

Note from the Presidency

Council methodology for the follow-up to the proposals of the Conference on the Future of Europe

1. Importance for the Council of following up Conference's proposals

The Conference on the Future of Europe was an unprecedented exercise of consultation and direct involvement of citizens on this scale. It was held at a time of historic changes, which requires the European Union to respond to these challenges.

The Member States, which attach fundamental importance to listening to citizens, have actively invested themselves through the organisation of numerous national panels and events. The Council itself was also involved, along with the other institutions, in the work of the Conference.

The final report of the Conference was handed over to the three co-Presidents of the Conference on 9 May, thus concluding a year of work carried out by the citizens.

On this occasion, the co-Presidents reaffirmed, on behalf of each of their institutions, the commitment made collectively, at the time of the adoption of the joint declaration in 2021, to ensure the follow-up of the proposals of the Conference.

It is therefore up to the Council to effectively organise this follow-up work for what concerns it, by promoting as far as possible a concrete translation of the citizens' proposals.

In this respect, the Council will have to take account of the feedback event planned for this autumn under the Czech Presidency, which will mark an important stage in the reporting of the work carried out by the Institutions to the citizens.

2. Involvement of citizens in the follow-up to the Conference

It will be important to ensure that citizens remain fully involved in this phase of follow-up and implementation of proposals.

In particular, modalities for the organisation of the first feedback event in the autumn should be examined as soon as possible. The Commission could present options to this end.

3. Methodology for analysing citizens' proposals

The plenary of the Conference on the Future of Europe adopted 49 proposals in the form of 326 concrete measures. A number of these are already being implemented or could be implemented soon. Others would require new measures, possibly in the form of legislation in the framework of the existing Treaties. Some of them may require a revision of the Treaties.

In order to enable the Council to examine each proposal on an objective basis and to decide how to respond, a summary document presenting the modalities to transcript those proposals will be prepared by the General Secretariat of the Council in the coming weeks.

4. Working calendar of the Council

The General Affairs Council, in its responsibility for overall policy coordination, institutional issues and horizontal files affecting several Union policies, will be responsible for the follow-up to the Conference on the Future of Europe.

During the exchange on 23 May, Ministers could discuss the conclusions of the Conference, both on policies to be implemented and on possible institutional developments, and agree on the broad lines of the methodology to be applied in following up the proposals. The Council could then come back to this on 21 June on the basis of the document expected from the General Secretariat of the Council and prepare the European Council's discussions on this matter.

At the European Council on 23 and 24 June, the Council Presidency and the Commission will be able to present the conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe to the Heads of State and Government.

The Czech Presidency will then be able to continue work on the follow-up to the Conference's proposals from July onwards.