, regional and local governments, and stakeholders, including civil society and community groups, and to establish clear and transparent operating and reporting rules in line with the initiative; urges the Commission to speed up the roll-out of the Lab and provide it with adequate resources;

43. Welcomes the creation of the NEB Festival and the annual NEB Awards, which should reflect the rich cultural diversity of the Union and seek synergies with other relevant European awards and events; highlights the importance of organising NEB events across Europe in order to reach more people and raise awareness about the initiative, including through specific events, festivals and the creation of a European Year of the NEB;

44. Calls on the Commission to plan the destinations of the yearly NEB festivals taking into account the European cities chosen by UNESCO as ‘World Capitals of Architecture’; suggests that the NEB festival be held in these EU cities selected as World Capitals of Architecture in order to improve the promotion of European architecture and innovation;

45. Calls on the Commission to create and regularly update a public, digital and easily accessible database of NEB projects and actions so as to make the results of the initiative more visible, to further develop the NEB based on best practices, including within the cultural sector, and to strengthen knowledge sharing, research and development;

46. Calls for the communication, outreach and visibility efforts of the NEB to be enhanced, while respecting multilingualism, in order to boost people’s knowledge of, support for and participation in the initiative, in particular through participatory public outreach activities, including through social media and digital publications, such as awareness-raising campaigns, a platform providing information, best practices of NEB projects from all Member States and educational content, including a module on the NEB, the creation of tools and spaces that facilitate peer learning, the exchange of ideas and knowledge, and surveys to assess the impact of NEB projects;
47. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The New European Bauhaus in the current policy context

On 15 September 2021, one year after Commission President Von der Leyen’s announcement in the 2020 State of the Union, the Commission adopted a Communication setting out the concept of the New European Bauhaus (NEB), which takes up the objectives of the European Green Deal and cuts across disciplines, bringing together cultural, social, scientific and other creative minds to come up with tangible, sustainable, beautiful and inclusive solutions improving our daily lives.

This initiative has come at a time of change. Europe is now in the midst of a period of economic and social upheaval, a digital and environmental transition accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the rise of populism. Like the historic Bauhaus movement, which created a paradigm shift in design, architecture and the arts, this NEB should act as a radical innovation movement that reflects real cultural and social changes in our societies.

The NEB acts as the ‘soul’ of the European Green Deal, connecting it to our living spaces and experiences. It seeks to give citizens an active role in shaping their environment and draws on cultural and urban innovation to build a sustainable and resilient society.

Thus, for the two co-rapporteurs, Mr Ehler (ITRE) and Mr Ros Sempere (CULT), the NEB is a cultural paradigm shift for a new political agenda. The NEB is about transforming our living environments, both urban and rural, so that people in all their diversity feel well. Well-thought urban planning and design are instrumental to enabling socially and economically mixed cities and removing accessibility barriers to the built and virtual environments and to goods and services.

Further relevant initiatives are ‘Fit for 55’, a package of proposals aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, and the Renovation Wave of buildings, which aims to at least double building renovation rates over the next 10 years and ensure that renovations lead to greater energy and resource efficiency. Buildings are an indispensable part of achieving the EU’s carbon neutrality, energy efficiency and renewable energy targets. The NEB plays a crucial role in creating interdisciplinary synergies to support innovative developments in the building sector.

Parliament’s ambition: making the NEB more concrete and integral to European policies

The NEB triggered varied reactions in the European Parliament at the time of its launch. While most were positive, there were some concerns, mainly due to the lack of clarity about its funding, as well as its relation to other existing EU initiatives.

In March 2021, Members of the European Parliament created the New European Bauhaus Friendship Group, an informal group of MEPs interested in this project, with the aim of sharing citizens’ concerns and advancing reflections on desired outputs.

The ITRE and CULT committees took up the challenge of reacting jointly to the Commission proposal, making this initiative more concrete while framing Parliament’s priorities.

The co-rapporteurs welcome the NEB initiative and have the ambition to contribute through this report to:
- improving the quality of life of people, addressing key policy challenges such as climate change;
- creating a cultural movement to support the Green Deal, the Digital Decade, the protection of social rights and cohesion;
- combining transversality and interdisciplinarity of architecture, industry, design, and the arts and science;
- combining a short-term solution for predictably funding the NEB within the current MFF with the creation of a standing NEB programme based on fresh funding in the next MFF;
- defining criteria for the selection, funding and evaluation of NEB projects; and
- stimulating wide participation, a bottom-up approach, inclusion, affordability and gender equality.

The NEB has the potential to reshape the way policies are received as well as to define the spatial and design environment of the future, with the goal of a more sustainable, inclusive and aesthetic Europe. Only with a well-designed and long-term initiative can we achieve these ambitions.

**Development and focus areas**

In this report, the co-rapporteurs also detail the focus areas that this initiative should address.

The co-rapporteurs are convinced that the NEB represents a unique opportunity to put science, technology, architecture, crafts and the arts jointly at work to re-think our ecosystem at all scales, from our cities, rural areas, buildings and green spaces to our furniture, materials, industry and creative environment. They acknowledge that the NEB aspires to create a cultural movement that contributes to a smarter, greener and more enjoyable living environment in which citizens, in Europe and beyond, can feel closer to nature and thrive. They emphasise that, in order to be successful, the NEB must be accessible, affordable, socially fair and inclusive, involving citizens and relevant social and economic partners actively from project design to roll-out and evaluation.

The co-rapporteurs stress that innovative holistic approaches can create a framework for strong and lasting connections with industry, research and innovation, working on different aspects of the transformation needed for a carbon-free 2050. In this initiative, they believe that SMEs have a significant role to play given their ability to contribute to innovation, creativity and design.

In line with the Leipzig Charter, the co-rapporteurs believe that cities should be places of pluralism, creativity and solidarity and test beds for social innovation and that public spaces play a central role for stimulating open, inclusive and transparent debate and participation in public life, thereby contributing to democratic systems for our society. They are convinced that this movement needs to become more than just a high-level policy project and that citizens’ support is essential to making the NEB a success.

It is very important to support entrepreneurs, start-ups, talent and skills through business
promotion services and training actions, thus contributing to the European Green Deal by showcasing efforts to develop high-impact solutions for sustainable living and a better quality of life. Bauhaus projects, the co-rapporteurs claim, will enable the design, development and evaluation of innovative services to increase the quality of life in the city, offering access to live smart city data and providing powerful artificial intelligence (AI) information.

Further, the co-rapporteurs underline that the NEB can unify art, the circular economy and social inclusion, applying innovative collaborative methodologies, and should embrace the potential of the CCSI, which are a driving force of economic growth and generate positive spill over effects for innovation in other fields.

The co-rapporteurs also stress the need to empower citizen- and community-based organisations to design, implement and assess NEB delivery so that it achieves ‘living better together’ by adapting to new needs and changing habits.

**NEB criteria**

The co-rapporteurs insist that the principles and criteria for the selection and evaluation of NEB projects, as well as for the allocation of funds, should be clearly defined. Crucially, NEB projects should meet the following criteria, among others: (a) support the implementation of key policies such as the Green Deal, the Digital Decade, environmental, industrial, social and cultural policies; (b) be fully in line with the NEB guiding principles of sustainability, inclusiveness and aesthetics; (c) contribute to creating new jobs and business opportunities; (d) boost accessibility and affordability; (e) promote citizen participation; (f) involve the CCSI, including cultural creators; and (g) be linked to the indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The co-rapporteurs believe that NEB criteria must always be primarily focused on improving the quality of life of people, the spaces, buildings and cities they inhabit, while using innovative solutions in the areas of energy efficiency, renewables, sustainable construction and digitalisation.

**The case for a structural NEB programme and stable funding**

A challenge faced currently by the NEB initiative is the lack of predictability of its funding. So far, NEB activities have been funded on an annual basis from a number of existing programmes under the 2021-2027 MFF, in particular the Horizon Europe programme for research and innovation (notably the Horizon Europe missions), the LIFE programme for the environment and climate action, the Single Market Programme, the Digital Europe Programme and the European Regional Development Fund. Other programmes, such as Creative Europe and Erasmus+, play an important supporting role, without making direct financial contributions.

The co-rapporteurs invite the Commission to set up a NEB programme with a budget of its own, commensurate with its ambition. They agree that a timely MFF mid-term revision should serve the purpose of developing the NEB into a longer-term programme and identifying fresh resources to have a meaningful impact by creating a NEB mission within HEU.

Funding sources should reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the initiative and make full use of enhanced synergies between the various programmes, without affecting negatively the limited financial resources available to existing programmes. This implies that the NEB should
generate additional funding for the CCSI, including cultural creators, particularly in view of the impact of the pandemic.

A real need has emerged for new types of funding schemes, less classified in silos and more capable of crossing over into a large array of sectors. The NEB should support a more eco-systemic approach, going beyond the segmentation of knowledge and mobilising all relevant disciplines. Digital data could help identify funding gaps and areas of intervention.

In addition, Member States, regional and local authorities should play a key role in the development and co-financing of NEB projects.

**The NEB Label, Festival, Awards and Lab**

The two co-rapporteurs support the creation of a New European Bauhaus Label based on clear criteria to be proposed by the Commission and applied in an inclusive way, so as to recognise projects and products for achieving key NEB goals and meeting certain criteria and to help them access funding. The possibility of earning the award of the Label can provide incentives for projects, authorities and companies to respect and apply the NEB principles. The Label can also be used to recognise buildings, public spaces and heritage sites of relevant architectural, cultural and environmental quality.

By way of example, the Label could be given to private companies notably in the construction sector, public entities, museums and associations for the use of sustainable materials, to the crafts, textile and fashion industries for creating products that embrace the NEB principles, to territories and authorities that implement the principles and actively promote the NEB, to schools and training centres for developing relevant projects.

There is also the potential for the market uptake of the Label, whereby companies could for instance ask for the NEB Label to be awarded to specific products. The Label should under no circumstances be mistaken for or misused as a commercial or marketing tool.

The co-rapporteurs also welcome the creation of the NEB Festival and the annual NEB Awards. They should seek synergies with other relevant European awards and events, such as the EU Sustainable Energy Awards, the EU Green Capital Award, the Mies van der Rohe Award and the European Heritage Awards.

The co-rapporteurs call on the Commission to open up participation in the NEB High Level Round Table, which has so far allowed for only limited Parliament participation, by involving the other European institutions more closely in its activities.

The co-rapporteurs also welcome the idea of setting up a NEB Lab, under clear operating and reporting rules, to continue and improve the creation of synergies, coordination and formulation of recommendations.

Finally, the co-rapporteurs call for greater visibility and citizen participation in the initiative, including through public outreach activities and a dedicated platform, so that the NEB may become recognizable all around Europe.
20.6.2022

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and the Committee on Culture and Education

on the New European Bauhaus (2021/2255(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion (*): Martina Michels

(*) Associated committee – Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Regional Development calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committees responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into their motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the NEB initiative, the aims of which are to amplify the European Green Deal and to give it a strong creative and cultural dimension, bringing it closer to people in the EU, and to complement strategies for territorial, social and economic cohesion with its values of beautiful, sustainable and inclusive solutions;

2. Believes that these NEB principles should also be incorporated into spending under cohesion policy to build climate resilience and strengthen social cohesion in order to improve the quality of life of people in the EU by transforming the places they inhabit, with the NEB as an engine for economic development, and by paying due regard to cultural heritage;

3. Recalls that the NEB elaborates on the social and community-building functions of the original Bauhaus in that it integrates art and architecture into everyday residential living and people’s working lives; points to the pressing issue of rising energy prices and the resulting increase in energy poverty among EU households;

4. Highlights that the NEB therefore needs to prioritise socially inclusive, energy-efficient buildings with renewable energy generation systems that can meet any residual demand or other energy system needs, including those of sustainable means of transport, as well as good, accessible and affordable housing solutions built with the meaningful involvement of the residents in the decision-making process, and in accordance with the best possible standards, which help to reduce the carbon footprint of housing and energy and resource use in buildings and contribute to countering energy poverty;
5. Also welcomes the NEB initiative as a possible bridge between science and technology and arts and culture, between border regions, between northern and southern Europe, and between eastern and western Europe;

6. Acknowledges the potential of the NEB, which can be used by local authorities and regions to bolster social, economic and territorial cohesion, and underlines the importance of the multi-level governance principle, but stresses that opportunities to participate in the NEB must be fully inclusive and accessible to everyone, including marginalised communities, elderly people and people experiencing homelessness, racism, discrimination, poverty or social exclusion, and to all regions, including peripheral urban areas, cross-border areas, areas affected by the industrial transition, and regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps, such as less-populated, rural and mountain areas, islands and outermost regions;

7. Emphasises that stakeholders such as local and regional authorities – which are key actors in increasing public participation – SMEs, neighbourhood organisations, relevant social enterprises, cooperatives and above all local residents must be the drivers of NEB projects, offering all parties concerned the possibility of sharing their visions and facing challenges; stresses, furthermore, that full respect for a bottom-up approach should be ensured via the meaningful involvement of and consultation with civil society and other relevant stakeholders;

8. Stresses that the NEB should support projects focused on the development of communities and public space, infrastructure, intelligent sustainable mobility and logistics in residential areas and calls for long-term investment in sustainable and affordable housing in order to contribute to stable housing markets and thus counter the negative effects of property speculation, end homelessness and support local economic growth, employment opportunities, research and innovation;

9. Underlines the fact that the NEB will only have added value if it is executed on the basis of a genuinely integrated approach that not only addresses social problems and climate challenges, but also improves the well-being and social cohesion of local communities; is of the opinion that NEB projects must be inclusive, user-friendly – particularly with regard to persons with disabilities or reduced mobility – and equitable; believes, furthermore, that it must contribute to the affordability of the green and digital transitions and respect the ‘energy efficiency first’ principle in urban and spatial planning, housing, resilient and sustainable renovation, building conversions and the recreation of public and green spaces as the centre of community life, for everyone, everywhere in the EU;

10. Is of the opinion that the NEB must enhance the built environment and pay greater attention to the quality and consistency of actions to renovate, reuse and repurpose old and abandoned buildings and sites to create healthy and affordable housing or public cultural, artistic and recreational spaces, thereby attaching greater value to safeguarding and preserving cultural heritage; suggests, in this regard, that the use of traditional approaches or elements such as sustainable building materials or construction techniques should be explored, as this is in line with the European Green Deal, reflects the EU’s diverse multicultural identity and would significantly enrich the NEB initiative;
11. Insists that careful consideration be given to the need for green spaces to be developed and for sustainable, accessible, safe and comfortable public and individual mobility, infrastructure and building solutions; encourages forms of street art that can enhance the quality and attractiveness of local neighbourhoods and public spaces;

12. Calls for the NEB to promote 15-minute cities in order to make all essential services and amenities accessible to citizens within walking distance, and to provide innovative solutions for the development of sustainable urban areas, as well as sustainable mobility solutions, inclusive public spaces and nature-based solutions;

13. Notes that the NEB encompasses many dimensions and policy areas, which may make it challenging for regional and local authorities to fully assess how to make the most of the opportunities it presents;

14. Encourages national authorities to provide technical support to promote the best and most creative scientific and technological projects that enable new jobs and opportunities to be created, in particular for local SMEs;

15. Highlights the ability of the NEB to provide greater opportunities for local and regional authorities and civil society to learn best practices from each other, particularly when it comes to inclusive projects in which non-governmental organisations and other relevant stakeholders are involved, as well as interdisciplinary coordination;

16. Believes that the programme should encourage and facilitate cooperation between the various types of public and private stakeholders;

17. Underlines the crucial role of public authorities on the local and regional level in implementing the NEB, as frontline actors in the fight against climate change, and in ensuring economic, territorial and social cohesion, and insists that national, regional and local authorities should be empowered to facilitate the process and refrain from introducing additional unnecessary bureaucratic criteria;

18. Calls on the Commission and the Member States, therefore, to provide clear definitions of eligibility, assessment and award criteria as well as specific and targeted information and guidelines on how to develop and finance projects – including small-scale projects – to promote urban regeneration and architecture concepts, and to take advantage of technological and capacity-building opportunities;

19. Stresses the importance of formulating clear conditions for the sustainability and post-implementation management of projects financed under the NEB initiative and calls on the Commission to envisage the possibility of introducing harmonised and sustainable EU indicators to measure the development of regions, especially through NEB projects;

20. Notes that the NEB links the three pillars of the Urban Agenda for the EU; calls for the NEB to be linked to EU Urban Agenda partnerships, as this agenda has been working on concepts related to the European Green Deal and the NEB for nearly four years, especially in relation to climate action capacity, the greening cities theme and use of public spaces;

21. Highlights the successful work carried out by the URBACT programme on developing
tools which should build synergies with the NEB to foster territorial cooperation and encourage innovation in the exchange of good practices in urban regeneration;

22. Regrets the lack of clarity on funding for the NEB from 2023 onwards; insists that appropriate and accessible public funding and technical support are crucial for encouraging and implementing NEB ideas and projects at local and regional levels; calls on the Commission and the Member States to provide, in a timely manner, local and regional authorities with relevant, clear and user-friendly information and guidelines on all financial possibilities, in their respective languages, and to support the sharing of best practices, notably in terms of attracting of public and private investment;

23. States that financing guides and a financing strategy could help to encourage national, regional and local authorities to combine their efforts and make the best possible use of various EU funds, including funding opportunities linked to the Renovation Wave initiative, for interdisciplinary, innovative and sustainable projects;

24. Notes the ad hoc approach to providing funding for NEB projects through, inter alia, the EU structural and investment funds, especially the European Regional Development Fund, in line with its goal to support sustainable urban development; highlights that the budget allocated for the 2021-2027 period for the current cohesion policy, in line with the strong focus on smart, green and social political objectives, will provide funding for new innovative projects; asks for strong coordination between these funds and NEB programmes; regrets, however, that contrary to Parliament’s regular stance that new initiatives require new funding, no fresh funding has been made available; stresses that merely redeploying existing funds will not be sufficient to achieve the objectives of this initiative;

25. Is of the opinion that in order to be impactful, visible and successful in the long term, the NEB will need additional financial resources in the post-2027 financial period; consequently calls on the Commission to consider establishing an NEB EU financing programme by the next MFF and to table, in a timely manner, a proposal to this end, with a dedicated and stable budget;

26. Emphasises the need for a long-term vision to be integrated into cohesion policy and other EU policies in order to establish a structured initiative able to create prospects for development and jobs; considers strengthening public-private partnerships, particularly with SMEs, to therefore be vital;

27. Calls on the Commission to factor NEB principles into relevant prospective legislation, ensure that the NEB complements other EU policy areas, and in particular cohesion policy, and provide appropriate additional resources that are accessible to the specific target groups;

28. Calls on the Member States to promote synergies in terms of content, organisational arrangements and funding between NEB projects and established operational cohesion programmes, drawing on local, participatory, partnership-based and multi-level approaches that focus on local needs and development.
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# FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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| ECR | Pietro Fiocchi, Raffaele Fitto, Elżbieta Kruk, Andżelika Anna Moždżanowska |
| NI | Chiara Gemma |
| PPE | Álvaro Amaro, Pascal Arimont, Christian Doleuschal, Mircea-Gheorghe Hava, Krzysztof Hetman, Manolis Kefalogiannis, Dan-Ştefan Motreanu, Andrey Novakov, Jan Olbrycht, Peter Pollák, Simone Schmiedtbauer |
| RENEW | Asger Christensen, Laurence Farreng, Vlad Gheorghe, Sandro Gozi, Susana Solis Pérez, Yana Toom |
| S&D | Adrian-Dragoș Berea, Corina Crețu, Eero Heinäluoma, Constanze Krehl, Tsvetelina Penkova, Rovana Plumb, Marcos Ros Sempere |
| THE LEFT | Younous Omarjee, Dimitrios Papadimoulis |
| VERTS/ALE | François Alfonsi, Rosa D’Amato, Niklas Nienaß, Caroline Roose, Monika Vana |

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**Key to symbols:**
+ : in favour
- : against
0 : abstention
16.3.2022

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
and the Committee on Culture and Education

on the New European Bauhaus
(2021/2255(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Jan Olbrycht

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committees responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into their motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative, which bridges the worlds of science, technology, art and culture to help build environmentally and socially sustainable, inclusive and aesthetically pleasing living spaces; stresses that the NEB should be accessible to all citizens in all areas;

2. Considers that the NEB’s multidisciplinary approach can help deliver the EU’s climate targets and support the just green and digital transitions of the EU economy; emphasises that the NEB must be consistent with the legislative and programming instruments in place to achieve the climate targets;

3. Notes with concern that there is no coherent and strategic approach to the financing of the NEB; points out that while funding in the EU budget for the NEB pilot phase in 2021-2022 totals some EUR 85 million, the scale and provenance of financing from 2023 onwards remains unclear; calls on the Commission to clarify the budget as soon as possible; regrets the fact that, contrary to Parliament’s long-standing position, fresh resources have not been committed for what is a new initiative;

4. Highlights that the NEB is funded from several programmes under the multiannual financial framework (MFF), in particular Horizon Europe and the European Regional Development Fund, with other programmes, such as Creative Europe and Erasmus+, playing an important supporting role; stresses that the NEB must not erode funding for core programme objectives agreed by the legislator nor divert focus from agreed political priorities; insists that no financing for the NEB should come at the expense of other programmes;

5. Underlines that the NEB’s success will also hinge on its ability to attract national public and private investment; calls on the Commission to develop and present to Parliament a clear plan for achieving this aim, including through its role in the operational programmes and partnership agreements under cohesion policy and in the national recovery and resilience plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF); calls
on the Member States to use the RRF and co-financing under relevant MFF programmes to support the NEB;

6. Stresses the importance of making regional and local authorities aware of this initiative so that they can access the corresponding opportunities and funding; calls on the Commission to ensure potential beneficiaries and the wider public have access to the resources and results of NEB projects and are aware of the opportunities available;

7. Emphasises, in that regard, that the preparatory action on the ‘New European Bauhaus Knowledge Management Platform’ in the 2022 budget can help streamline guidance and share information on funding opportunities for prospective applicants and can be further expanded from 2023;

8. Calls on the Commission to conduct a thorough impact assessment of the NEB at the end of the pilot phase, including an assessment of its contribution to the achievement of the Union’s climate targets, and its effectiveness in promoting synergies between the different Union programmes; underlines that, if continued, the NEB must be designed to ensure democratic oversight and safeguard the role of the budgetary authority;

9. Considers that reusing existing funds is only a short-term solution and will not be sufficient to achieve the objectives of the initiative in the medium or longer term; calls on the Commission to reflect on the volume of funding needed and whether the NEB should have its own budget line; insists that any decision to develop the NEB into a longer-term initiative or programme requires fresh resources as part of the necessary mid-term revision of the MFF.
INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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| Substitutes present for the final vote | Elisabetta Gualmini, Henrike Hahn, Petros Kokkalis |
## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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Key to symbols:
+ : in favour
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0 : abstention
OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and the Committee on Culture and Education

on the New European Bauhaus
(2021/2255(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Antonius Manders

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committees responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into their motion for a resolution:

A. whereas the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative aims to improve the way people live together by reimagining public spaces for new uses and ways of living, encompassing both urban and rural areas, to create awareness about the built and designed environment, including in terms of quality and sustainability; whereas the NEB initiative should also turn the benefits of the green transition into a tangible reality in people’s everyday lives at local and neighbourhood level; whereas NEB projects should be consistent with the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the UN Sustainable Development Goals;

B. whereas the NEB should facilitate and steer the transformation of our societies in line with three interlinked values: inclusion – from valuing diversity, to ensuring accessibility and affordability, to improving aesthetics – quality of experience and style that goes beyond functionality, and sustainability – from climate goals to circularity, zero pollution and biodiversity;

C. whereas housing policy in the Member States should be guided by the common principles of bringing down housing prices to make housing accessible to residents both for sale and rent, including with the option to purchase the property at a later stage, as well to ensure legal certainty;

D. whereas the NEB Lab will reach out to society, industry and the political sphere to connect people and find new ways of creating new living spaces together;

E. whereas NEB projects should invest in good thermal isolation to partly offset rising costs and to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement;

F. whereas the implementation of the NEB initiative should be guided by the four thematic axes and principles of inclusiveness, reconnecting with nature, maintaining and
regaining a sense of belonging, prioritising vulnerable people and neighbourhoods, and fostering sustainability through long-term, life cycle and integrated thinking in the industrial and housing ecosystem, and whereas these principles should be fed into the ‘Renovation Wave’ guidelines;

G. whereas the NEB movement focuses on interconnected transformations of physical places, of environments that enable innovation, and of our perspectives and ways of thinking;

H. whereas the NEB will initially be funded by different EU funds, including Horizon Europe, the LIFE programme and the European Regional Development Fund, as well as through national resources and initiatives in the Member States; whereas around EUR 85 million of EU funds will be dedicated to NEB projects in 2021 and 2022;

I. whereas the NEB initiative should focus on creating a healthy, aesthetically pleasing and accessible environment and landscape, decent housing that is healthy, accessible and affordable for all, new quality employment and workplaces, an inclusive society, and a sustainable economy and way of living;

J. whereas the NEB initiative should be based on innovation at all levels and the active participation and involvement of people and local communities, for example through the social economy and local organisations; whereas there is a need to mainstream a gender-equal and intersectional approach, inclusivity for persons with disabilities and intergenerational solidarity in the planning of buildings, living spaces and future ways of living; whereas the NEB initiative aims to capitalise on natural and cultural assets to regain a sense of belonging in the EU;

K. whereas the NEB movement will include massive renovation projects; whereas although asbestos has been banned in the EU since 2005, it is still often present in administrative buildings, schools, housing, public transport facilities and other infrastructure;

L. whereas the NEB movement should be a continuation of the original Bauhaus, which introduced the role of art and architecture in addressing societal needs;

M. whereas the NEB must connect all Member States;

N. whereas residents of the Member States face growing difficulties in finding affordable housing, mainly due to housing speculation, the expansive growth of short-term holiday rentals and the consequential increase in rental prices;

O. whereas the NEB should ensure environments are designed for ability and empowerment so they actively welcome everyone;

P. whereas the cost of living in EU countries is rapidly rising due to inflation and the energy and fuel crisis in the euro area; whereas energy poverty is rising among low-income households in the EU;

Q. whereas inclusive environments such as shared infrastructure and services and public spaces give people a sense of shared identity and belonging;
R. whereas rental prices have increased by 16 % and house prices by 34 % since 2010; whereas 25.1 % of private tenants in the EU spend over 40 % of their income on rent, while consumer prices have increased by 5.1 % and energy prices by 28.6 % since January 2021;

S. whereas the inclusion of local communities and meaningful local ownership play a key role in the process of decarbonisation;

T. whereas the need for housing in the EU will increase due to the number of refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine and conflicts in other non-EU countries;

U. whereas homelessness in the EU has risen by 70 % in the past decade; whereas estimates show that approximately 700 000 people are homeless on any given night in the EU; whereas 4.1 million people in the EU are exposed to homelessness each year for a short or long period, while there are more than 11 million empty houses in the European Union;

V. whereas buildings are responsible for 40 % of the EU’s energy consumption and 36 % of its greenhouse gas emissions;

1. Welcomes the fact that sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics are intertwined values at the core of the NEB initiative and calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure they support the right to decent housing, including social housing for vulnerable groups that is healthy, accessible, affordable and responsive to everyday needs and ensures the wellbeing of all; highlights the importance of sustainable architecture and interior design and the increased use of sustainable building materials as part of the preservation of architectural heritage, landscapes and tangible and intangible cultural heritage; notes that high-quality design of the built environment can contribute to wellbeing and social cohesion;

2. Calls on the Commission and Member States to cooperate with relevant stakeholders in pursuing a Design for All approach to remove accessibility barriers, and to pay particular attention to groups and individuals who are at risk of exclusion, poverty and health-threatening hazards such as air pollution; stresses the need for the NEB initiative to contribute to the reduction of homelessness and housing shortages by exploring links between the Housing First approach and the NEB initiative and the need for it to support projects providing quality employment opportunities, both in cities and in rural and remote areas; calls on the Commission to present a clear NEB roadmap for the next decade with clear objectives and encourages it to launch a dedicated user-friendly and accessible website on best practices;

3. Calls on the Commission to ensure gender equality and the inclusion of minorities and persons with disabilities in the NEB; calls on the Commission to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities;

4. Stresses that the Commission’s announcement of the NEB initiative must be followed up by concrete action and receive sufficient financial support in the long run to make it meaningful and ensure added value;

5. Stresses the need to support changes not only in cities, but also in rural and remote
areas; calls on the Commission to ensure the NEB Lab is inclusive and involves rural and remote areas; calls on it, furthermore, to support projects providing inclusive job opportunities, in particular in rural and remote areas;

6. Highlights the need to promote the NEB values in every Member State;

7. Calls on the Commission to continue the green transformation of the industrial ecosystem, including the construction sector, on the basis of the principles of the NEB initiative, supporting the necessary energy transition in the housing sector without increasing the cost of living; acknowledges the need for a skilled and qualified workforce to support the circular economy; stresses the role social economy enterprises and cooperatives can play in improving sustainability;

8. Calls on the Commission to use the NEB to achieve social sustainability while protecting people in the EU, in particular vulnerable groups, from the social impact of the European Green Deal with regard to housing and energy efficiency;

9. Calls on the Member States to closely cooperate and share their experience in the modernisation of buildings and the development of new solutions for the construction of sustainable, energy-efficient buildings;

10. Points out that the NEB initiative should help to reduce building costs and construction time and promote creative thinking and planning, while at the same time following the ‘think global, act local’ approach;

11. Welcomes the Commission’s Level(s) framework, which provides clear priorities and a standardised basis to assess and report on the sustainability of buildings throughout their full lifecycle; encourages the Member States to use the Davos Baukultur Quality System to determine the quality of a building project and its strengths and weaknesses from a Baukultur perspective;

12. Calls on the Commission to create an own fund to finance NEB projects and to cooperate, during the decision-making process, with EU residents, neighbourhood organisations and relevant social enterprises, such as non-governmental organisations and cooperatives, as well as with local authorities;

13. Expects a successful NEB initiative to create new quality employment in the construction, restoration, architecture, design, textile, cultural and creative sectors, and to offer upskilling and reskilling opportunities;

14. Welcomes the NEB initiative, as it could contribute to strengthening a diverse interactive society and a shared sense of belonging by promoting the EU’s cultural heritage buildings and natural areas, while at the same time fostering creativity and innovation inspired by different cultural backgrounds, geographical settings and climatic conditions;

15. Recalls that cultural heritage plays an important role in enhancing and creating social

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20 For a definition of Baukultur, please refer to the Council conclusions on culture, high-quality architecture and built environment as key elements of the New European Bauhaus initiative.
capital because it helps to reduce social disparities, facilitates social inclusion and promotes social cohesion and intergenerational dialogue 21; notes that the uptake of digital technologies by cultural heritage sites can make it possible for them to offer accessible and innovative experiences for communities;

16. Urges the Commission to increase its efforts to make this initiative more inclusive; notes that most contributions are related to aesthetics or sustainability, while accessibility, affordability and inclusion are less present;

17. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote and support universal design, sustainable and flexible life cycle housing solutions, inclusive communities and solidarity between the generations through the NEB initiative, enabling older people and persons with disabilities to live at home and in their community, to continue to play an active role in society and to pass on their experience and knowledge to younger generations; stresses the need for a people-centred and inclusive approach when it comes to planning and organising the surroundings and recreation facilities around buildings and neighbourhoods;

18. Considers that the NEB should guarantee a high quality of private and social housing; welcomes the acknowledgement of the need to prioritise reuse, regeneration, life extension and transformation of existing buildings over the construction of new ones whenever these activities are technically, economically and functionally feasible, as they help to reduce energy needs, carbon emissions and pressure for new buildings, and to improve health, comfort and wellbeing; is concerned about the disproportionate impact of the poor energy performance of social housing on those who already have low living standards;

19. Regrets that there are no plans for residents to participate in the NEB committees; urges the Commission to encourage an ethical architecture approach and engage the people most concerned by an NEB project as active participants in the design process, while respecting their cultural differences and diverse needs and perspectives;

20. Calls on the Commission to place, in the NEB, a greater focus on disadvantaged groups, including people experiencing homelessness, racism, discrimination, poverty and social exclusion; emphasises, in this regard, the human-rights-based and intersectional, non-discriminatory approach at the NEB’s core;

21. Calls on the Member States to introduce aid for young people and families to enable them to find housing, taking into account their needs;

22. Calls on the Member States to examine the possibility of setting up public architect teams to advise authorities, promote spatial quality and improve the design and sustainability of public projects; encourages policymakers and authorities to roll out stronger regulatory and fiscal support mechanisms for energy upgrades and renovations of existing buildings which take into consideration the intangible heritage and culture of buildings;

23. Calls on the Commission to proactively reach out to social actors and organisations

21 Council conclusions of 20 May 2014 on cultural heritage as a strategic resource for a sustainable Europe.
representing civil society and, notably, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, to ask them to become NEB partners; recalls that in order to make the NEB inclusive, a non-paternalistic approach taken together with the people concerned is essential, who need to be equally represented as promoters, community managers and key interlocutors for the initiative;

24. Proposes using the NEB to protect the right to the city and to help inhabitants to reclaim the city as a space created with their participation for encounters, societal interaction, collective actions and activities, on the basis of collective participation;

25. Calls on the Commission to take action through the NEB to help marginalised Roma communities living in environmentally polluted areas who have no access to safe drinking water and sanitation and to help them to find decent, safe and adequate housing; urges the Commission to implement NEB projects that aim to truly improve the living conditions of this vulnerable group and to contribute to territorial developments avoiding spatial segregation of marginalised Roma communities and other vulnerable groups;

26. Proposes the use of NEB to develop neighbourhoods with open, inclusive, accessible and vibrant spaces that promote equality, cultural exchanges and democracy and strengthen the sense of community, coexistence and cooperation;

27. Calls on the Commission to ensure that NEB projects promote social and affordable housing as a way to combine social justice, environmental performance and urban aesthetics;

28. Proposes that the NEB be used to develop sustainable, aesthetically pleasing and inclusive neighbourhoods that allow for access to affordable goods and services for all;

29. Proposes that the NEB promote social cohesion and interaction by developing projects that provide cultural and creative activities and care for people of all ages and groups, such as community centres and multigenerational housing projects;

30. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to invest in developing new, sustainable building techniques and designs in relation to the NEB initiative, in order to provide decent housing at affordable costs for all, also with view to tackling energy poverty; calls on the Commission and the Member States to invest in new forms of city planning in order to create sustainable, green and inclusive living;

31. Calls on the Commission to draw up concrete guidelines and guiding principles in line with the NEB to ensure the concepts for the EU’s built environment are of a high quality in terms of architecture, space and the sustainability of the materials used; notes, however, that public space, infrastructure and buildings must be constructed with the local planning context in mind to prevent regional differences and specificities from being levelled out;

32. Proposes that the NEB focus on the use and energy upgrade of existing empty housing in the EU; stresses that NEB projects should aim to bring back to life, renovate and

22 See the website of the Global Platform for the Right to the City: https://www.right2city.org/
reuse existing buildings instead of building new ones, and use as little new space as possible;

33. Stresses that social housing must remain affordable for people with low incomes and that the NEB could contribute to this goal;

34. Considers traditional artisanship based on regional value chains, in particular in the construction and design sectors, essential for sustainable development; stresses that traditional craftspeople strengthen social cohesion and the preservation of rural communities; welcomes initiatives such as Interreg’s CRAFTS CODE as an opportunity to promote the traditional craft sector; calls on the Commission and the Member States to designate a European Year of Craft with a view to making the craft sector more attractive and strengthening the principles championed by the NEB initiative; invites the Member States to incentivise the preservation and revaluation of local traditional craftspeople's work by creating a network and involving it in relevant vocational education and training and higher education curricula;

35. Calls on the Commission to take into account the fact that housing costs should be no higher than 25% of the disposable income of a household; calls for cooperation with local authorities, residents and other relevant stakeholders to ensure affordable rents and security of tenure based on fair and safe tenancy agreements;

36. Encourages the Member States to appoint an NEB initiative contact body to coordinate local efforts and participate in an EU-wide formal and informal network to exchange best practices, and also calls on them to foster the mobility and training of professionals and students; calls on the Commission and the Member States to include all levels of governance in the development and implementation of the NEB initiative and to build on the movement of civil society organisations and partners created by the NEB;

37. Underlines the need to develop accessible and affordable NEB housing solutions for young people, groups that are vulnerable to social exclusion and people who are not considered eligible for housing aid, but are still unable to afford a mortgage or high rental prices;

38. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to use the NEB as a tool to implement the Parliament resolutions on combating homelessness and ensuring access to adequate and affordable housing, by promoting social and publicly funded housing;

39. Considers that the digital transition can be key to enhancing the use of local resources and skills, as digital fabrication in fab labs or industries allows products to be distributed locally and, in many cases, gives a new life to certain traditions that could otherwise fade away;

40. Stresses that the Commission and the Member States should use NEB housing solutions to provide permanent housing for homeless persons and enforce the ‘housing first’

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24 European Parliament resolution of 21 January 2021 on access to decent and affordable housing for all, OJ C 456, 10.11.2021, p. 145.
principle;

41. Underlines that SMEs are important employers at the local level and can adapt quickly in order to innovate; warns, however, of the risk that they may be pushed out of markets owing to the very rapid transition to large-scale solutions in industries such as the construction materials industry; invites the Commission and the Member States to reflect on how to best support SMEs involved in construction, design or materials production;

42. Welcomes the inclusive nature of the NEB movement; proposes cooperation with stakeholders and local authorities to ensure equal access to housing for all and tackle discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disabilities, economic and social status and religion;

43. Underlines the important role of the NEB in promoting gender equality; proposes the use of NEB housing and neighbourhood projects to ensure access to safe and affordable housing for women, in particular single mothers and victims of domestic violence, as well as access to services such as childcare and psychological and social support in the neighbourhood;

44. Calls on the Commission to ensure that all NEB housing and neighbourhood projects provide affordable and accessible connectivity for all local residents;

45. Calls on the Member States, when planning NEB housing projects, to provide a sufficient amount of green and public space per NEB neighbourhood as an investment in healthy neighbourhoods, and to better incorporate environmental considerations in spatial planning; notes that green areas providing public spaces for exercise and relaxation mitigate stressors such as noise, improve social interactions and mental health and decrease social isolation;

46. Calls on the Member States to ensure high-quality shared outdoor space that includes blue and green infrastructure within NEB neighbourhoods, access to nature and the prioritisation of nature-based solutions, an initiative that is in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal; calls on the relevant authorities to provide adequate space to accommodate a significant rise in the use of bicycles as a transport mode, which contributes to a healthy and carbon-free lifestyle and increases the mobility of people of all ages;

47. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that NEB projects help to reduce land use for buildings, by focusing, for example, on the renovation of the existing housing stock and the use of already built-up areas;

48. Notes that empowering local communities to incorporate elements of food security within local areas and regions and to generate energy locally is linked to employment and social affairs and can contribute to social equity, resilience and cohesion, ambitions that chime with the NEB;

49. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that participatory planning and the implementation of NEB projects involve local communities;
50. Welcomes the so-called 15-minute city model implemented by some European cities and invites the Member States to consider replicating that model in more cities in order to make all essential services and amenities accessible within walking distance; underlines the role of mobility and interconnectivity in safeguarding work-life balance and reducing energy and transport costs; encourages the clustering of rural towns, where relevant and feasible, to maintain and improve the provision of services;

51. Calls, with regard to Russia’s war in Ukraine, for a re-evaluation of the energy question and, in view of the large number of refugees from that country, to intensify all efforts concerning human rights, such as the inclusion dimension; calls on the Commission and the Member States to take into account these new challenges and implications in the NEB;

52. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure better recognition and compensation of asbestos-related and other occupational diseases for all exposed workers in order to protect the health of construction and other workers involved in the green transition and the NEB;

53. Calls on the Commission to recognise the digital dimension as an explicit part of how future spaces are conceived; notes that the values that the NEB promotes for the development of the built environment should be mirrored in the digital sphere;

54. Calls on the Commission to ensure good governance, transparency and accountability towards relevant stakeholders for all NEB projects;

55. Calls on the Commission to cooperate with local authorities and stakeholders so that people looking for housing have access to information on available NEB housing projects; stresses the importance of strengthening the institutional and structured participation of tenants and residents and urges the Commission to facilitate this process by providing them with the necessary knowledge and information about the NEB;

56. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to significantly increase their focus on prevention strategies, for example by strengthening labour inspectorates, national health and safety services and social partner dialogue to ensure that all employees have a right to the highest level of health and safety protection possible during the implementation of the NEB;

57. Stresses that the health and safety of workers in construction or renovation, in particular those working on NEB projects, should be ensured, and that protective equipment should be provided;

58. Calls on the Commission to adopt measures for tenants of NEB projects to protect them from exposure to asbestos and other harmful materials during energy renovation work; emphasises that all tenants should be protected from paying the costs of renovation work; stresses that temporary adequate accommodation for tenants should be ensured during renovation works; welcomes the use of safe and sustainable materials in the construction and renovation of all NEB buildings;

59. Calls for EU-funded upskilling and training, in particular in digital tools, of workers in NEB-relevant sectors; calls on the Commission to ensure diversity and equal
representation in the NEB work environment; stresses that workers’ and unions’ rights in the NEB work environment should be safeguarded;

60. Stresses the need for Member States to include NEB projects in the reforms and investments planned in their national recovery and resilience plans in line with the six pillars of the Recovery and Resilience Facility.
## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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|0: 3 |

**Members present for the final vote**  
Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Gabriele Bischoff, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Milan Brglez, Jordi Cañas, David Casa, Leila Chaibi, Ilan De Basso, Margarita de la Pisa Carrión, Estrella Durá Ferrandis, Rosa Estarás Ferragut, Loucas Fourlas, Cindy Franssen, Helmut Geuking, Alicia Homs Ginel, Miriam Lexmann, Elena Lizzi, Sara Matthieu, Max Orville, Sandra Pereira, Kira Marie Peter-Hansen, Manuel Pizarro, Dennis Radtke, Elżbieta Rafalska, Guido Reil, Daniela Rondinelli, Mounir Satouri, Monica Semedo, Romana Tomc, Marianne Vind, Maria Walsh, Stefania Zambelli, Tomáš Zdechovský

**Substitutes present for the final vote**  
Konstantinos Arvanitis, Simona Baldassarre, Ilana Cicurel, Gheorghe Falcă, Krzysztof Hetman, Pierfrancesco Majorino, Antonius Manders, Eugenia Rodríguez Palop

**Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote**  
Mohammed Chahim, Martin Hojsík, Domènec Ruiz Devesa
**FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION**

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Key to symbols:
+ : in favour
- : against
0 : abstention
## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

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| **Result of final vote** | +: 73  
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| **Substitutes present for the final vote** | Isabella Adinolfi, Pernando Barrena Arza, Isabel Benjumea Benjumea, Alexander Bernhuber, Vlad-Marius Botoș, Gheorghe Falcă, Klemen Grošelj, Marina Kaljurand, Morten Løkkegaard, Adriana Maldonado López, Alessandro Panza, Massimiliano Salini, Iuliu Winkler |
| **Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote** | Biljana Borzan, Karolin Braunsberger-Reinhold, Camilla Laureti, Cristina Maestre Martín De Almagro, Antonio Maria Rinaldi, Patrizia Toia, Loránt Vincze, Carlos Zorrinho |
# Final Vote by Roll Call in Committee Responsible

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**Key to symbols:**
- **+**: in favour
- **-**: against
- **0**: abstention