

## CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE (CoFoE)

### POSITIONS OF EU INSTITUTIONS – COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY OF KEY ELEMENTS

KEY ELEMENTS	EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT Resolution, 15 January 2020 Resolution, 18 June 2020	EUROPEAN COMMISSION Communication, 22 January 2020	COUNCIL OF THE EU Council position, 24 June 2020
<b>GENERAL ISSUES</b>			
<b>Start, duration &amp; basic document</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>launch: <del>9 May 2020</del> (initial resolution from January) <b>as soon as possible in autumn 2020</b></li> <li>duration: <b>two years</b></li> <li>find <b>common agreement</b> on the establishment of the CoFoE <b>before the summer break</b></li> <li>process, concept, structure, timing &amp; scope should be agreed jointly by EP/COM/Council → <b>memorandum of understanding</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>launch: <del>9 May 2020</del> (kick-off event in Dubrovnik)</li> <li>completion: <del>1<sup>st</sup> semester 2022</del> → outcomes &amp; recommendations of different debates should be presented &amp; next steps considered</li> <li>concept, structure, scope &amp; timing must be truly joint effort by EP/COM/Council → <b>Joint Declaration</b></li> <li>Joint Declaration <b>later to be opened to other signatories</b> (incl. institutions, organisations &amp; stakeholders)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>launch: <b>as soon as the conditions allow</b> in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic</li> <li>duration: <b>two years</b></li> <li>mandate could take form of <b>Joint Declaration</b> by EP/COM/Council</li> </ul>
<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>renewed opportunity for EU citizens to have <b>robust debate on Future of Europe (FoE)</b> → bottom-up exercise</li> <li>make EU <b>more democratic</b></li> <li><b>permanent mechanism for engaging with citizens on FoE</b></li> <li>identify what EU does well &amp; <b>what new measures it needs to do better</b></li> <li><b>increase EU capacity to act</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>give Europeans greater say</b> on what EU does &amp; how it works for them</li> <li><b>encourage European</b> citizens &amp; make it easier for them to <b>get involved in decision-making</b> beyond EU elections</li> <li><b>strengthening link between Europeans &amp; institutions</b></li> <li><b>New Push for European Democracy</b></li> <li>create <b>more vibrant, interactive &amp; relevant democratic system</b></li> <li>forge a <b>vision for our future</b></li> <li><b>opportunity for EU to showcase how it can further evolve</b> through constructive engagement with its citizens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inclusive <b>platform bringing together different voices</b> engaging in wide reflection &amp; debate on challenges Europe is facing &amp; on its long-term future</li> <li>opportunity to <b>underpin the democratic legitimacy</b> of European project &amp; functioning of the European project as well as to uphold the EU citizens support for our common goals &amp; values</li> <li>a further <b>opportunity for citizens to express themselves</b></li> <li>opportunity to engage with citizens &amp; other stakeholders as the EU seeks to <b>emerge stronger from the COVID-19 crisis</b>, &amp; assess the EU's response to the crisis and address the citizens' concerns in this regard with the aim of strengthening European solidarity</li> <li>contribute to the <b>development of our policies &amp; instruments</b> in medium &amp; long terms so that we can better tackle current and future challenges</li> <li>contributing to <b>joint vision of the direction EU should take</b> in next decade &amp; beyond</li> </ul>

	EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	COUNCIL OF THE EU
Content & scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>scope not limited</b> to pre-defined policy fields or methods of integration</li> <li>• maximum, pre-defined but <b>non-exhaustive policy priorities</b> could be identified, such as: (i) European values, fundamental rights &amp; freedoms; (ii) democratic &amp; institutional aspects; (iii) environmental challenges &amp; climate crisis; (iv) social justice &amp; equality; (v) economic &amp; employment issues incl. taxation; (vi) digital transformation; (vii) security &amp; role of EU in the world</li> <li>• the <b>COVID-19 crisis</b> has made the need for the CoFoE more pressing</li> <li>• CoFoE should take into account the <b>EU's existing recovery instruments</b> and the <b>solidarity</b> that has already been established, while <b>ensuring ecological sustainability, economic development, social progress, security and democracy</b></li> <li>• to prepare well in advance for next EP elections in 2024 → work on issues such as <b>lead candidate system &amp; transnational lists</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Two parallel strands:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>policy strand:</b> (i) fight against climate change &amp; environmental challenges; (ii) an economy that works for people, social fairness &amp; equality; (iii) Europe's digital transformation; (iv) promoting our European values; (v) strengthening the EU's voice in the world; (vi) shoring up the EU's democratic foundations</li> <li>• <b>democracy/institutional strand:</b> lead candidate system; transnational lists; electoral law reform → COM: role of facilitator &amp; honest broker between EP &amp; Council</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"policy first approach"</b> → priority should be given to <b>implementing the EU Strategic Agenda</b> agreed in June 2019</li> <li>• focus on <b>topics that truly matter to citizens</b>, with long lasting impacts &amp; wide outreach</li> <li>• Several <b>key topics</b>, including those from the EU Strategic Agenda and the relevance of which has been further highlighted in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges of economic recovery, such as (i) sustainability, including green transition &amp; climate neutrality by 2050; (ii) societal challenges (public health, demographic challenges, generational, territorial and educational divides, gender equality, social protection, migration); (iii) innovation &amp; digital transformation; (iv) fundamental values, rights &amp; freedoms; (v) international role of EU</li> <li>• Important to focus also on <b>cross-cutting issues</b> related to the EU's ability to deliver on policy priorities (better regulation, subsidiarity and proportionality, transparency)</li> <li>• <b>participants may raise other topics</b></li> <li>• Reflecting on the challenges the EU is facing and on its future has become all the more important following the outbreak of the <b>COVID-19 pandemic</b></li> <li>• Due to COVID-19, we have to <b>draw lessons</b> and continue reflecting on the <b>resilience of our societies and economies</b>.</li> </ul>
Communication & resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all <b>existing &amp; new communication tools for digital &amp; physical participation should be coordinated</b> among 3 institutions</li> <li>• all <b>Conference meetings</b> (plenary; Citizens' &amp; Youth agoras) <b>web-streamed &amp; open to public</b></li> <li>• all <b>Conference documents should be published</b> (incl. contributions from stakeholders)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>EP/COM/Council should join forces with other EU institutions &amp; bodies</b> as well as <b>regional &amp; national political representatives, institutions &amp; stakeholders</b> to share responsibility of <b>promoting CoFoE</b></li> <li>• all <b>EU institutions should be ready to contribute resources</b>, notably financial, for organisation &amp; roll-out <b>single conference identity</b> → incl. common visual expression for all activities under umbrella of CoFoE</li> <li>• <b>COM's Representations &amp; EP Liaison Offices</b> will have key role to play in raising awareness about CoFoE</li> <li>• <b>calendar of all Conference-related events</b> should be</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Effective communication efforts will be essential</b> in order to fulfil high expectations of citizens</li> <li>• The Council welcomes the Commission's readiness to contribute to these efforts with various existing outreach tools</li> <li>• The structures of the Conference will agree from the outset and on a consensual basis on the <b>modalities for reporting on the outcomes</b> of the various activities undertaken in the context of the Conference</li> </ul>

	EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	COUNCIL OF THE EU
		<p>made publicly available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>contributions &amp; supporting materials</b>, including clear &amp; educational information on the issues at stake, should be <b>published online</b></li> <li>• meetings &amp; large scale events should be <b>web-streamed</b> whenever possible</li> </ul>	
STRUCTURE & COMPOSITION			
<b>Key Elements &amp; phases</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conference Plenary (adopts working plan at 1<sup>st</sup> meeting)</li> <li>• Citizens' agoras</li> <li>• Youth agoras</li> <li>• start with <b>listening phase</b> to enable citizens to express ideas, make suggestions &amp; propose vision of what Europe means for them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>issue-specific deliberative panels</b> organised by EU institutions</li> <li>• <b>event under each rotating Council Presidency</b> could take place outside capitals → events could provide opportunity to present any intermediate milestones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>main conferences</b> (kick-off, mid-term &amp; final) in Brussels and in countries of Council Presidencies</li> <li>• <b>specific thematic conferences</b> in MS</li> <li>• <b>Citizens' panels in MS and at European level</b></li> <li>• <b>Each member state can organise events</b> in line with their own national specificities when deciding on the format(s) of events &amp; make contributions to the CoFoE</li> </ul>
<b>Composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>equal partners &amp; strict parity</b> between EP &amp; Council/national parliaments</li> <li>• <b>composition of Conference Plenary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>European Parliament</b> → max. 135 MEPs (ensure balanced political representation)</li> <li>○ <b>Council</b> → 27 members representing EU27; ministerial level</li> <li>○ <b>National Parliaments</b> → 2-4 members per MS (ensure balanced political representation)</li> <li>○ <b>European Commission</b> → 3 Commissioners</li> <li>○ <b>EESC &amp; CoR</b> → 4 members each</li> <li>○ <b>EU-level social partners</b> → 2 members per side</li> </ul> </li> <li>• despite the pandemic, the <b>direct engagement of citizens, civil society organisations, social partners and elected representatives</b> must remain a priority</li> <li>• <b>Well-established CSOs, NGOs, experts, universities, research centres &amp; TTs</b> across Europe are <b>invited to support CoFoE process</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>inclusive process</b> with all MS involved equally</li> <li>• participation should be open to:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>representatives of MS</b></li> <li>○ <b>national parliaments,</b></li> <li>○ <b>European Parliament</b></li> <li>○ <b>European Commission</b></li> <li>○ <b>CoR &amp; EESC, High Representative</b> to be associated when international role of the EU is discussed</li> </ul> </li> <li>• participation of <b>representatives from civil society and citizens</b> should be actively sought and facilitated</li> </ul>

	EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	COUNCIL OF THE EU
Observers & candidate countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>representatives from Citizens' &amp; Youth agoras invited to Conference Plenary to present &amp; discuss their conclusions</li> <li>seek ways to involve EU candidate countries</li> </ul>		
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>			
CoFoE leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Executive Coordination Board</b> composed of the three main EU institutions under leadership of EP</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CoFoE under authority of an <b>eminent European personality as its independent and single chair</b>, who is able to represent the joint interests of all three EU institutions, to be selected by mutual agreement among them</li> </ul>
Responsibility within institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>high-level patronage by three main EU institutions</b> at highest level → Presidents EP/COM/EUCO → should guarantee process &amp; provide oversight &amp; kick off Conference process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>VP Šuica</b> shall lead COM's work on CoFoE; <b>VP Jourová</b> supports on institutional strand; <b>VP Šefčovič</b> supports on foresight &amp; inter-institutional side</li> <li>EP &amp; MS could also <b>designate points of contact</b> to act as public faces or as <b>ambassadors for the debate</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council will be represented by the MS holding the rotating Presidency, acting upon a mandate from the Council</li> </ul>
Organisation & governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>process governed by <b>range of bodies</b> with defined/ad hoc responsibilities → gender balanced composition</li> <li>governance of CoFoE process ensured by <b>Steering Committee (SC) &amp; Executive Coordination Board</b></li> <li><b>composition SC:</b> (i) <u>EP representatives</u> (all political groups &amp; AFCE representative &amp; representative of EP Bureau); (ii) <u>Council representatives</u> (presidencies); (iii) <u>COM representatives</u> (3 Commissioners) → all components shall have <b>equal weight</b>, → <b>Executive Coordination Board members are part of SC as well</b></li> <li><b>responsibilities SC:</b> (i) <u>preparation of plenary meetings</u> (drafting agendas, plenary reports &amp; conclusions); (ii) <u>preparation of Citizens' &amp; Youth agoras</u>; (iii) <u>oversight of activities &amp; organisation of Conference process</u></li> <li><b>responsibilities Executive Coordination Board:</b> daily management of Conference process → practical organisation of Conference, working groups, Citizens' agoras &amp; any other initiative</li> <li>CoFoE '<b>secretariat</b>' (members from 3 main EU institutions)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>governance should be lean and streamlined</b> and should respect the main guiding principles listed below while also taking into account the principle of <b>subsidiarity</b></li> <li>organisation based on <b>key principles:</b> (i) equality between institutions at all levels; (ii) respect for each institution's prerogatives; (iii) effectiveness &amp; avoidance of unnecessary bureaucracy; (iv) effective involvement of citizens</li> <li><b>shared ownership and participation on equal footing by MS, COM &amp; EP, also ensuring gender equality &amp; in full respect of interinstitutional balance &amp; respective roles</b> as defined in Treaties</li> <li><b>National parliaments should be closely associated</b></li> <li>Steering group composed of representatives of each institution on an equal footing, representatives of other bodies participating (CoR, EESC) invited as observers, where appropriate</li> <li><b>joint secretariat</b> of limited size with personnel from EP/COM/General Secretariat of Council</li> </ul>
Frequency of meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CoFoE should meet in plenary at least <b>twice per semester</b> at EP</li> </ul>		

	EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	COUNCIL OF THE EU
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>minimum of two meetings of each thematic Citizens' agora</b> to provide input for Conference Plenary</li> </ul>		
CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION			
<b>Citizens' selection &amp; support for participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>diversity of societies</b> should be fully represented</li> <li>• <b>reach all parts of EU</b> → guarantee that any citizen can have a say</li> <li>• ensure <b>youth participation</b></li> <li>• open &amp; transparent process taking <b>inclusive, participatory &amp; well-balanced approach</b> to citizens &amp; stakeholders</li> <li>• involvement of <b>citizens, organised civil society &amp; range of stakeholders</b> at European, national, regional &amp; local level</li> <li>• <b>representative composition of Citizens' agoras</b> in terms of geography, gender, age, socio-economic background, education level</li> <li>• <b>random selection of participating citizens</b> by independent institutions in MS</li> <li>• <b>elected politicians, senior government representatives &amp; professional interest representatives cannot participate</b> in Citizens' agoras</li> <li>• <b>individual thematic Citizens' agoras must be composed of same participants</b> at each of its meetings to ensure coherence &amp; consistency</li> <li>• <b>minimum of two meetings of each thematic Citizens' agora</b> to provide input for Conference Plenary</li> <li>• <b>reimbursement of travel &amp; accommodation costs;</b> arranging of <b>authorised leave of absence</b> from workplace; <b>compensation</b> for social costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CoFoE will be <b>new public forum for an open, inclusive, transparent &amp; structured debate</b> with citizens</li> <li>• <b>bottom-up forum, accessible to all citizens</b>, from all walks of life &amp; from all corners of EU &amp; should reflect Europe's diversity</li> <li>• <b>open to civil society, EU institutions &amp; other EU bodies</b> (incl. CoR &amp; EESC) as well as <b>national, regional &amp; local authorities, parliaments &amp; other stakeholders</b></li> <li>• promote <b>widest possible participation</b> &amp; inclusion of views from across EU → all Europeans should be given equal opportunity to engage (young/old; rural/urban etc.)</li> <li>• reaching out to <b>silent majority</b></li> <li>• <b>gender equality, representation of minorities &amp; persons with disabilities</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• involvement of citizens &amp; civil society needs to ensure <b>wide representation of different groups of society, especially of young people</b></li> <li>• <b>broad debate with citizens</b></li> <li>• <b>vital role of our citizens</b> &amp; their active participation &amp; contribution in framing our future vision of Europe <b>needs to be clear &amp; strong</b></li> </ul>

	EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	COUNCIL OF THE EU
Citizens' involvement – transnational level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• several <b>thematic Citizens' agoras</b> reflecting policy priorities</li> <li>• <b>max. 200-300 citizens</b> → <b>min. 3 per MS</b> (calculated in accordance with principle of degressive proportionality)</li> <li>• <b>Citizens' agoras</b> shall be held in <b>different locations across EU</b></li> <li>• <b>two Youth agoras</b> (16-25 years) → one at beginning of CoFoE &amp; one towards the end</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>build on</b> well-established <b>citizens' dialogues</b></li> <li>• <b>build on</b> useful <b>experience of EU institutions &amp; MS</b> from their <b>active engagement with European citizens</b></li> <li>• <b>existing tools</b> allowing citizens to contribute to EU policy-making <b>should be promoted as part of CoFoE</b> (ECI; 'Have your say'; Erasmus; DiscoverEU; European Solidarity Corps)</li> <li>• <b>multilingual digital platform = main hub for all information &amp; activities</b> → should aim to maximise participation, accessibility &amp; transparency (livestreaming debates; gathering outcomes of debates; promoting interactive ways for public debate)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>building on methods &amp; results of citizens' dialogues &amp; consultations</b>, CoFoE, with assistance in particular of COM, CoR &amp; ESSC, should <b>ensure effective involvement of citizens &amp; stakeholders through debates</b>, incl. at MS and regional level, as well as through the <b>internet/digital platforms</b> and <b>citizens' panels</b> in MS and at <b>European level</b></li> </ul>
Citizens' involvement – national level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>uniform &amp; consistent methodologies</b> used to collect &amp; process citizens' inputs across all MS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>national &amp; regional parliaments &amp; actors</b> have an important role to play &amp; should be <b>encouraged to hold Conference-related events</b></li> <li>• <b>citizens' assemblies</b> organised in MS</li> <li>• <b>national partners</b>, as well as <b>social partners, regional &amp; local authorities &amp; civil society</b> must play a fundamental role throughout the Conference</li> <li>• all <b>institutions &amp; civil society partners that wish to participate</b> in CoFoE should be <b>asked to subscribe to principles &amp; objectives defined in Joint Declaration</b></li> <li>• <b>interactive &amp; creative forms of participation</b>: sporting events; festivals; hackathons</li> <li>• <b>Europe Direct networks</b> can help in stimulating &amp; organising regional conversations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>building on methods &amp; results of citizens' dialogues &amp; consultations</b>, CoFoE, with assistance in particular of COM, CoR &amp; ESSC, should <b>ensure effective involvement of citizens &amp; stakeholders through debates</b>, incl. at MS and regional level, as well as through the <b>internet/digital platforms</b> and <b>citizens' panels</b> in MS and at <b>European level</b></li> </ul>
<b>DECISIONS</b>			
Decision-making process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Citizens' agoras</b>: seek to find <b>agreement by consensus</b> → where not possible: <b>minority opinion</b> can be voiced</li> <li>• <b>Conference Plenary</b>: seek <b>consensus on recommendations</b> of Conference Plenary <i>or</i>, at a <b>minimum: recommendations should represent views of majority of representatives of each of 3 EU institutions &amp; national parliaments</b></li> </ul>		

	EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	COUNCIL OF THE EU
Outcomes/output & input	<p><b>Type of outcome:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>no predetermined outcome</b></li> <li>• CoFoE shall produce <b>concrete recommendations</b> → <b>addressed by institutions &amp; turned into action</b> to meet expectations of citizens &amp; stakeholders</li> <li>• keep the scope of the Conference <b>open to all possible outcomes, including legislative proposals, initiating treaty change or otherwise</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>plenary report after each meeting</b> with conclusions &amp; <b>working group reports</b> (public docs)</li> <li>• <b>final conclusions adopted at final meeting of Conference Plenary</b> → summarising outcome of process as a whole</li> </ul> <p><b>Follow up:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>general commitment from all participants to ensure proper follow-up</b> of outcome (in accordance with respective role &amp; competencies)</li> <li>• <b>EP commits itself to a genuine follow-up</b> of the Conference, with <b>legislative proposals</b>, initiating <b>treaty change</b> or otherwise &amp; calls on other two institutions to make the same commitment</li> </ul>	<p><b>Type of outcome:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CoFoE cannot be simple stocktaking exercise</b> → must be way of enabling citizens to shape EU policies</li> </ul> <p><b>Follow up:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>COM committed to taking most effective actions</b> to ensure that what citizens debate is translated into EU policy-making</li> <li>• <b>follow-up with real action &amp; tangible results</b> → President UvdL pledged to follow up on what is debated &amp; agreed during CoFoE</li> <li>• <b>feedback mechanism</b> should ensure that <b>ideas expressed result in concrete recommendations for future EU action</b></li> <li>• as part of feedback mechanism, it will be important to determine how to integrate citizens' feedback into <b>coherent set of recommendations</b></li> <li>• <b>COM ready to take into account citizens' feedback &amp; proposals in setting of legislative agenda.</b></li> <li>• <b>commitment to follow-up</b> should be formalised from very beginning of process in Joint Declaration</li> </ul>	<p><b>Type of outcome:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Union framework</b> offers potential to allow challenges to be addressed in an effective manner.</li> <li>• <b>CoFoE not within the scope of Article 48 TEU</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Output:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• outcome of CoFoE should be reflected in <b>report to European Council in 2022</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Follow up:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In light of the EUCO conclusions, EU institutions would commit to examine swiftly how to effectively follow up to this report</b>, each within their own sphere of competence <b>in accordance with the Treaties</b></li> </ul>