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Informal ministerial conference of European Ministers and Commissioners in charge of Public Sector Transformation and the Civil Service

Strasbourg, March 17th 2022

Amélie de Montchalin, Minister of Public Sector Transformation and the Civil Service, gathered the European Ministers responsible for public administration, public transformation and the civil service, in coordination with Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Budget and Administration, and Elisa Ferreira, European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, at Strasbourg, at the Institut national du service public, in the context of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

While the European Union has had to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic for two years, the Ministers praised the mobilisation and adaptation of public workers to maintain the continuity of public services and to deploy an unprecedented European recovery plan. . They also underlined the contribution of public workers and public administrations to the ambitions of the European Pillar of social rights and to the promotion of the values of peace and democracy on the European continent.

In line with the final declaration from their previous meeting in Lisbon on June 22nd, 2021, during the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, they discussed the common challenges faced by European public administrations, around three areas:

- 1. Attractive, modern and innovative civil services that lead by example;
- 2. Transparent and resilient public services that meet users' expectations;
- 3. High quality, inclusive digital public services that respect European values.

The Ministers expressed their willingness to continue the cooperation and exchange of expertise initiated among public administrations within the European Union, while respecting the specific models and prerogatives of the Member States and the European Commission on their respective administrations.

These exchanges will in particular be deepened by **strengthening the European mobility of civil servants**, specifically by developing a voluntary mobility exchange program for civil servants dedicated to public transformation among the public administrations of the Member States and with the European Commission.

The ministers also **attended the presentation of seven promising digital projects led by seven Member States**, with the aim of better sharing digital solutions in Europe, which is in particular made possible by open source software.

At the end of their discussions, the ministers adopted, with the support of the European Commission, a **declaration on the common values and challenges of European public administrations,** that is available here:

https://frpresitebo.consilium.europa.eu/media/lr4fmofg/declaration-strasbourg17-03en.pdf

They agreed on the need to continue a regular political exchange on the transformation of European public administrations.

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