



2021/2255(INI)

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

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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.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	15.6.2022
Result of final vote	+: 36 -: 0 0: 4
Members present for the final vote	François Alfonsi, Pascal Arimont, Adrian-Dragoş Benea, Rosanna Conte, Corina Creţu, Rosa D'Amato, Christian Doleschal, Raffaele Fitto, Chiara Gemma, Mircea-Gheorghe Hava, Krzysztof Hetman, Manolis Kefalogiannis, Constanze Krehl, Elżbieta Kruk, Dan-Ştefan Motreanu, Andżelika Anna Mozdżanowska, Niklas Nienaf, Andrey Novakov, Younous Omarjee, Alessandro Panza, Tsvetelina Penkova, Caroline Roose, Marcos Ros Sempere, André Rougé, Susana Solís Pérez, Monika Vana
Substitutes present for the final vote	Álvaro Amaro, Asger Christensen, Laurence Farreng, Jan Olbrycht, Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Rovana Plumb, Peter Pollák, Simone Schmiedtbauer, Yana Toom
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Pietro Fiocchi, Vlad Gheorghe, Sandro Gozi, Eero Heinäluoma, Antonio Maria Rinaldi

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

36	+
ECR	Pietro Fiocchi, Raffaele Fitto, Elzbieta Kruk, Andželika Anna Mozdzanowska
NI	Chiara Gemma
PPE	Álvaro Amaro, Pascal Arimont, Christian Doleschal, Mircea-Gheorghe Hava, Krzysztof Hetman, Manolis Kefalogiannis, Dan-Ștefan Motreanu, Andrey Novakov, Jan Olbrycht, Peter Pollák, Simone Schmiedtbauer
RENEW	Asger Christensen, Laurence Farreng, Vlad Gheorghe, Sandro Gozi, Susana Solís Pérez, Yana Toom
S&D	Adrian-DraGoș Benea, 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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ID	Rosanna Conte, Alessandro Panza, Antonio Maria Rinaldi, André Rougé

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention