



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
 REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY AND
 EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INCLUSION
 The Directors-General

Brussels
 DG REGIO/DG

To the attention of the Permanent Representations to the European Union

Subject: Partnership and transparency in the preparation of 2021-2027 programming period

Excellency,

The 2021-2027 programming period is approaching and the informal dialogue between the Commission and Member States is ongoing. In the spring, we approached you with a letter enquiring about your programming plans and stressing the role of the partnership principle during the programming process. We would like to thank you for sharing with us your plans, which we have received from all Member States.

Partnership has long been one of the key principles of the funds managed by the EU and Member States together in ‘shared management’. In order to make partnership effective across all Member States, the Commission adopted the European Code of Conduct on Partnership¹ in 2014, which should also be followed for the programming of the 2021-2027 period. The Commission’s legislative proposal for a Common Provisions Regulation² refers to partnership with regional and local authorities, urban and public authorities, economic and social partners, civil society, environmental partners and bodies promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, gender equality, non-discrimination and rights of people with disabilities. The proposal also contains enhanced transparency measures.

In this context, as one of the measures to enhance the transparency of the preparation and adoption process of the future programming documents, we would like to invite you to make publicly available all draft and official programming documents on the webpages of the relevant authorities. We would be grateful if you could communicate to us the corresponding hyperlinks.

We look forward to our continued close cooperation on the preparation of programmes for 2021-2027 period.

Yours faithfully,

Marc Lemaître (*e-signed*)

Joost Korte (*e-signed*)

¹ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014 of 7 January 2014

² COM (2018) 375