



Deutscher Bundestag
Ausschuss für die Angelegenheiten
der Europäischen Union
Der Vorsitzende



COMMISSION DES AFFAIRES EUROPÉENNES

La Présidente

Berlin and Paris, 29 April 2021

Conference on the Future of Europe

Political process with strong involvement of the citizens

We, the Chairs of the EU committees of the German Bundestag and the French National Assembly, ask the EU institutions to assume their responsibility in shaping the Conference on the Future of Europe and initiate a dynamic and inclusive process that closely links European politics with the citizens. In view of the inauguration of the Conference on 9 May 2021, the Member States in the Council, the European Commission and the Parliaments of Europe should reach an ambitious agreement together.

We call on the European Commission to actively engage, in addition to strong citizen participation in the framework of the Conference, on the substance of all policy areas in the spirit of the reflection process on the future of Europe it launched in 2017.

In times of particular challenges for Europe, especially the pandemic, Member States in the Council should enable a genuine consultation of citizens, the results of which should be subject to a public debate, not a report prepared behind closed doors

We support the European Parliament in its ambitious approach so that the Conference has a strong parliamentary dimension with 108 representatives for the European Parliament and national parliaments respectively. National parliaments are one of the fundamental pillars of European democracy and an irreplaceable channel for expressing the concerns of European citizens about European integration.

In particular, we ask that the plenary assembly of the Conference – and not just selected representatives of the decision-making body – debate the reform proposals in the light of the citizens' panels and endorse them in a transparent process. Only in this way can the outcome of the Conference be given the legitimacy that is necessary for the appropriate follow-up by the European institutions within the framework of their Treaty competences.

Gunther KRICHBAUM, MdB

Sabine THILLAYE