



Ljubljana, 21 September 2021

THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Monday 20 September 2021

On 20 September 2021 the seventh Meeting of the Executive Board of the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFE) took place. The members and observers discussed four items on the Agenda:

1. Updated information on the European Citizens' Panels

The Co-chairs gave an update on the Citizens' Panels:

- The first panel took place from 17-19 September in Strasbourg and discussed the issues of stronger economy, social justice, jobs/education, youth, culture, and sport/digital transformation.
- The selection of all participating 800 citizens has been finalized.
- From the first 200 participating citizens only seven have previously participated in a similar event.
- The participants' age range at the first Citizens' Panel was 16-85 years.
- The purpose of the first meeting of each Citizens' Panel is for the citizens themselves to identify the items and proposals they want to discuss in future meetings. The result was a decision on five so-called streams: Working in Europe, An Economy for the Future, Just Society, Learning in Europe and Ethical and Social Digital Transformation.
- The first Citizens' Panel already appointed 20 representatives for the Plenary in October.
- Lessons learned: improve panel transparency for the audience following via web stream.
- Journalist from 60 media outlets were following the event in Strasbourg.
- The moderation was done by contracted experts selected by the Common secretariat based on topical needs (list of experts is available on the platform).
- The results and recommendation from the Citizens' Panels will be presented and debated at the plenaries in December (Citizens' Panels 1 and 2) and January (Citizens' Panels 3 and 4).

2. Multilingual Digital Platform: information from the Co-Chairs and exchange of views

2.1. Interim Report

The Co-chairs presented the first Interim report. The aim of the first Interim Report is to give an early indication of possible themes for discussion, as the

findings are preliminary. The emphasized themes in the Report are selected by clustering the traffic (events, ideas and events) on the platform into different headings. The Report was already presented at the first Citizens Panel and the five streams selected and the first panel are in coherence with the contributions on the Platform. The second Interim Report is planned for 15 October 2021.

The Co-chairs further expressed concern about the Platform's continued lack of visibility and emphasized the need for more engagement and promotion from all involved actors.

2.2. Platform moderation

Platform moderation is done by a selected team which is under the supervision of the Common Secretariat. So far, no major deliberate disinformation campaign has been detected.

3. **Plenary of the Conference on 22-23 October**

3.1. Proposed agenda: endorsement

The Co-chairs presented the agenda for the October Plenary (already sent to national Parliaments), which was endorsed by all members.

3.2. Exchange of views on the inaugural Plenary

The participants raised three issues:

- How to ensure more interactivity at the second Plenary?
- What should be the format of the second Plenary—hybrid or physical?
- Inclusion of Western Balkan countries and other interested stakeholders.

It was agreed that the Co-chairs will look further into how to make the Plenary debate more interactive and at the same time ensure that the remote participants are not disadvantaged regarding as to the opportunity to take the floor. Regarding the inclusion of Western Balkan countries and other interested stakeholders, it was stated that it is not foreseen for them to be equal members of the Conference, however the debate on how to include them continues.

4. **Conference Plenary Working Groups: information from the Co-Chairs**

The Co-chairs stated that the modalities of the working groups have not yet been finalized. The open issue remains how to present the work of the working groups.