



2021PORTUGAL.EU

Parliamentary Dimension



ASSEMBLEIA DA REPÚBLICA

Lisbon, 22 April 2021

Dear Colleagues,

The third meeting of the Executive Board of the Conference on the Future of Europe, and in which the members of the national Parliaments on the Presidential Troika of COSAC participate as observers, took place today, 22nd April. On the agenda, previously sent to all of you, there were three points: Programme and modalities of the event on 9 May: endorsement; Draft Rules of Procedure for the Conference (including the Citizens' Participation: endorsement and Conference Plenary: discussion); as well as Practical modalities for the organisation of European citizens' panels: information from Co-Chairs.

The Programme of the **inaugural event for the Conference on the Future of Europe, scheduled for 9th May**, which you can find attached to this letter, was presented by the Co-Chairs and endorsed by the Executive Board.

On the Draft Rules of Procedure, the three blocks of rules on the Common Principles, Scope and Citizens' Participation were discussed and this part of the document was endorsed by the Executive Board. The note on the Practical modalities of the European Citizens' Panels of the Conference, similarly circulated to all of you beforehand, was also presented by the Co-Chairs, who also referred to the launch of the Digital Platform and the high level of engagement of the citizens' with the platform so far.

The discussion that followed on the Rules of Procedure of the Conference Plenary was mainly focused on the role of the plenary, its composition and functioning. During this exchange of views, I have reiterated that there is a unanimous support from COSAC delegations to the request that each national Parliament shall be represented by at least four Members in the Conference plenary as full Members: This means a total of at least 108 Members from national Parliaments, on an equal footing with the European Parliament. I have stressed that this is key to ensure pluralism and an adequate representation of the national Parliaments' views on the Conference plenary. I have also referred to the proposal on the participation of the representatives of governments and parliaments of EU candidate countries in the plenary meetings.

Based on the discussion held, the Common Secretariat will draft a new proposal on the Conference Plenary, to be enshrined in the Rules of Procedure once adopted. A meeting of the Executive Board to continue this debate will be scheduled for next week and, if the proposal does not fully meet our expectations, I will insist on defending our positions.

Yours sincerely,



Luís Capoulas Santos

Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Assembleia da República and current COSAC Chair

Comissão Parlamentar de Assuntos Europeus

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