

To the European Council

2-12-2022

Subject: Usage of the CoFoE proposals.

Dear members of the Council of the ministers of the European Union.

Today, December 2nd, the citizen component of the Conference on the Future of Europe will receive feedback on the decisions made regarding the future use of the proposals elaborated. That will be welcome.

So far, we have struggled a lot to figure out what exactly each EU institution is planning to do with our work. The EU parliament kept us involved, especially after the 9th of May, and showed constant support towards our proposals. Therefore, we felt the necessity to write only to you and to the Council of ministers of the EU.

You are aware of the efforts we have put into the Conference since October 2021 to deliver, on the 9th of May, a proper and comprehensive report.

This report was finalized after consensus with each component of the Plenary was reached; therefore, on the 9th of May all three EU institutions officially took the commitment to provide concrete actions based on this report. As is stated in the Conference's joint declaration.

During the past months both EU Parliament, and EU Commission have supported the Conference and its outcome on many occasions, and through many actions, proposals, and public speeches.

Hence, the constant and firm silence of the Council has been even more striking. We have mentioned this silence before, on the 12th of March to be exact. Here we asked the Council which recommendations they supported.

We asked for an answer before the 9th of May. We did not receive an answer at all, instead we got the same silence that we are still getting now. Of course, we can imagine that there were other pressing issues to deal with, but this does not allow you to break the commitment you promised when you launched the Conference, together with the Parliament and the Commission.

As many of our proposals push for more involved European action in different areas.

We think this silent and stalling behavior is damaging the potential of this conference, although this project has been initiated by the three institutions.

We believe that more cooperation would mean less bureaucracy and faster response to political situations. European and national interests have been intertwined together for decades.

You chose this conference, now it is up to you to show interest and respect for the citizens involved, and their proposals. This means to reinforce the trust of the people in their politicians. They would recognize that their own governments are not preventing change for the better, the change they have been waiting for.

This applies to all our proposals; we do not necessarily want to achieve treaty change.

However, in case that amending the treaty is the only way for implementing a proposal, we see it as a necessity that this is done.

The requirement of amending the treaty and requesting to open a convention is already supported by Parliament and the Commission.

The Council has not expressed its support, thus showing again its unwillingness to listen to the citizens' voice, and to pursue the change the EU needs.

Many member states expressed their concern that such proposals were made because of the influence of Parliament.

During the European Citizen Panels, citizens worked with each other, trying to formulate ways to improve the EU.

They have not been in contact with politicians, and therefore influence from Parliament was not possible. They simply found out afterwards that some issues required greater changes than expected.

Treaty changes. It is no wonder that the elected members of Parliament have the same opinions as the European citizens.

Many Member States believe that now it is not the right time to start the process of treaty change, due to its complexity.

Amending treaties tomorrow when the necessity is today, it makes no sense.

There will never be a perfect time.

We hope that today you will show us that our worries were unnecessary, that you respect your commitments, that it took longer than expected to come to a decision, and most importantly that you will work with us towards a better future.

Sincerely

Cara Giovanna Citizens' Panel Participant Chiara Alicandro Citizens' Panel Ambassador Christos Miggas
Citizens' Panel Participant Cinque Maria Citizens' Panel Ambassador Clara Garcia Citizens' Panel
Participant Dajana Milinkovic Citizens' Panel Ambassador Daniela Dumitru Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Dennis Wambolt Citizens' Panel Participant Desislava Simeonova Citizens' Panel Ambassador Dominik
Unterüberbacher Citizens' Panel Participant Dragan Volarević Citizens' Panel Ambassador Dumitru Daniela
Citizens' Panel Ambassador Dumitru Daniela Citizens' Panel Ambassador Elena Dimitrova Permanent
Representative of the Bulgarian Parliament Elena Rodriguez Doval Citizens' Panel Participant Elsa Bestard
Navarro Citizens' Panel Ambassador Elyes Ouerghi Citizens' Panel Ambassador Eric jullien Citizens' Panel
Ambassador Éva Mészáros Citizens' Panel Ambassador Ēvalds Dukuls Citizens' Panel Participant Ewa
Buchta Citizens' Panel Participant Filiberto Calabrese Citizens' Panel Participant Filipe C. Silva Citizens'
Panel Participant Francesco Citizens' Panel Participant Francesco Indiveri Citizens' Panel Participant
Gabriela Hegenberg Citizens' Panel Ambassador Geraldie Bulk Citizens' Panel Participant Giardina Antonio
Citizens' Panel Ambassador Hafida GUELLATI Citizens' Panel Ambassador Hajnalka Kozmáné Gombkötő
Citizens' Panel Ambassador Ilenia Greco Citizens' Panel Ambassador Inês Pascoal da Silva Citizens' Panel
Ambassador Inocencio Lázaro Alonso Citizens' Panel Participant Ivo Raso Citizens' Panel Ambassador Jakob
Schreiber Citizens' Panel Participant Jessy Calapnese Citizens' Panel Participant Jesús Teruel Citizens'
Panel Ambassador Joémy LINDAU Citizens' Panel Ambassador Jorge Matono Citizens' Panel Participant
Juan Milla Olaya Citizens' Panel Participant Julia Eichberger Citizens' Panel Ambassador Krasimir Zlatinov
Citizens' Panel Ambassador Leonie Kukla Citizens' Panel Participant Lindau Joémy Citizens' Panel
Ambassador Linnea Fenske Citizens' Panel Participant Lucia Balirano Citizens' Panel Participant MAGNERY
Gisele Citizens' Panel Ambassador Magnery Giselle Citizens' Panel Ambassador Maria Cinque Citizens'
Panel Ambassador Maria Helena Marrana Citizens' Panel Participant Maria João Bernardo Citizens' Panel
Ambassador María López Citizens' Panel Participant Marina Chambel Citizens' Panel Participant Mark
O'Brien Citizens' Panel Participant Martina Brambilla Citizens' Panel Participant Masevszki Jánosné
Citizens' Panel Ambassador Moritz Ritter Citizens' Panel Participant Nicoletta Busa Citizens' Panel
Participant Normunds Legzdiņš Citizens' Panel Ambassador Paloma Citizens' Panel Participant Paolo
Barone Citizens' Panel Ambassador Paolo Vittorio Mauro Citizens' Panel Participant Pellarin Citizens' Panel
Ambassador Péter Csákai-Szőke Citizens' Panel Ambassador PG Citizens' Panel Ambassador Piero Savaris
Citizens' Panel Ambassador Scalabese Piciberto Citizens' Panel Participant Seweryn Gołaszewski Citizens'
Panel Participant Simon Weber Citizens' Panel Participant Teresa Ermenegilda Curatelo Citizens' Panel
Participant Teruel Citizens' Panel Ambassador Thilde Karlsson Citizens' Panel Ambassador Tuomas
Suihkonen Citizens' Panel Ambassador Valentina Balzani Citizens' Panel Ambassador Vasiliki Fassou
Citizens' Panel Participant Violeta Anton Citizens' Panel Participant Vladimír Lako National panelist
Wiktoria Tyszka Uleżalka Citizens' Panel Ambassador Troels de Leon Petersen Citizens' Panel Ambassador