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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Council Recommendation on the New European Bauhaus

Delegations will find in the Annex the Council Recommendation on the New European Bauhaus, as adopted by the Council at its 4171st meeting held on 11 May 2026.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

on New European Bauhaus

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Articles 292 and 192 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The New European Bauhaus (NEB) aims to implement the clean transition and the Clean Industrial Deal through tangible projects which support the transformation of neighbourhoods and improve daily lives with solutions that combine sustainability and affordability with good design, high-quality architecture, inclusivity, accessibility, and enhancing innovation in industrial ecosystems to unlock competitiveness, while respecting and promoting Europe's diverse places, cultural heritage and cultural diversity. By fostering co-creation processes with local communities, stakeholders and businesses, the initiative promotes solutions that are tailored to societal and environmental needs and supported by a broad base of citizens and can be replicated and scaled up in similar contexts across the EU.

- (2) In 2021, the European Commission adopted a Communication¹ presenting the concept and objectives of the NEB, which is guided by three inseparable values (sustainability, inclusiveness, and aesthetics) and three principles (multilevel engagement, the participatory approach, and transdisciplinarity).
- (3) Both the European Parliament² and the EU Member States³ have shown support for the NEB and the European Economic and Social Committee⁴ and the European Committee of the Regions⁵ have issued positive opinions on the initiative.
- (4) In five years, the NEB has built a robust membership-based community⁶ of almost 2 000 local and international organisations ranging from non-profit organisations and cultural entities to public authorities and businesses. Over 700 projects have already been supported. Under the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) EUR 1.4 billion were devoted to the NEB. The bulk of the funding stems from cohesion policy (over EUR 840 million) and Horizon Europe (over EUR 530 million). Other EU programmes (LIFE, Single Market Programme, Digital Europe and COSME) contribute around EUR 26 million.

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions New European Bauhaus, [COM\(2021\) 573](#).

² See European Parliament resolution of 14 September 2022 on the new European Bauhaus, [2021/2255\(INI\)](#). Additionally, the European Parliament has supported the initiative with a preparatory action ('New European Bauhaus Knowledge Management Platform') and a pilot project ('Stimulating Local and Regional New European Bauhaus Grassroots Projects').

³ See Council conclusions on culture, high-quality architecture and built environment as key elements of the New European Bauhaus initiative, [14534/21](#).

⁴ See <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/new-european-bauhaus>.

⁵ See <https://web.cor.europa.eu/ea/News/Pages/CoR-members-adopt-McCarthy's-opinion-on-the-New-European-Bauhaus.aspx>.

⁶ See [Community is the core of New European Bauhaus - New European Bauhaus](#).

- (5) In the political guidelines for the European Commission 2024-2029⁷, the NEB is part of the Commission's overall objective of 'Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model', with the goal of bringing sustainability together with inclusion and affordability, and creativity with innovation. Enlarging the NEB Community would serve to advance this goal and ensure relevant stakeholders can contribute effectively.
- (6) The values and principles of the NEB can help Europe move towards a more competitive, circular and sustainable future. By embedding the NEB values into existing national, regional, local and urban strategies centred around the built environment, Member States can turn the clean and digital transitions into tangible opportunities for citizens and businesses across Europe. By boosting research and innovation, industrial excellence, skills, culture and creativity, the NEB can help create resilient value chains and high-quality jobs across Europe, so that the clean transition enhances Europe's global competitiveness, sustainable development and strategic autonomy while preserving an open economy. However, such integration and mainstreaming are currently unequal across the Union, leading to uneven opportunities for stakeholders and authorities, in particular at local level. Member States can build on existing good practices of multilevel and cross-sectoral governance. Mainstreaming the NEB values and principles into relevant policies, including through national architectural policies and digital spatial planning tools, and funding instruments at national, regional and local level can support the transformative regeneration of neighbourhoods and strengthen their social fabric, and promote those values and principles for the built environment and relevant sectors.

⁷ See [Priorities 2024-2029 - European Commission](#).

- (7) Member States have a range of tools at their disposal to embed NEB values and principles that promote a sustainable, affordable, inclusive, accessible, aesthetically-valuable, high-quality, climate-adapted built environment into their policy plans for building renovation and construction, territorial development and climate change, and into national architectural policies and other national or EU plans and strategies⁸ in line with national competences and governance structures for sustainable development. Those could be used to support the mainstreaming and integration of the NEB objectives through an integrated approach that avoids creating parallel structures, and to promote synergies between different goals such as energy efficiency and decarbonisation, carbon storage, climate resilience, urban green infrastructure, the circular economy, sustainable mobility, water resilience, affordability, sustainability and accessibility, particularly in the context of neighbourhood regeneration and invigorating local and city centres, while taking cultural heritage into account.
- (8) There is a clear opportunity for NEB values and principles to promote a more circular and efficient use of resources within the built environment. This underlines the need for sufficiency-oriented spatial planning strategies as well as efficiency improvements. Currently, the construction, use and renovation of buildings necessitate significant energy and mineral resources, accounting for 42% of the total energy consumption, 35% of greenhouse gas emissions, 50% of all material extraction, and 35% of the EU's total waste generation⁹. These activities also contribute to water consumption and exacerbate air, water and soil pollution, noise pollution, land use change and degradation, desertification processes, soil sealing, biodiversity loss, and urban sprawl that need to be minimised.

⁸ Such as the European Affordable Housing Plan, National Building Renovation Plans, Territorial Just Transition Plans, Social Climate Plans, Local Heating and Cooling Plans, Circular Economy Plans and initiatives such as Climate City Contracts, Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans, EU Urban Agenda and EU Agenda for Cities.

⁹ See EEA report '[Addressing the environmental and climate footprint of buildings](#)', 2024.

- (9) In view of its 2050 climate neutrality target, the EU adopted several legal acts to reduce the environmental and climate footprint of buildings throughout their life cycle. They are complemented by a variety of non-legislative policy initiatives ranging from calculation methodologies and tools to industry pathways, plans, strategies and funding, including ‘Supporting life-cycle approaches to decarbonise European buildings’, published by the Commission in March 2026¹⁰, the common framework of core sustainability indicators for office and residential buildings¹¹, and the rules on alignment of EU budget expenditure with ‘do no significant harm’ criteria¹². These and the EU Bioeconomy Strategy¹³ help overcome barriers to market entry and support the creation of lead markets for low-carbon, circular, clean and bio-based building materials and clean technologies, thus supporting sustainable business models, sustainable and resilient industrial ecosystems, jobs and value creation in the EU.
- (10) NEB projects enhance the competitive and innovative edge of the construction, water and sustainable bioeconomy industries through knowledge generation, prototyping and upscaling of technologies for decarbonised circular and nature-positive design, including vernacular knowledge for coexisting with nature and the optimisation of construction methods, addressing standards and reducing costs to create markets for innovative materials and non-toxic, environmentally friendly, sustainable and durable materials, thus supporting resource-efficient, cost-effective, and innovative growth while ensuring a sustainable use of limited natural resources.

¹⁰ [Commission Staff Working Document - Supporting life-cycle approaches to decarbonise European buildings \(SWD\(2026\) 93 final\)](#).

¹¹ See [Level\(s\)](#).

¹² See [DNSH technical guidance to the SCF - European Commission](#), and the [EU Taxonomy Regulation and its delegated acts](#) include provisions aiming to reduce buildings’ environmental footprint.

¹³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A Strategic Framework for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy ([COM/2025/960](#)).

- (11) A more efficient and circular use of the built environment - buildings, urban and rural landscapes, public spaces, common spaces, green spaces and infrastructure - will support the adaptation of the existing building stock to people's needs in terms of space, connectivity and accessibility, including through digital territorial plans, while respecting planetary boundaries. Prioritising the efficient use of built space through renovation or refurbishment¹⁴ over unnecessary demolition and new construction, as well as new social practices, offer considerable potential for reducing the environmental and climate footprint of the building stock¹⁵, deliver high quality, affordable and sustainable housing for all, protecting biodiversity and restoring nature, avoiding land degradation and if possible slowing down urban sprawl and soil sealing, including through the reuse of brownfields, fostering sustainable mobility, social cohesion and acceptance while protecting and integrating cultural heritage as an element of economic and social cohesion for living and housing. Using vacant buildings, especially in rural areas, promotes reactivation, prevents population decline, and increases the attractiveness of town centres.

¹⁴ 'Refurbishment' includes changes of space, plan or of function to new use not typically covered by renovation, in line with [the standards set by the European Committee for Standardisation \(CEN\)](#).

¹⁵ Based on Commission studies: [Conversion of offices into affordable housing](#), [Sufficiency in the built sector](#) and on a more efficient use of the building stock (results mid-2027).

- (12) Local communities bear the brunt of the negative impacts of natural and climate related hazards and environmental degradation, such as the increased frequency and intensity of heatwaves, clay swelling and shrinking, floods, wildfires-or earthquakes, which are exacerbated by the interaction with other drivers of desertification and land degradation such as geomorphology, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, poor air, water and soil quality or soil sealing. Between 2011 and 2021, there was an increase of over 935 000 people in Europe living in areas that are potentially prone to river flooding.¹⁶ The growing wildland-urban interface (WUI), the zone where human settlements are in or near areas of fire-prone wildland vegetation, has led to more frequent and dangerous wildfires.¹⁷ -In the period 2017-2019, on average 119 000 people per year in the EEA countries and the UK lived in areas assessed as burnt by wildfires.¹⁸ To support local resilience and crisis preparedness, standards for adapting buildings¹⁹ and urban and rural areas to climate change and for flood and wildfire prevention and preparedness, green areas, and urban ecosystem restoration-could be integrated into regulatory and financial tools as well as in related training and education²⁰ at national, local and regional level.
- (13) Green-blue infrastructures are crucial for climate adaptation, biodiversity, and public health. Reallocation and redesign of urban public space in line with the NEB values can be supported by integrated urban regeneration and sustainable urban mobility concepts (e.g. SUMPS) that enable these transformations while maintaining accessibility to jobs, services and amenities. Streets, squares, parks and other public spaces serve social interaction, connection with nature, well-being, and climate action rather than being mere transit corridors. Such reallocation could include nature trails connecting urban and rural areas, fostering physical activity, and economic opportunities in regions facing depopulation, thereby enhancing social cohesion and regional vitality.

¹⁶ See EEA [report on Europe's Environment](#), 2025.

¹⁷ See [Forest Fires – Sparking firesmart policies in the EU](#).

¹⁸ See EEA [report on Europe's Environment](#), 2025.

¹⁹ See [EU-level technical guidance on adapting buildings to climate change](#).

²⁰ See [Handbook on urban greening strategies and nature plans](#) (2025).

- (14) EU policies include specific measures and tools to protect disadvantaged and marginalised groups, in particular in relation to energy and mobility poverty, air pollution, the urban heat island effect, access to clean drinking water, sanitation and green and blue infrastructure. The NEB projects contribute to environmental and climate fairness while also strengthening social inclusion, public health, intergenerational fairness, gender equality and crime prevention, including gender-based violence.
- (15) Participation is a founding principle of the NEB. Its projects, funding, digital tools, and capacity building are good examples of the promotion, incentivisation and support for participation and local democracy policies and practices, in particular on spatial and urban design and the transformation of neighbourhoods.
- (16) Participation in urban development processes presents a significant opportunity both for communities and for project developers.-Genuine and active public involvement in the design and governance of projects, including those who are affected by energy poverty or otherwise disadvantaged or marginalised, builds trust and understanding in democratic systems, preserves democratic accountability, strengthens the social fabric and enhances the effectiveness of the interventions. Such engagement, through public assemblies and co-design and co-creation workshops, with the possibility of political participation at local level, anchors projects in local realities and prevents tokenism, fostering resilient and inclusive societies. For project developers, this community and stakeholder buy-in can lead to expedited permitting processes, smoother project implementation and ultimately community acceptance and lower risks.

- (17) Leveraging digital tools such as the EU Local Digital Twins Toolbox, national digital spatial planning platforms, and emerging technologies such as advanced artificial intelligence (AI) models for spatial design and reconstruction, including large language models adapted to specific EU languages, advanced engineering solutions, digital building logbooks and digital pre-demolition audits, makes public involvement in decision-making and policy development more transparent, efficient, and responsive. Strengthening the operational capacities of authorities through existing resources and platforms, such as peer-to-peer learning opportunities and technical support, ensures effective guidance and support in implementing the NEB values and principles, fostering community-driven solutions and enhancing societal resilience.
- (18) Lack of skills in the construction sector, notably for circular and sustainable construction, renovation and restoration, is a major issue for the construction industry. In 2022, the Commission launched the NEB Academy on skills for sustainable construction to contribute to a broader effort to accelerate the upskilling and reskilling of workers in the construction ecosystem and support its clean transition. The Commission will, in the current MFF, scale up the NEB Academy and develop it into the core infrastructure for the NEB for knowledge valorisation, safe experimentation and innovation, and skills development. The NEB Academy aims to facilitate skilling activities, capacity-building and applied innovation therefore valorising the knowledge produced under the NEB Facility. The NEB Academy will develop a NEB Investment Accelerator to attract and facilitate the allocation of private and blended funding to innovative NEB projects.
- (19) The Davos Declaration ‘Towards a high-quality Baukultur for Europe’ acknowledges the cultural aspects of preservation, planning and building and established high-quality Baukultur (culture of architecture and design) as a political priority. The Council conclusions on culture, high-quality architecture and built environment as key elements of the New European Bauhaus initiative adopted on 29-30 November 2021 invited Member States and the Commission to promote a culture-led, quality-driven and participatory approach to the built environment and to apply high-quality standards in planning, design, building, conservation, restoration, renovation, refurbishment and adaptive reuse processes.

- (20) NEB projects show that embedding artists in technological and scientific environments sparks paradigm-shifting collaborations leading to innovation and concrete outputs. The Commission Communication on a Culture Compass for Europe adopted on 12 November 2025 acknowledges the importance of promoting a shared culture of architecture and design and investing in a high-quality living environment for everyone through initiatives like the NEB. While the role of artists and cultural professionals as change-makers and innovators is essential for translating and implementing NEB values on the ground, their mobilisation and access to funding are still insufficient, especially for small organisations, to fully harness the potential of their visions and their creative approaches. Breaking down silos among cultural and creative sectors and industries as well as between art, science and technology is a challenge that still needs to be addressed by creating and supporting more transdisciplinary collaboration opportunities.
- (21) As of 2025, the NEB is partially funded by its own funding instrument established by the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027, the NEB Facility, designed to increase impact and transparency, and simplify access for applicants. The NEB Facility will provide financial support and a strategic framework to achieve the NEB objectives until 2027. The NEB Facility Roadmap outlines the actions and strategic directions for the period 2025 to 2027²¹. A Research and Innovation component is endowed with an annual budget of approximately EUR 120 million from the current Horizon Europe programme. A complementary roll-out component focussing on deployment and technical assistance should leverage a similar level of investment and is supported by other EU programmes as well as by Member States and private sources. Member States are already embracing the NEB values and principles in their funding programmes in diverse ways, reflecting their unique contexts, heritage, and community spirit. All Member States have included the NEB in at least one of their cohesion policy programmes for 2021–2027.

²¹ The Roadmap details the budget, governance, and key measures and provides guidance by outlining how the Commission, in close collaboration with Member States and NEB stakeholders, will implement the NEB Facility.

- (22) Transformative projects also need to attract private funding. Mobilising private finance and strengthening frameworks for financing is necessary to support decarbonisation and the circular transformation of the built environment, in particular the renovation of existing building stock. In 2024, the NEB Investment Guidelines were developed to help investors align their projects with the NEB values and principles to transform Europe's built environment. The Guidelines were developed in close cooperation between the European Commission and the Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions (JASPERS). With the support of a European Parliament pilot project²², and building on the experience of initiatives such as the Business Acceleration Services of the EIC - the EIC marketplace and the Horizon Results Platform - the Commission will launch an Advisory Hub, an interactive platform to facilitate matchmaking between small projects looking for access to financing and social economy investors, philanthropic organisations, and other private and public investors, including financial institutions and institutional investors, with a view to improving project bankability and investment readiness. Cooperation with multilateral development banks and national promotional banks can play an important role in leveraging private capital and supporting the development of investment pipelines for NEB projects. The EU Taxonomy²³ also helps investors identify environmentally sustainable construction and renovation projects.

²² 'Stimulating Local and Regional New European Bauhaus Grassroots Projects'.

²³ Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, pp. 13–43, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/852/oj>).

- (23) The NEB Compass²⁴ is the guiding framework for applying the NEB values and principles in practice. A NEB Hub for Results and Impact²⁵ has been established to collect, analyse, and distil the lessons learned as well as tools and knowledge generated by the NEB. A NEB self-assessment method²⁶ was developed for project developers and decision makers to facilitate their self-assessment of the performance of the project in terms of NEB values. The Commission will also establish easy to use key performance indicators (KPIs) for measuring the transformational impact of NEB projects to be associated where appropriate with existing frameworks and will develop a NEB Label to promote visibility for NEB projects, to support Member States in promoting NEB projects and practices and to facilitate market integration by providing a standardised framework and workable criteria at EU level to support NEB project assessment at national, regional and local level. The coherent use of those tools by Member States should reduce fragmentation, administrative burden and promote consistency in implementation, enhancing competitiveness within the internal market as well as the identification and dissemination of scalable and replicable solutions across Europe through cross-country inspiration and sharing of good practices.

²⁴ See https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/tools-and-resources/use-compass_en.

²⁵ Implemented through the topic 'HORIZON-MISS-2024-NEB-01-03: Setting up a New European Bauhaus hub for results and impact' and the follow up action 'NEB Hub – Phase II: advancing impact, knowledge management and monitoring of results', the later in the Horizon Europe 'main' Work Programme 2026-2027, Annex 13 - New European Bauhaus Facility.

²⁶ See https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/tools-and-resources/neb-self-assessment-method_en.

- (24) Together with the NEB Community, the European Commission has developed supporting structures that foster engagement and collaboration. NEB Local Chapters are self-organised, place-based groups of NEB Community members that contribute to the delivery of NEB in local environments. NEB Labs are the ‘think-and-do tanks’ of the initiative, set up by Community members to co-create, prototype and test the tools and solutions. New Labs are being created to address priority issues, and a NEB Lab on affordable housing will be set up to collect best practices on innovative methods such as offsite constructions or additive manufacturing, built space efficiency and housing solutions for disadvantaged groups, or innovative accessibility adaptations. The European Commission will set up a European Housing Alliance as a hub for cooperation, mutual learning and exchanging best practices bringing together all levels of government. This Alliance will foster synergies with NEB practitioners and NEB Community members, including the NEB Lab on Housing. Synergies may be found between NEB Labs and national initiatives on digital spatial planning and architectural quality.
- (25) Coordination and multilevel governance of the NEB have been evolving in tandem with the initiative itself. In 2021, Member States established NEB National Contact Points (NCPs), to support the implementation of the NEB at national level and coordinate cross relevant areas. With the creation of the NEB Facility, which is established by Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027²⁷, NEB R&I NCPs were also established. Both networks are key to the preparation and implementation of the NEB Facility, addressing together both its R&I and roll-out components. A dedicated network to support managing authorities implementing the NEB in cohesion policy²⁸ was also established. However, coordination and synergies between the different networks need to be further enhanced to ensure coherence and greater impact.

²⁷ See https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/strategic-plan_en.

²⁸ The NEB Peer2Peer (P2P) Community facilitates the exchange of best practices and knowledge on the NEB among Managing Authorities and other relevant bodies: <https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/en/regio-peer-2-peer-communities/new-european-bauhaus>.

- (26) The NEB is also inspiring third countries, and more international collaboration can foster exchanges of knowledge and good practices. The Commission and the EU Delegations in third countries are cooperating to promote the NEB approach outside the EU, notably through the establishment of NEB Academy Hubs outside the EU. In particular, the NEB has provided support for the sustainable and inclusive reconstruction of Ukraine. Through EU programmes such as LIFE, Horizon Europe, and Interreg, the NEB has enabled projects such as the circular renovation of panelka buildings in Chernihiv, sustainable land use initiatives under Interreg Danube, and green urban restoration in the Black Sea Basin. NEB Labs and Prizes are fostering innovation and co-creation, including the Future School for Ukraine and Public Infrastructure Lab. Ukrainian stakeholders and authorities have shown an increasing interest in adopting a NEB approach for their reconstruction initiatives, and more effort should be made to support them. Additional support from the Commission and the EU Member States would allow them to accelerate their sustainable and inclusive reconstruction and safeguard both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, together with local communities.
- (27) The Commission will monitor the progress on the NEB mainly through exchanges of information with the the NEB NCPs. The Commission intends to support Member States in implementing the NEB at the national level and has announced supporting actions and future priorities in the Commission Communication adopted on 16 December 2025²⁹. The NEB translates these priorities into tangible improvements in daily living, supporting better neighbourhood design, healthier environments and more inclusive, greener and climate-adapted public spaces.

HAS ADOPTED THIS RECOMMENDATION

²⁹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the New European Bauhaus: From vision to implementation (COM (2025)1026).

1. MAINSTREAM NEB VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

- (a) It is recommended that Member States, at the appropriate levels of competence and in respect of the subsidiarity principle, embed the New European Bauhaus (NEB) values and principles in their relevant policies and funding instruments linked to neighbourhoods and the wider built environment, including infrastructure, where appropriate. Building on the lessons learnt from successful projects, initiatives and governance structures, Member States are encouraged to take a strategic approach to the NEB at national, local and regional levels, identifying the relevant actors or stakeholders and networks who should be involved;
- (b) Member States are encouraged to use and promote the supporting tools provided through the NEB Academy as well as the NEB Label to foster affordable, sustainable and high-quality transformation of the built environment and other sectors, while respecting national competences and territorial diversity, with a view to promoting exchanges of methods, practices and innovative approaches across Europe;
- (c) All three values – sustainability, inclusiveness and aesthetics – should be considered in an integrated way.

2. ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is recommended that Member States:

- (a) Promote a clean, circular, climate-neutral, climate-resilient, highly energy and water efficient, nature-positive built environment and thereby support affordable and sustainable housing, by:
 - (1) Considering using public procurement as a-tool that can be used strategically to promote innovative, sustainable, circular, socially fair and culturally sensitive architecture, renovation and cost effective construction of buildings as well as to promote-participatory fair urban planning, landscape-and architectural design competitions;

- (2) Applying a whole-life carbon approach to the construction and renovation of buildings, as per the guidance to be provided by the Commission, supporting measures³⁰ to effectively reduce the whole life-cycle carbon emissions from the building sector via a harmonised Union framework and methodology³¹ as well as its environmental footprint, taking into account the environmental objectives of the EU Taxonomy;
- (3) In their relevant national, regional and local strategies or plans relating to buildings, prioritising affordability and sustainability, circular economy, renovation over demolition where appropriate, modular and reversible construction and energy performance as well as indoor air quality and natural lighting and ventilation performance, long-term carbon storage and climate resilience to reduce impacts on urban biodiversity and land, addressing in particular disadvantaged households and prioritising, where relevant, architectural quality and water performance.
- (4) Promoting the fact that new buildings, as well as those undergoing major renovation, are designed and prepared, where technically feasible, for smart measurement and management of indoor air quality, and of water and electricity, especially for the highest consumption and most relevant uses, ensuring interoperability with energy networks, to ensure water and energy savings³² as well as infrastructure for sustainable mobility.

³⁰ See Recital 11 for an example of such measures.

³¹ See Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/xxxx amending Annex III to Directive (EU) 2024/1275 on the Union framework for the national calculation of life-cycle global warming potential. C(2025) 8723 - PE/2025/8966.

³² In line with the [Commission Recommendation on guiding principles of water efficiency first](#).

- (5) Reviewing how incentives could significantly promote indoor air quality, natural lighting and ventilation as well as water resilience and water and energy efficiency and sufficiency, including rainwater reuse;
 - (6) Ensuring further circular use of resources across the built environment taking into account its material footprint, and reducing its impact on the Union's environmental and climate objectives.
- (b) Develop solutions to unlock the untapped potential of a competitive, circular and sustainable bioeconomy industry, supporting market acceptance and uptake and the smooth functioning of the internal market for job creation and growth, in particular for the built environment and textiles, as set out in the EU Bioeconomy Strategy.
- (1) Considering, where appropriate, how markets and taxes provide appropriate incentives for sustainable production and consumption to support an appropriate shift from using fossil-based materials to circular bio-based materials and clean resources, thereby supporting the circular economy;
 - (2) Assessing how and whether public procurement is used to create market opportunities to support sustainable bio-based architecture and construction and clean technologies and resources, in line with ongoing EU efforts on simplification and streamlining³³;

³³ In the context of the ongoing review of EU public procurement directives, legislative proposal foreseen for mid-2026.

- (3) Identifying and addressing regulatory barriers and other obstacles to market entry for innovative construction methods and materials such as low-carbon and sustainable bio-based materials, offsite construction and additive manufacturing in construction, including energy-efficient equipment, and informing the European Commission about market fragmentation caused by divergent national rules and interpretations and conflicting EU rules through the European Bioeconomy Regulators' and Innovators' Forum and the High Level Construction Forum, while ensuring that materials are fit for their intended use and the conditions in which they are to be used through compliance with relevant EU standards³⁴ and national building codes.
- (c) Prioritise and incentivise an efficient use of the built environment in spatial planning and development decisions, with a view to promoting social and affordable housing and green urban infrastructure, avoiding, if possible, urban sprawl and spatial concentration of poverty, preventing climate risks, and promoting inclusive neighbourhoods, and their revitalisation, taking into account historic buildings and cultural heritage, the reuse of brownfields and solutions for sustainable public and private mobility, including in rural areas, in particular by:
- (1) Mapping vacant and underused buildings and their suitability for sufficiency measures and making this information available to competent authorities and to the actors of the building sector and the public; incentivising the transformation of vacant buildings into affordable, sustainable and quality housing, by renovating, extending, refurbishing, changing the use, or adapting built spaces to the evolving needs of households; exploring the underused housing potential for sustainable urban development in rural neighbourhoods through measures to develop their affordability, accessibility and connectivity;

³⁴ Eurocodes as well as harmonised technical specifications and European Assessment Documents under the Construction Product Regulation.

- (2) Streamlining and accelerating zoning and building permitting procedures, where relevant and feasible, in particular for renovation, vertical extension and sustainable refurbishment of buildings which can increase housing supply, including by sharing good practices between Member States;
 - (3) Facilitate the development of NEB good practices and blueprints, such as those on resilient housing that the Commission will develop through a digital Catalogue as well as on sustainable urban development;
- (d) Advance the NEB values and principles, promoting integrated spatial planning, to strengthen the crisis preparedness of neighbourhoods and communities and their resilience to health risks and natural disasters caused by climate change and environmental degradation as well as to geopolitical threats (including hybrid threats), in particular by:
- (1) Promoting disaster and crisis prevention, preparedness and restoration, for example integrated wildfire management, particularly in the Wildland-Urban Interface, erosion control, flood and earthquake risk management, adaptation to extreme temperatures, sustainable recovery of affected areas into spatial design and culture and cultural heritage-based solutions;
 - (2) Integrating nature-based solutions and nature restoration, culture and heritage-based solutions, resilience in the field of water, land and biodiversity conservation;
 - (3) Promoting water-resilient design and infrastructure, including through nature-based solutions, rainwater management, and adaptive measures against droughts and floods, to safeguard public health, ecosystems, and long-term habitability, particularly in vulnerable rural and coastal areas;
 - (4) Strengthening territorial resilience to geopolitical threats, including ensuring the reliability of critical infrastructure and the continuity of essential local functions, while promoting integrated spatial planning.

- (5) Promoting risk awareness and communication and a proactive governance approach to improve societal resilience;
- (6) Promoting the assessment of the distribution of urban green space and tree canopy cover in the different cities and other urban settlements, looking at how future planned development will actively integrate urban green space and nature-positive measures into buildings and infrastructure in different localities and regions, thereby contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity and healthier environments.
- (7) Consulting with relevant stakeholders, including insurers, in view of reviewing practices based on the ‘build back the same’ principle to reflect changing climate and environment conditions,; while preserving local identities and heritage;
- (8) Exploring measures in financing tools to help alleviate negative health impacts caused by climate change and environmental degradation, including heat exposure, air, soil, noise and light pollution as well as lack of access to green areas, paying special attention to the disproportionate exposure of sensitive populations and disadvantaged groups.
- (9) Encouraging the development of interconnected nature trails between localities in rural areas to promote physical activity, create recreational opportunities, and address depopulation by generating revenue streams from tourism and local events, thereby supporting inclusive and sustainable territorial development.

- (e) Incentivise the use of digital solutions for circularity and energy efficiency for a competitive clean transition, in particular:
- (1) Promoting the implementation of tools such as the Digital Product Passport, Energy Performance Certificates, digital building permits, digital building logbooks, digital pre-demolition audits and other digital solutions for carbon lifecycle and materials tracking, and fostering shared digital infrastructures and tools supporting data-driven decision-making in smart urban planning, energy, mobility and water management, in synergy with the Digital Decade Policy Programme;
 - (2) Promoting digital by design principles that include accessibility, interoperability, and energy-, material- and water-efficient ICT in urban planning, also supporting simplification through a digital toolbox with model-based permitting, rule-as-code compliance, and once-only reporting, while respecting national competences for spatial and urban planning.

3. ENHANCE PARTICIPATION, LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND DIGITAL CO-DESIGN TOOLS IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN AND NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT

It is recommended that Member States:

- (a) Build on the NEB Hub for results and impact³⁵ to progressively integrate the results of NEB projects to user perspectives in the spatial design and/or transformation of public and common spaces, including sustainable mobility, and to support and promote energy and material-aware and water-aware communities, citizen-led renovation and clean energy sharing initiatives, empowering local actors and fostering inclusive, community-driven solutions, together with decent conditions to prevent negative aspects of gentrification;

³⁵ Implemented through the topic ‘HORIZON-MISS-2024-NEB-01-03: Setting up a New European Bauhaus hub for results and impact’ and the follow up action ‘NEB Hub – Phase II: advancing impact, knowledge management and monitoring of results’, the later in the Horizon Europe ‘main’ Work Programme 2026-2027, Annex 13 - New European Bauhaus Facility.

- (b) Promote NEB projects and policy practices for enhancing local democracy, inclusion and participation in urban planning and neighbourhood development by supporting innovative and co-creative approaches to community engagement at neighbourhood level, thereby contributing to implementing the Democracy Shield on the ground;
- (c) Encourage networking, including through NEB Local Chapters with local authorities and relevant actors to strengthen the resilience of neighbourhoods, increase the awareness of communities and co-design community led solutions, including by using digital tools and scientific methodologies such as scenario-based analysis;
- (d) Consult and engage persons with disabilities and older people to support independent living and inclusion in the community and solutions that are accessible by design;
- (e) Actively engage youth in shaping inclusive and youth-friendly public and common spaces;
- (f) Promote the meaningful involvement of women and the integration of a gender-sensitive approach to the design and development of public spaces and neighbourhoods, with the aim of fostering inclusive and safe environments;
- (g) Promote a family-friendly approach to the design and development of spaces to ensure the safety, well-being and comfort of families, thereby strengthening families' commitment to choosing environmentally conscious solutions;
- (h) Strengthen the operational capacities of the relevant authorities to provide effective guidance and support for learning about the values and principles of the NEB, how to use NEB tools and guidance on NEB funding instruments. To this end, make use of existing opportunities offered by the European Commission, such as:

- (1) the EU Local Digital Twins Toolbox and Local Digital for Reconstruction solutions;
- (2) the Technical Support Instrument (TSI)³⁶;
- (3) the Public Administration Cooperation Exchange (PACE)³⁷;
- (4) peer-to-peer learning opportunities offered by:
 - Cohesion policy, particularly under the REGIO P2P NEB Community, for exchanging good practices and knowledge of NEB among Managing Authorities and other relevant bodies and encouraging further investments in NEB under the 2021-2027 cohesion policy programmes;
 - The capacity building strand of the European Urban Initiative, supporting cities and managing authorities in mainstreaming NEB values and principles within sustainable urban development strategies;
 - The action ‘Contributing to the implementation of the NEB Facility with the support of Horizon Europe New European Bauhaus R&I and New European Bauhaus National Contact Points’³⁸;
 - The EU Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy³⁹ and its related network of national reference centres, as well as shared platforms and forums for exchanging good practices in order to learn and prevent failure.

³⁶ See [Technical Support Instrument \(TSI\)](#).

³⁷ See [TSI 2026 - PACE - Public Administration Cooperation Exchange - Reform Support](#).

³⁸ Horizon Europe ‘main’ Work Programme 2026-2027, Annex 13 – New European Bauhaus Facility.

³⁹ [EU Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy](#).

4. HARNESS THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF EDUCATION, TRAINING, ARTS AND CULTURE FOR THE CLEAN TRANSITION

It is recommended that Member States:

- (a) Acknowledge and support cultural participation and the contribution of artists, cultural and creative professionals and culture-led experiments as a driver for innovation, local development and out-of-the-box thinking to drive the clean transition (in line with the principles mentioned in the Council's EU Work Plans for Culture and the Culture Compass for Europe), and promote NEB opportunities among the cultural and creative sectors;
- (b) Consider the Commission's upcoming initiative to strengthen the European Capitals of Culture acknowledging synergies with the values and principles of the NEB, where relevant;
- (c) Mainstream the values from the 2018 Davos Declaration 'Towards a high-quality Baukultur for Europe'⁴⁰ to embed the cultural aspects of preservation, planning and building in relevant national strategies. Follow up on the 2021 Council conclusions on culture, high-quality architecture and built environment as key elements of the New European Bauhaus initiative by integrating NEB values and principles into national policies governing architecture and the built environment;
- (d) Foster and, where necessary, recover traditional knowledge and skills in craftsmanship, especially in valorising and protecting cultural heritage, and inspire innovations that can bridge past and present technologies and engage the cultural and creative sectors;
- (e) Promote the NEB Route within DiscoverEU;
- (f) Where relevant, inform about training programmes and other educational activities to raise awareness on the NEB values and principles among pupils and students;

⁴⁰ See <https://davosdeclaration2018.ch/en/>.

5. IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATION CAPACITIES AND SKILLS THROUGH THE NEB ACADEMY TOOLS AND INITIATIVES

Member States are encouraged to:

- (a) Where relevant, facilitate the uptake of knowledge, innovation tools and education and training programmes developed through the NEB Academy, or other EU-funded instruments such as European Universities' Alliances, to support the transition to a sustainable construction ecosystem and clean solutions as well as, where appropriate, expanding the presence of NEB Academy Hubs in all Member States after assessing where this is relevant or not for their stakeholders;
- (b) When relevant foster NEB research and academic collaboration and collaboration among students in diverse fields relevant to the built and natural environments, building on an interdisciplinary approach, fostering Social Sciences and Humanities as well as non-formal knowledge.
- (c) Where possible, support the Commission in mapping NEB projects implemented through different EU, national, local or regional funding instruments - including those under shared management - and in sharing good practices and, where possible, support the Commission in developing KPIs for measuring the transformational impact of NEB projects and their benefits for sustainable growth and prosperity and integrate them where relevant in their policies and activities;
- (d) Consider integrating the NEB values and principles in the development and implementation of the national and regional strategies addressing skills gaps, as well as in the Large-Scale and Regional Skills Partnerships under the Pact for Skills, in particular the Construction Large-Scale Partnership;
- (e) Where relevant, support and promote NEB-relevant vocational education and training (VET) as well as reskilling and upskilling programmes, notably those already developed through the EIT and Erasmus+;
- (f) Promote integrated spatial planning and crisis preparedness through capacity building with all competent authorities and, where relevant, consider training modules for higher education and vocational training.

6. RAISE AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT ON THE NEB AND ITS COMMUNITY

Member States are encouraged to:

- (a) Take into account the NEB Label to be developed and piloted by the European Commission when supporting projects;
- (b) Support the Commission in its efforts to enlarge and diversify the NEB Community and engage with their country's members of the NEB Community to understand and support their needs and proposals, and where appropriate, create synergies including with relevant national and regional activities, also by raising awareness about the NEB initiative and its opportunities for academia, professionals, including professional associations, industry, civil society and public authorities;
- (c) Develop, where possible, national NEB prizes or NEB categories in relevant national prizes in synergy with the EU NEB Prizes;
- (d) Increase awareness and encourage the participation of relevant stakeholders in the Member States in the biennial NEB Festival and promote the organisation of national, regional or local satellite events in all Member States.

7. IMPROVE ACCESS TO FUNDING AND INVESTMENTS

Member States are encouraged to:

- (a) Consider the NEB Facility for both its R&I and roll-out components by increasing awareness among all relevant stakeholders and potential beneficiaries, helping them to participate and providing feedback to the Commission on how to improve it. Envision and further discuss with all relevant stakeholders including the Commission possible sustainable funding for NEB.
- (b) Fulfil the commitments to implement NEB in cohesion policy programmes. This may be achieved by launching concrete calls for the implementation of NEB in relevant policy areas according to the recent mid-term review, including by maximising private investment via the NEB territorial development model (NEB TDM) financial instrument; exploit cohesion policy programmes in particular to develop one NEB Lighthouse in each Member State;

- (c) Promote the mobilisation of private investment in NEB projects, including through the use of financial instruments such as guarantees, blended finance, concessional loans and risk-sharing mechanisms, where appropriate.
- (d) Encourage cooperation with multilateral development banks, national promotional banks and financial institutions in order to improve project preparation, leverage private capital and support the deployment of transition finance solutions.

8. ENSURE AN EFFECTIVE NEB MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND A CENTRAL ROLE OF THE NEB NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

It is recommended that Member States:

- (a) Based on the Guidelines for NCPs developed in 2025 promote the supportive coordinating role of the NEB National Contact Points (NCPs) in the governance of the NEB at national level, as well as pursuing its cooperation with all relevant Ministries and existing coordination mechanisms, and support their capacity, in synergy with the upcoming EU Housing Alliance, to ensure the coherence and integration of the NEB approach. Clarify together with the Commission the definition of the core tasks for NEB NCPs and define additional country-specific roles if needed. Consider continuing the practice of having a meeting between NEB National Contact Points in conjunction with relevant gatherings;
- (b) Promote cross-sectorial and multilevel governance for the NEB at national level based on existing good practices, through the coordination and mainstreaming of NEB values and principles in the planning and implementation of NEB-relevant funding and policy initiatives. Facilitate coordination and collaboration between the NEB NCPs and other relevant networks, in particular Horizon Europe (2021-2027) NEB R&I NCPs, LIFE Programme NCPs, relevant Horizon Europe partnerships and managing authorities for cohesion policy;

- (c) Promote the NEB approach and tools in their relevant international exchanges such as within the relevant United Nations programmes, agencies and initiatives as well as with third countries and ensure that NEB contributes to the implementation of relevant international goals and commitments⁴¹. Support in particular the sustainable and inclusive reconstruction of Ukraine through pilot projects and demonstrators - such as for schools, public spaces, protecting natural and cultural heritage and circular reconstruction -, knowledge creation and exchange, as well as consolidating the upcoming NEB Academy Hub in Ukraine as a competence and support centre for stakeholders and local authorities for capacity building and sharing of innovative replicable solutions.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council
The President*

⁴¹ In particular SDG11 and the UN-Habitat Resolution 2/6 on Localizing the SDGs and UNEP Resolution 7/2 Promoting sustainable solutions through sports for a resilient planet in sustainable and inclusive urban planning.