



## Commission sets out first analysis of the proposals stemming from the Conference on the Future of Europe

Brussels, 17 June 2022

The European Commission has today adopted a Communication setting out how it can follow up on the outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

After a year of deliberations, the Conference came to an end on 9 May 2022. In the closing ceremony in Strasbourg, the Presidents of the European Parliament, Commission and Council received a final report from the Conference participants containing 49 wide-ranging, ambitious and forward-looking proposals and 326 individual measures.

These proposals, covering nine broad themes, were based on recommendations made by citizens during the European Citizens' Panels and the National Citizens' Panels, and who contributed their ideas through the Multilingual Digital Platform.

While the Conference has delivered in both quantity and quality of proposals, its success will ultimately hinge on the change that it can deliver. In this spirit, the European Commission, along with both the European Parliament and Council, all committed in the Joint Declaration of March 2021 to following up on what was proposed - each within the framework of their competences and in accordance with the Treaties. President **von der Leyen** repeated this commitment at the Conference closing ceremony.

Today's Communication is the first step in the Commission's follow-up. It offers an assessment of what is needed to follow up on the Conference's proposals, gives an overview of the next steps and sets out how best to learn the lessons from the Conference and embed participative democracy into the EU's policy and law-making. For instance, building on the success of the European Citizens' Panels in the Conference, the Commission will enable these panels to deliberate and make recommendations ahead of certain key proposals, as part of its wider policy making and in line with Better Regulation principles.

President Ursula **von der Leyen** said: *"European citizens have given us rich and wide-ranging ideas to improve our Union: 49 detailed proposals and more than 300 measures to make everyday life better. To build a better future. We promised to follow up. Today's Communication is the first step in doing so. I will always stand by those who want to reform our Union for the better."*

### Analysis of proposals and next steps

The Commission believes that for the assessment of the proposals to be credible, it is essential to stick to the spirit and the letter of what is proposed – without any re-interpretation or selection. This is what is set out in the annex to this Communication. The 49 proposals are divided up into the same thematic areas chosen by the Conference, with the Commission's assessment set out under each area.

The annex sets out four categories of responses: existing initiatives that address the proposals (e.g. the European Climate Law); those already proposed by the Commission where the European Parliament and the Council are called upon to adopt (e.g. the New Pact on Migration); planned actions which will deliver on the ideas, building in new reflections from the Conference (e.g. the Media Freedom Act); and new initiatives or areas of work inspired by the proposals, falling within the remit of the Commission (e.g. issues related to mental health).

The first set of new proposals will be announced in President **von der Leyen's** State of the Union address in September 2022, as well as in the accompanying Letter of Intent. These proposals will be amongst those to be included in the 2023 Commission work programme and beyond. In following up, the Commission will ensure that new reforms and policies are not mutually exclusive to discussions on the need for Treaty change, focusing on making the most of what is currently possible, while being open to Treaty change where that will be necessary.

To keep the citizens who have participated in the Conference informed, and to keep up the momentum, a Conference feedback event will be organised in autumn 2022. This event would be the moment for communicating and explaining how the three EU institutions are following up and taking stock of progress at that stage of the process.

### Members of the College said:

Vice-President Dubravka **Šuica**: *"The success of the Conference on the Future of Europe is a result of the dedication, engagement and rigour of all the citizens involved. They have articulated their vision of the future and have entrusted us with its delivery."*

Vice-President Maroš **Šefčovič**: "People from right across Europe put huge energy and effort into agreeing these 49 proposals. I witnessed this first-hand, particularly in the area of health. It is now for us in the EU institutions to put that same energy and effort into responding to their calls. By feeding the outcomes of the Conference into the 2023 Commission Work Programme, we can demonstrate clearly to citizens that not only have we listened to them, we have heard them."

Vice-President Věra **Jourová**: "The Conference on the Future of Europe created momentum to listen more attentively to the people of Europe. Now we must bring forth tangible results. Today's Communication is the first step on the path to delivery and provides for concrete follow-up to the recommendations presented by citizens."

## Background

President **von der Leyen** called for a Conference on the Future of Europe in her Political Guidelines of July 2019, as part of a vision for a new push for European democracy – and committed to following up on its results.

The Conference on the Future of Europe, which kicked off on Europe Day 2021, ran for one year. It was an unprecedented pan-European exercise in deliberative democracy - the largest and broadest of its kind. It connected people from all ages, countries and backgrounds, many of whom had never engaged with Europe or were not familiar with the European Union's institutional make-up. They all brought their different stories and perspectives, their different languages and identities to set out their expectations of Europe and to weave together a vision of its future.

The proposals made by the Conference include 326 measures for the EU institutions and Member States to follow up on under nine topics: climate change and the environment; health; a stronger economy, social justice and jobs; EU in the world; values and rights, rule of law, security; digital transformation; European democracy; migration; education, culture, youth and sport.

## For More Information

[Communication on the Conference on the Future of Europe](#)

[Annex](#)

[Final report](#)

[Speech by President von der Leyen at the closing ceremony of the Conference \[9 May 2022\]](#)

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