



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2022)3313 final*

*Mr Ion-Marcel CIOLACU
President of the Camera
Deputaților
Palace of the Parliament
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Commission Communication “New European Bauhaus – Beautiful, Sustainable, Together” {COM(2021) 573 final}.

In proposing the actions laid down in the Communication, the Commission is making good on the announcement of the Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in her 2020 State of the Union Address to set up a New European Bauhaus to match sustainability with aesthetics and inclusion to turn the European Green Deal into a cultural project for Europe.¹

Today’s transversal challenges (climate change, digitalisation, pandemic impacts, demographic changes) call for a new forward-looking paradigm that benefits from collective thinking, knowledge and action. The New European Bauhaus is a creative and interdisciplinary initiative, connecting the European Green Deal to our living spaces and experiences. The initiative is based on three core values:

- Sustainability - from climate goals, to circularity, zero pollution, and biodiversity*
- Aesthetics - quality of experience and style, beyond functionality*
- Inclusion - from valuing diversity, to securing accessibility and affordability*

¹ State of the Union Address by President von der Leyen at the European Parliament Plenary: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_20_1655

The actions defined in the Communication aim for a threefold transformation: a transformation of places on the ground, a transformation of the enabling environment for innovation, and the diffusion of new meanings.

The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților's broad support for the aims of the proposal and notes the specific questions posed by the Opinion.

With the adoption of the Communication in September 2021, the initiative moved from an initial design phase to the delivery phase. The aim of the design phase was to define through extensive stakeholder consultation and a participatory approach where and how the New European Bauhaus will bring added value. In the delivery phase, these collective ideas are now being transformed into actions and tangible achievements. The Commission has launched a series of calls for proposals through various EU programmes, including a call for New European Bauhaus "lighthouse demonstrators".² New calls are at a planning stage for 2023 and 2024.

The Commission is also working with the New European Bauhaus community (the High Level Round Table and the growing community of official partners of the New European Bauhaus) on the establishment of New European Bauhaus laboratory, the "NEBLab. The NEBLab will constitute a co-creation space for nurturing concrete activities in support of the initiative. In June 2022, the New European Bauhaus Prizes 2022 will be awarded as part of the first New European Bauhaus Festival, taking place from 9-12 June 2022."³

The Commission values the Camera Deputaților's engagement already at the early stage of the process and will take its Opinion and other contributions received into account when further integrating the New European Bauhaus into the existing European Union policy framework.

In response to the more technical comments in the Opinion, the Commission would like to refer to the attached annex.

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mariya Gabriel
Member of the Commission*

² https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/about/delivery_en

³ New European Bauhaus Prizes 2022: <https://prizes.new-european-bauhaus.eu/>; New European Bauhaus Festival: <https://new-european-bauhaus-festival.eu/>

Annex

The Commission has carefully considered each of the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților in its Opinion. As regards the points to which the Camera Deputaților has drawn the Commission's particular attention, the Commission would like to make the following comments:

Point 2: The Commission agrees that the New European Bauhaus initiative should not increase administrative and fiscal burdens.

Point 3: The Commission agrees that small and medium sized enterprises should be closely involved in the activities of the New European Bauhaus. One way for businesses to participate in the initiative is via the call for "Friends of the New European Bauhaus" that will be launched in spring.

Point 4: The Commission agrees that the New European Bauhaus needs to reach people and local communities everywhere in the European Union. The initiative is supporting appropriate communication measures and activities to mobilise and support local communities in rural areas. By way of example, the award criteria for the 2022 edition for the New European Bauhaus Prizes also take into account diversity of contexts (rural/urban, small scale/bigger scale projects).⁴

Point 5: The Commission agrees that the educational sector is one of the main drivers for the kind of transformative change aimed for by The New European Bauhaus. Sustainability competences need to seep into education from an early age. Sustainability skills will be instrumental in aiding people of all ages to understand the ecological boundaries of the planet, understanding the connections between the environment, our economy and society. The Commission adopted on 14 January a proposal for a Council Recommendation on Learning for Environmental Sustainability. With explicit reference to the cultural and creative dimension which the New European Bauhaus brings to the European Green Deal, the proposal recommends investment in green and sustainable equipment, resources and infrastructure (buildings, grounds and technology) for learning, socialising and recreation to ensure healthy and resilient learning environments. The Erasmus+ call for Innovation Alliances (to be published in the second half of 2022) will contain a priority on the New European Bauhaus, targeting both higher education and vocational education and training sectors. The Commission also recently launched a call for projects of transformation of "places of learning".

Point 6: Reconnecting with nature and developing a sustainable approach to the built environment in the context of the New European Bauhaus will imply dealing with natural threats and disaster such as flooding or earthquakes. Specific attention will be devoted to places and people who need it the most, including in these areas.

⁴ Guide to Applicants:

https://prizes.new-european-bauhaus.eu/sites/default/files/guide-to-applicants/guide%20to%20applicants_EN_20220223_0.pdf

Point 7: The Commission stresses that the New European Bauhaus highlights the role of local and traditional knowledge and techniques (including architectural heritage) in developing local solutions fit to achieve the European Commission’s climate targets and to support a broader transformation on the ground. The initiative also explicitly supports strong community ties and encourages intergenerational solidarity, mentioning also the contribution of urban green corridors for active mobility and rethinking transport infrastructure.⁵

Point 8: The Commission encourages the reduction of soil sealing and land take and the greening of urban areas, for instance via recycling of brownfields and the use of nature-based building materials and nature-based solutions in the renovation and refurbishment of buildings and neighbourhoods, providing benefits for both human well-being and biodiversity. In that sense, it can contribute to restore and enhance biodiversity (including soil biodiversity, pollinators) and complement relevant policy initiatives in the field.

Point 9: The Commission agrees that the success of the New European Bauhaus relies on actively engaging citizens and civil society organisations in the activities of the initiative. The Commission further agrees that the educational sector is one of the main drivers for transformative change leading to sustainable and inclusive living spaces. The 2022 annual theme for the community for schools in Europe – eTwinning – is dedicated to the New European Bauhaus: ‘Our future: beautiful, sustainable, together. Schools and the New European Bauhaus: Imagining a creative learning environment in green and inclusive schools’. Teachers and school staff are invited to reflect with their pupils on their vision of the ideal school (beautiful, sustainable, together).⁶ The 2022 theme of the European Innovative Teaching Award (EITA “Learning together, promoting creativity and sustainability” will also be dedicated to the New European Bauhaus. It focusses in particular on the link between sustainability, participation and inclusion. The award will be awarded in autumn 2022.

Work is ongoing in defining the activities for the New European Bauhaus for the coming years, and the Camera Deputaţilor’s recommendation will be duly taken into account.

⁵ Communication “New European Bauhaus – Beautiful, Sustainable, Together” {COM(2021) 573 final}, pp. 6-8.

⁶ <https://www.etwinning.net/en/pub/newsroom/highlights/etwinning-theme-of-the-year-20.htm>