



Conference on the **Future** of **Europe**

Summary report of the fourth meeting of the Executive Board of the Conference on the Future of Europe

Sunday 9 May 2021

12.00-13.00, European Parliament premises in Strasbourg, room R.1.1

Participants: please see participants list in annex

Summary and conclusions:

The Executive Board of the Conference on the Future of Europe held its fourth meeting on 9 May 2021 in the European Parliament premises in Strasbourg (in hybrid format). The meeting preceded the inaugural event for the Conference held later that day in the Parliament in Strasbourg.

The meeting was co-chaired by MEP Guy VERHOFSTADT, the Secretary of State for EU Affairs of Portugal, Ana Paula ZACARIAS, and Commission Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, Dubravka ŠUICA.

The Executive Board endorsed the Rules of Procedure Chapter on the Conference Plenary. With this the complete Rules of Procedure of the Conference are endorsed.

1. Draft Rules of Procedure for the Conference: Conference Plenary, endorsement

Guy VERHOFSTADT (Co-Chair) opened the meeting and introduced the sole agenda point, the Rules of Procedure of the Conference Plenary, underlining that the text put forward and agreed between the Co-Chairs represents a balanced compromise.

Dubravka ŠUICA (Co-chair) welcomed the compromise reached, underlining that it respects the spirit and letter of the Joint Declaration. She stressed that the Multilingual Digital Platform already attracts interest, that the process for the setting up the panels has started and that the focus must now be on the substantial work.

Ana Paula ZACARIAS (Co-Chair) stressed that the compromise is a good sign of cooperation between the institutions and of flexibility, and that both will be needed throughout this dynamic process. She underlined that the Conference should also be focused on citizens with the European Citizens' Panels and national events. She called for a first Plenary still during this semester and thanked the Common Secretariat for its work.

In the short discussion that followed participants in particular:

- Welcomed the compromise found and underlined that it was very well balanced and fair, and a sign of good cooperation between the institutions.
- Expressed the need to bring the Plenary and other Conference activities alive now, and to start discussing on substance.
- Considered that the Conference will open a necessary debate with citizens and also between institutions.
- Some considered that a stronger role should be given to the regions and cities in the Plenary (requesting further 8 seats for elected regional representatives and 8 seats for local representatives).
- Some pointed to the description of consensus regarding Plenary proposals, and suggested that the diverging positions should refer to citizens more broadly (and not be limited to representatives of national events/panels and European citizens' panels).
- Some underlined the need to have realistic expectations, pointing out that the Conference itself cannot change the decision making process. Some stressed the need to be ambitious and to ensure that the Conference brings an actual outcome.
- Others pointed to the need to listen to a diversity of opinions, and some underlined the need to be courageous and humble in this exercise.
- Some pointed out to the innovative nature of this undertaking combining representative and participatory democracy.

The Co-Chairs concluded that the Rules of Procedure were endorsed as proposed. The Co-Chairs agreed that the suggestions expressed by some observers concerning representation and divergent positions in Plenary could be reflected on to see to which extent they could be taken into consideration, through a future amendment of the Rules of Procedure.

Co-Chair VERHOFSTADT underlined that this Chapter will be integrated with the other previously endorsed Chapters into a consolidated document.

The Co-Chairs informed that a first Plenary is envisaged for 19 June and that the date for the next Executive Board meeting will be confirmed in due time.

In their concluding remarks, the Co-Chairs thanked all representatives and observers for their support.

Conclusion:

The Executive Board endorsed the Rules of Procedure Chapter on the Conference Plenary. With this, the complete Rules of Procedure of the Conference are endorsed.

Next meeting:

The date of the next Executive Board is still to be determined.

Contact: **Susanne Höke**, member of the Common Secretariat

PARTICIPANTS LIST

CO-CHAIR	Mr Guy VERHOFSTADT (Renew Europe, BE), Member of the European Parliament
CO-CHAIR	Ms Ana Paula ZACARIAS (PT), Secretary of State for EU Affairs
CO-CHAIR	Ms Dubravka ŠUICA, <i>Vice-President of the European Commission</i>
MEMBER	Mr Gašper DOVŽAN (SI), (remote participation) Secretary of State for EU Affairs
MEMBER	Mr Clément BEAUNE (FR), (remote participation) Secretary of State for EU Affairs
MEMBER	Mr Manfred WEBER Member of the European Parliament (PPE, DE)
MEMBER	Ms Iratxe GARCÍA-PÉREZ, (remote participation) Member of the European Parliament (S&D, ES)
MEMBER	Mr Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, (remote participation) Vice-President of the European Commission
MEMBER	Ms Věra JOUROVÁ, (remote participation) Vice-President of the European Commission
OBSERVER	Ms Milena HRDINKOVÁ (CZ), (excused) State Secretary for EU Affairs
OBSERVER	Mr Hans DAHLGREN (SE), (remote participation) Minister for EU Affairs
OBSERVER	Mr Juan GONZÁLEZ-BARBA PERA (ES), (remote participation) Secretary of State for EU Affairs
OBSERVER	Ms Theodora GENTZIS (BE), (remote participation) -Director General for European Affairs -Secretary General a.i.
OBSERVER	Mr Gerolf ANNEMANS Member of the European Parliament (ID, BE)
OBSERVER	Mr Daniel FREUND Member of the European Parliament (Verdes/ALE, DE)
OBSERVER	Mr Zdzisław KRASNODEŃSKI, (remote participation) Member of the European Parliament (ECR, PL)
OBSERVER	Mr Helmut SCHOLZ Member of the European Parliament (The Left, DE)

OBSERVER (COSAC)	Mr Luís Capoulas SANTOS (PT), (remote participation) Chairman of the European Affairs Committee of the Assembleia da República
OBSERVER (COSAC)	Mr Guido WOLF (DE), (remote participation) Chairman of the Committee on European Union Questions of the Bundesrat
OBSERVER (COSAC)	Mr Gunther KRICHBAUM (DE), (remote participation) Chairman of the EU Affairs Committee of the German Bundestag
OBSERVER (COSAC)	Mr Marko POGAČNIK (SI) (not present) SI Chairperson of the Committee for EU Affairs of the Drzavni Zbor
OBSERVER (COSAC)	Mr Bojan KEKEC (SI), (remote participation) Chairman of the Committee for EU SI Chair of the Commission for International Relations and European Affairs of the Drzavni Svetof the Drzavni Zbor
OBSERVER (CoR)	Mr Apostolos TZITZIKOSTAS, (remote participation) President of the European Committee of the Regions
OBSERVER (EESC)	Ms Christa SCHWENG, (remote participation) President of the European Economic and Social Committee
OBSERVER (BusinessEurope)	Mr Markus BEYRER, (not present) Director General of BusinessEurope
OBSERVER (ETUC)	Mr Luca VISENTINI, (excused) Secretary General of ETUC
CO-HEAD OF COMMON SECRETARIAT	Ms Marta ARPIO
CO-HEAD OF COMMON SECRETARIAT	Ms Katrin RUHRMANN
CO-HEAD OF COMMON SECRETARIAT	Mr Colin SCICLUNA
COMMON SECRETARIAT	Ms Rebecca RHLALOU, (remote participation)
COMMON SECRETARIAT	Ms Eva POPTCHEVA, (remote participation)
COMMON SECRETARIAT	Ms Susanne HOEKE, (remote participation)