

Version Nov 9, 21, 5:16 PM~~Nov 8, 21, 3:42 PM~~~~Nov 8, 21, 2:07 PM~~

**CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Ordinary meeting**

**Tuesday 09 November 2021,**

**09.00 - 12.00**

**Brussels, room : Paul-Henri Spaak (1A002)**

**And**

**Tuesday 09 November 2021,**

**16.45 - 18.45**

**Brussels, room : József Antall (6Q2)**

# **Chair's Note**

For legal reasons, it is strongly advised to inform the participants at the beginning of the meeting that the meeting will be web-streamed.

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**9 November 2021, 9.00 - 09.10**

**1. Adoption of agenda**

The draft agenda was circulated on 2 November 2021.

If there are no objections, I declare the draft agenda adopted.

## 2. Chair's announcements

- Interpretation:

**Interpretation is available today in the following languages:**

– Language profile **AM** session, **ICM** (from **9:00 to 12:00**):

**DE EN FR IT NL DA EL ES PT FI SV CS ET LV LT HU  
MT PL SK SL RO BG HR**

– Language profile **PM** session (from **16:45 to 18:45**):

**DE EN FR IT NL ES PT FI HU PL RO**

As you all know, the decision of the President Sassoli of 14 October on extraordinary circumstances lapsed on the 2nd November. This means that, since last Tuesday 3 November, the Parliament is functioning in the normal mode, meaning that meetings and votes take place with physical presence in the meeting room. No remote participation facilities will be provided, except for external invitees. Neither remote voting facilities will be available. All votes will take place during physical meetings and according to the usual rules provided in our Rules of Procedure.

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To attention of Members of National Parliaments and other guests, I would like to recall that interpreters for these languages rely on the quality of the sound and video of remote participants (only for Members of National Parliaments and other guests) in order to get the message across.

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It is therefore very important that they follow connection and speaker's guidelines sent to them. Please be aware that phone interventions or only audio connections will not be interpreted.

Speakers are invited to speak their mother tongue if it is one of languages for which interpretation is available.

It is also strongly recommended to avoid reading out a speech: please use your speaking notes as a background material and speak freely and at a natural pace. ~~Our DG LINC~~ interpreters thank you in advance for your cooperation.

- **Use of masks**

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I would like to remind you also that, as provided for in the decision of the President of the EP of 28 October, social distance measures are still in force in all parliament, notably in what concerns the ~~use of capacity of meeting rooms, which is~~ reduced by half and the use of community masks, which is mandatory in all the premises of the EP, including during meetings.

According to the latest decisions, **the use of masks is even mandatory while taking the floor**, except for the person chairing the meeting.

I repeat, the use of masks is mandatory even during committee meetings and while taking the floor.

- Information to Members intervening remotely

- Members wishing to speak should click the “**RAISE HAND**” button

- If the light is yellow, your hand is raised and the information is passed on to me as Chair

- Please wait until you are given the floor. When the moderator gives you the floor, the **SPEAK** button turns blue.

- Press the **SPEAK** button once and wait 3 seconds to be connected. The **SPEAK** button turns red and you can start speaking.

**9 November 2021, 9.10 – 12.00**

*Meeting European Parliament – National Parliaments*

**3. Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on "The expectations of National Parliaments for the Conference on the Future of Europe"**

AFCO/9/07506

- Debate in committee with Members of National Parliaments and Members of the European Parliament

09:10 – 09:50 Introductory statements by the AFCO Chair and the three Co-Chairs of the Executive Board of the Conference on the Future of Europe

09:50 – 10:10 Presentations by ~~two~~ Members of Slovenian and French National Parliaments

10:10 – 11:40 Debate with Members of National Parliaments and Members of European Parliament

11:40 – 12:00 Closing remarks by the AFCO Chair and the Chair of the EP Delegation to the CoFE plenary

(see separate draft agenda)

- AD in charge: Ewelina Błaszczuk-Adamowicz

**Commento [BE1]:** Shall we modify the program here? At least maybe reduce the slot for the Presentations by the Members of SI and FR parliament?

**Formattato:** Polacco (Polonia)

Dear colleagues,

I would like to welcome to our interparliamentary meeting our guests, the Members of national Parliaments (X Members from Y chambers and Z Member states have confirmed their presence).

I also cordially welcome our key note speakers - Co-Chairs of the Executive Board of the Conference on the Future of Europe: **Mr Guy Verhofstadt** - Chair of the Parliament's Delegation to the Conference Plenary; **Mr Gašper Dovžan**, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, representing Council Presidency and **Ms Dubravka Šuica**, Commission Vice-President (responsible for Democracy and Demography).

I would also like to welcome Members of the Parliament's Delegation to the Conference Plenary [that are not Members of AFCD](#), who have joined us today for this interesting debate.

In our meeting today, we will discuss the expectations [of national Parliaments](#) towards the Conference on the Future of Europe, which has already taken shape with all its bodies and fora like the plenary, Citizens' Panels, working groups and the digital platform, being put in place and working at full steam. It is thus, highly appropriate and timely to hold a debate between national parliaments and the European Parliament on their expectations for the Conference at this early stage, in order to listen to their views on the structure, the roll out and the expected outcome of this unique exercise.

The Conference on the Future of Europe is a one of a kind opportunity for a debate on how the EU should develop in the future, identify where it is rising to the challenges of current times, and enhance those areas that need reform or strengthening. It constitutes an unprecedented pan-European forum for discussion, where citizens of all Member States can debate the EU's priorities and make recommendations to be taken into account by the political and institutional powers and ideally translated into practical measures.

The European Parliament has continuously supported proper engagement of the national parliaments, which together with the European Parliament should drive the Conference with the aim of providing meaningful results. As the European Parliament has consistently reiterated, cooperation and political dialogue between the national Parliaments and the European Parliament should be enhanced, and in particular on issues of our common vested interests like the future of our Union. Such enhanced dialogue obviously contributes to reinforce parliamentary democracy in the European Union.

As the representatives of the directly elected parliamentary bodies of the European Union and of the Member States, we the European and [National](#) parliamentarians bear special responsibility for advocating the meaningful engagement of the Union's Citizens in the Conference

on the Future of Europe, so that their voice is heard and proper follow up is provided to the conclusions of their work.

Before starting our substantial debate, I would like to inform you of some important practical details of our meeting, as the colleagues from the national parliaments are participating remotely:

- in order to allow the maximum of our national Parliaments' colleagues to intervene, we will organise the discussion in a way that, after the intervention of the key note speakers and of a Member of the Parliament of Slovenia and a Member of the French Parliament, we will have ~~two~~ interventions of a Member of a national Parliament followed by one intervention of a Member of the European Parliament, in accordance with the established speakers' list established.

- following the interventions as listed in the speakers' list, and depending on the time available other Members of national Parliaments and of the European Parliament may also have the possibility to indicate their wish to intervene for one minute by clicking the "RAISE HAND" button - for the Members of national Parliaments and by raising the hand - for the Members of the European Parliament.

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- If the light is yellow, your hand is raised and the information is passed on to me as Chair.

- Please wait until you are given the floor. When the moderator gives you the floor, the **SPEAK** button turns blue.

- Press the **SPEAK** button once and wait 3 seconds to be connected. The **SPEAK** button turns red and you can start speaking.

*Allow me to now give the floor to the Co-Chairs of the Executive Board of the Conference for an introduction to our debate.*



*Let me start by giving the floor to Mr Guy Verhofstadt - Chair of the EP delegation to the Conference Plenary for **10 minutes**.*

(...)

*Thank you to Mr Verhofstadt.*

*I will now ask for the floor Mr- Gašper Dovžan, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia for **10 minutes***

(...)

*Thank you Mr State Secretary.*

*Now I have the pleasure to give the floor to Vice-President of the Commission Ms Dubravka Šuica for **10 minutes**.*

(...)

*Thank you Vice-President.*

*I now give the floor to our distinguished guest from the Slovenian Parliament, Mr Branko GRIMS, Chair of the Committee on the Interior, Public Administration and Local Self-Government in the Slovenian National Assembly, Head of Delegation of the Slovenian National Assembly to the Conference on the Future of Europe Plenary for **5 minutes**.*

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(...)

*Thank you Mr- Grims.*

*Next is our distinguished guest from the French Parliament, Ms- Sabine THILLAYE, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the French National Assembly. You have the floor for **5 minutes**.*

(...)

*Thank you Ms. Thillaye.*

*I now open the floor for a debate between Members of the National Parliaments and Members of the European Parliament.*

*(See Speakers List provided)*

*At the end of the interventions of Members of the National Parliaments and of the European Parliament, the Chair gives the floor to Mr ~~Guyon~~ Verhofstadt - Chair of the EP delegation to the Conference plenary for the closing remarks - for **10 minutes**.*

*After the closing remarks by Mr Verhofstadt the Chair closes the debate.*

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