

## APPENDIX I

### List of documents already attributed to the NAT commission to be dealt with in 2022

| Reference of European Commission document                     | Title of European Commission document  | Procedure   | Scheduled adoption by the CoR                        |
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| <b>COM(2021) 577 final<br/>2021/0294 (NLE)<br/>16.09.2021</b> | Proposal for a Council Regulation on a framework of measures for ensuring the supply of crisis-relevant medical countermeasures in the event of a public health emergency at Union level ( <b>HERA</b> ) | NAT-VII-023<br><br>Rapporteur:<br>Christophe CLERGEAU<br>(FR/PES) | 3 February 2022<br><br>27-28 April 2022<br>(Plenary) |

## APPENDIX II

### List of the principal legislative and non-legislative proposals corresponding to the political priorities of the NAT commission for 2022<sup>1</sup>

| Reference of European Commission document | Title of European Commission document   | Procedure   | Scheduled adoption by the CoR |
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| Reference TBC                             | Revision of the pharmaceutical legislation (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Articles 114 and 168 TFEU, Q4 2022)                                 | The NAT commission will examine which aspects of these proposals may have direct relevance for local and regional authorities and react accordingly.    | TBC                           |
| Reference TBC                             | Revision of the EU legislation on medicines for children and rare diseases (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Articles 114 and 168 TFEU, Q4 2022) | The NAT commission will examine which aspects of these proposals may have direct relevance for local and regional authorities and react accordingly.    | TBC                           |
| Reference TBC                             | Update of Recommendation on cancer screening (non-legislative, Q3 2022)   | The NAT commission will examine which aspects of the recommendation may have direct relevance for local and regional authorities and react accordingly. | TBC                           |
| Reference TBC                             | European Health Data Space (not listed in the EC work programme annex, but highlighted in the communication)  | The NAT commission will examine which aspects of the recommendation may have direct relevance for local and regional authorities and react accordingly. | TBC                           |

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<sup>1</sup> The list is indicative and subject to change.

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| <b>Reference TBC</b> | European Tourism Agenda 2030/2050 (requested in 05.2021 Council recommendations, date tbc)  | The NAT commission will examine which aspects of the recommendation may have direct relevance for local and regional authorities and react accordingly. | TBC     |
| <b>Reference TBC</b> | International ocean governance Joint Communication on international ocean governance (non-legislative, Q2 2022)   | The NAT commission will examine which aspects of the recommendation may have direct relevance for local and regional authorities and react accordingly. | TBC     |
| <b>Reference TBC</b> | Revision of the legislation on marketing of seeds and other plant and forest reproductive material legislation (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Articles 43(2), 114 and 192(1) TFEU, Q4 2022) | The NAT commission will examine which aspects of the recommendation may have direct relevance for local and regional authorities and react accordingly. | TBC     |
| <b>Reference TBC</b> | EU geographical indications scheme (revision)   |   | Q3 2022 |

### APPENDIX III

| <b>Policy area</b>   | <b>HEALTH</b>   |
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| <i>CoR commission</i>  | <b>NAT</b>  |
| Policy objectives, key challenges and impact indicators                    | <p><b>Shape the future architecture of the European Health Union</b></p> <p><b>Challenges:</b> despite the achievements of the LRAs in fighting the pandemic, the role of cities and regions in building Europe's health resilience is largely unacknowledged. Vaccination campaigns, cancer screening, preparedness and response, resilience of health systems, information and education about health – these are just some key areas where regional policy and practice make the difference. Advocating for a more visible role of regions in EHU and its pillars will be the key focus of NAT work in 2021.</p> <p><b>Impact indicators:</b> the role of regions highlighted in the EP reports; CoR/NAT present at the UN WHO events.</p>   |
| Progress report summary on the fulfilment of the policy objectives in 2021 | <p>Throughout 2021, the Committee has used an array of venues to influence policy processes and raise awareness of the needs of cities and regions. Firmly believing in multilateralism, the CoR renewed its <b>privileged partnership</b> with the UN World Health Organisation, and the <b>CoR President and 1st VP issued a joint statement</b> to the key annual WHO Europe conference, stressing the role of the local-to-global alliance, and detailing public authorities' role in fighting the current and future pandemics. The Committee launched its "I'll do / I did it" <b>campaign</b> during the WHO Immunisation Week. The <b>social media profiles</b> of participating Members reached an audience of over 25 000 viewers.</p> <p>As the EU consultative body, the CoR has adopted a <b>range of opinions</b>, building on the CoR President's idea of the Health Emergency Mechanism, and responding to the legislative proposals on topics such as mandates of the European Medicine Agency, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, and on the pharmaceutical strategy. Across these files, the CoR argued that the EU must be better equipped, informed, and coordinated to act decisively with and for its regions. The CoR's requests – for example to establish a strategic repository, recover manufacturing capacity, or involve regions in planning – were taken on board by the EP reports.</p> <p>Engaging with the citizens, the CoR put forward ideas to the <b>CoFoE Platform</b> and held the high-level debate on <b>future health architecture</b> with the Special UN Envoy and former commissioner for health, as well as a Member of the CoR HLG on Democracy dubbed "the mother of the Lisbon treaty". Drawing on its technical expertise and political insights, the Committee has also critically reviewed the Directive on the</p> |

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|   | <p>application of the rights of patients in cross-border healthcare (EC 2011/24) within the <b>Fit for Future platform</b>. Presenting concrete suggestions for change, the NAT chair and rapporteur sought to "enhance importance of mutual assistance and cooperation in cross-border healthcare"<sup>2</sup> while making the law simpler for border regions active in cross-border healthcare.</p> <p>Finally, CoR/NAT policy and practice expertise was captured in the dedicated chapter of the <b>CoR 2021 Barometer</b> and its findings – notably that <u>rural regions proved safer to live in, and more resilient in the face of COVID-19</u> – presented to the journalists at the special briefing during the EWRC.</p>  |
| <p>Proposed CoR measures and support activities in 2022 with timeline</p> | <p>Legislative and political work on dossiers expected for 2022</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Revision of the pharmaceutical legislation (expected Q4 2022).</li> <li>2) Revision of the EU legislation on medicines for children and rare diseases.</li> <li>3) European Health Data Space: implementing the digitalisation of health services and connecting with initiatives geared towards the EU's digital transformation by 2030.</li> <li>4) HERA: working with the EP on guaranteeing democratic oversight and strategic operational links with the Civil Protection Mechanism.</li> <li>5) Update of recommendation on cancer screening (non-legislative, Q3 2022), looking at the role of regions in cancer prevention and further building the partnership with the EP BECA committee.</li> </ol> <p>The CoR/NAT will continue to work on the ongoing files (especially the serious cross-border health threats) recently reopened to enable the EP to influence the proposal for a Council regulation on a framework of measures for ensuring the supply of crisis-relevant medical countermeasures in the event of a public health emergency at Union level.</p> <p>Other relevant files from 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– resilience of critical entities (COM 2021/829)</li> <li>– ECDC mandate (COM 2021/726)</li> <li>– EMA mandate (COM 2021/725)</li> </ul> <p>Beyond its consultative work, the CoR/NAT will continue to engage with the international community active in the health and emergency field through its collaboration with the UN WHO and UN DRR and their specialised network. Likewise, the CoR/NAT will further nurture its ties with the regions active in health as well as European non-government organisations.</p> |

<sup>2</sup> CoR opinion [2020-02142](#) on EU HEALTH EMERGENCY MECHANISM

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| Key interinstitutional developments for follow-up and indicative timeline for implementation | <p>CoR NAT will monitor the progress of trilogue negotiations on the above-listed files (throughout 2022).</p> <p>The NAT will appoint rapporteurs on pharmaceutical strategy (end 2022) and health data space (should the latter be out in 2022).</p> <p>The NAT/CoR will work closely with the EP on the HERA proposal (the authority should become operational in 2022).</p> |
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| <b>Policy area</b>   | <b>RURAL AGENDA</b>   |
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| <b><i>CoR commission</i></b>   | <b>NAT</b>  |
| Policy objectives, key challenges and impact indicators                    | <p>Policy objectives:<br/>Achieving the territorial cohesion objective enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– establishing a governance mechanism at EU level;</li> <li>– visibility of the rural agenda in the Conference on the future of Europe;</li> <li>– rural proofing policy initiatives and legislation at EU, national and sub-national level;</li> <li>– implementation of the Green Deal and digital transition in all EU territories;</li> <li>– the provision of appropriate EU funding in current and future programming periods, including the recovery and resilience fund.</li> </ul> <p>Key challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Low growth, demography, under-employment, poor generational renewal, mobility challenges to implement the green transition, sub-optimal (digital) infrastructure and access to services, skills gap, territorial imbalance and poverty, innovation capacity of rural administration, and fiscal capacity of rural areas.</li> <li>– Diffusion of, and uncertain responsibility at EU level.</li> </ul> <p>Impact indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Reduction of the development gap between rural and urban areas for all the previous challenges.</li> <li>– Uptake of EU funds for projects run by and/or investing in rural areas (e.g. RRF, CAP, cohesion, Horizon, Erasmus+).</li> <li>– Establishing a one-stop-shop for rural issues at EU level (political and administrative).</li> </ul> |
| Progress report summary on the fulfilment of the policy objectives in 2021 | The Commission's long-term vision for rural areas corresponds with major CoR demands, e.g. for a comprehensive rural agenda, an action plan, mainstreaming rural issues into all EU policies, introducing a rural proofing approach.  |

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|   | <p>The governance mechanism suggested in the long-term vision still has to be shaped in an appropriate manner. Applying the rural proofing approach in the ongoing programming period for EU funds will remain a challenge, as this approach was not yet in place at the time of adoption of the programmes. Criteria and a methodology for measuring the success of the long-term vision remain to be defined (for example, through quantitative objectives). Suggestions for better integrating the rural dimension in the programming period 2028-2034 will be presented in late 2023.</p> <p>The <b>CoR 2021 Barometer</b> addressed the rural dimension of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recovery with a view to health and the urban-rural digital gap.</p> <p>The European Commission's work programme 2022 acknowledges rural proofing as an instrument for better regulation alongside territorial impact assessments.</p> <p>The rural recovery forum during the plenary illustrates the horizontal dimension of rural development and provides input to the CoR's contribution to the Conference on the future of Europe.</p>  |
| <p>Proposed CoR measures and support activities in 2022 with timeline</p> | <p>The CoR will adopt its opinion on the long-term vision in January 2022. The CoR Summit in Marseille in March 2022 will include a panel discussion on rural recovery. Rural development will be addressed in the Summit declaration and aimed towards the Conference on the future of Europe.</p> <p>The European Commission's work programme 2022 does not contain specific legislative and political dossiers on rural development. The CoR will monitor the implementation of the long-term vision and its action plan, and mainstream the rural proofing approach into all its opinions on relevant dossiers. Close cooperation between NAT and other commissions will be required in this respect, e.g. through the Conference of the Presidents (extended to the commissions' Chairs).</p> <p>NAT, as the lead commission for rural development, will accompany the establishment of the Rural Pact as the first step towards a governance mechanism for rural issues. NAT will cooperate with other commissions (mainly ENVE and COTER) in order to make sure that the European Green Deal is implemented in a fair way in rural areas.</p> <p>The CoR will develop a rural proofing tool, ensuring consistency with its own better regulation toolbox, including its input to the Fit for Future platform, the RegHub initiative, the CoR's subsidiarity methodology and territorial impact assessments.</p> |

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|   | <p>NAT will also <b>apply rural proofing</b> for dossiers in its own remits, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– the opinion on EU Forest strategy for 2030 will look into environmental, economic and social benefits of sustainable forest management. Forestry keeps jobs in rural areas both in the wood industry and tourism sector;</li> <li>– the opinion on the Farm to Fork strategy, which highlights the importance of short supply chains and alternative production systems promoting local and regional forms of production, processing and marketing, based on nutritional quality and animal and environmental well-being.</li> </ul> <p>Further dossiers falling in the remits of other commissions that could merit from the application of rural proofing are listed in the annex.</p> <p>Beyond its consultative work, the CoR/NAT will continue to engage with the EP's AGRI and the RUMRA / Smart villages intergroup, the ENRD thematic group on long-term vision, the OECD Working Party on Rural Policy, EIB, UNESCO, the European Rural Parliament, National Rural Parliaments, and relevant European non-government organisations.</p> |
| <p>Key interinstitutional developments for follow-up and indicative timeline for implementation</p> | <p>Actively participate in the Rural Pact alongside the European Commission (launch in late 2021).</p> <p>Develop a sound rural proofing methodology in 2022.</p> <p>Establish a one-stop-shop for rural issues at EU level (political and administrative) in 2022.</p> <p>2022/2023: accompany implementation of the long-term vision and impact EC proposal for rural funding in the future MFF.</p>  |