

## **Rules of Procedure**

**[to be completed with other elements]**

### **Common Principles**

These Rules of Procedure are established in accordance with the Joint Declaration on the Conference on the Future of Europe laying down the foundations and principles of the Conference.

The Conference is a citizens-focused, bottom-up exercise for Europeans to have their say on what they expect from the European Union.

European citizens from all walks of life and corners of the Union will be able to participate, with young Europeans playing a central role in shaping the future of the European project.

The Conference is placed under the authority of the three institutions, represented by the President of the European Parliament, the President of the Council and the President of the European Commission, acting as its Joint Presidency.

A lean governance structure will help steer the Conference. It will ensure an equal representation of the three European institutions and will be gender-balanced, among all its component parts.

The Conference, its governance and events organised in its framework are based on the values of the EU, as enshrined in the EU treaties and European Charter of Fundamental Rights, and shall be inclusive, open and transparent.

The Conference shall be recognisable through a single identity and a Conference Charter. The Charter is the set of common principles and criteria, reflecting EU values, to which organisers of events shall subscribe to and to which Conference participants shall adhere to.

A feedback mechanism will ensure that ideas expressed during the Conference events result in concrete recommendations for EU action.

### **Scope**

The Conference aims to give citizens a say on what matters to them.

The scope of the Conference should reflect the areas where the European Union has the competence to act or where European Union action would be to the benefit of European citizens.

Reflecting the Strategic Agenda of the European Council, the 2019-2024 Political Guidelines of the European Commission and the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, discussions will cover, amongst others:

Building a healthy continent, the fight against climate change and environmental challenges, an economy that works for people, social fairness, equality and intergenerational solidarity, Europe's digital transformation, European rights and values including the Rule of Law, migration challenges, security, the EU's role in the world, the Union's democratic foundations, and how to strengthen democratic processes governing the European Union. Discussions can also cover cross-cutting issues related to the EU's ability to deliver on policy priorities, such as better regulation, application of subsidiarity and proportionality, implementation and enforcement of the *acquis* and transparency.

Citizens remain free to raise additional issues that matter to them.

### **Citizens' Participation**

#### **▪ Multilingual Digital Platform**

The Multilingual Digital Platform shall be the main hub for citizens contributions and information on the different parts of the Conference, the repository of all contributions and documents, an interactive tool to share and debate ideas, and input from the multitude of events taking place under the umbrella of the Conference. Input from citizens' online submissions and all Conference-related events shall be collected, analysed, monitored and published via the digital platform, thereby also ensuring full transparency.

The platform is open directly for citizens, civil society, social partners, and other stakeholders, as well as public authorities at European, national, regional and local level, as long as they subscribe to and respect the Conference Charter. As diverse a group of people as possible, and as many as possible are encouraged to take part.

The moderation of the Platform will be under the supervision of the Common Secretariat acting on behalf of the Executive Board.

#### **▪ Conference Events**

Events can be organised in a wide variety of formats (including citizens panels at national and EU level) organised by the EU institutions and bodies, Member States or others (for example, regional and local authorities, organised civil society, social partners, citizens) under the umbrella of the Conference and in line with the Conference Charter, with a view to reaching the widest possible audience. Outcomes of such events shall be reported on the platform.

Such Conference events, physical gatherings or in digital settings or in a hybrid format, can be organised at different levels, including European, national, transnational, regional and local level and

will involve civil society, social partners, and stakeholders<sup>1</sup>. Citizens' participation in these events should aim at mirroring Europe's diversity.

- **European Citizens' Panels**

European Citizens' Panels will be organised. Each panel shall consist of a number of citizens in order to ensure at least one female and one male citizen per Member State and taking into account the degressive proportionality principle applied to the composition of the European Parliament. The citizens shall be chosen randomly, and be representative of EU sociological diversity, in terms of citizens' geographic origin, gender, age, socioeconomic background and/or level of education. One third of each Citizens' panel shall be composed of young people.

In addition to the necessary time for preparation, information sharing and feedback, these panels shall meet during deliberative sessions, in different locations, and shall be dedicated to specific themes based on the scope described in Article [...] and citizens' contributions on the digital platform.

Representatives from each European Citizens' Panel, of which at least one third shall be younger than 25, shall take part in the Plenary, present the outcome of their discussions and debate them with other participants.

The panels shall take on board contributions gathered in the framework of the Conference through the digital platform, providing input to the Conference Plenary by formulating a set of recommendations for the Union to follow-up on.

The Co-Chairs of the Executive Board will jointly establish the practical modalities for the organisation of the Conference Citizens' panels, in accordance with the present rules and the Joint Declaration, and inform in advance the Executive Board.

## **Governance of the Conference**

### **Executive Board**

*pm: already agreed, to be inserted. Consideration could be given to moving the article on the Common Secretariat to a separate consolidated section containing all references to the Common Secretariat.*

### **Conference Plenary**

[...]

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<sup>1</sup> The Executive Board may consider involving children in the Conference process.