

Dear Madam/Sir, Dear European Citizen,

The signing last month of the <u>Joint Declaration on the Conference on the Future of Europe</u>¹ paved the way to this unprecedented exercise in deliberative democracy at the EU level. Over the next year, through the Conference framework, people will have the possibility to discuss topics that are of concern to them. European citizens from all walks of life and corners of the Union will be able to participate, with young Europeans playing a central role. This represents a unique opportunity to shape Europe's future for the coming decades.

A central feature to the Conference will be the multilingual digital platform (http://futureu.europa.eu), through which citizens from across Europe will have the possibility to provide their views on any topic that they consider important for the future of the EU. They will also be able to put forward their ideas, comment on other people's ideas, as well as to create and participate in events. The platform will be the Conference's central hub, a place where all contributions to the Conference will be brought together and shared. A specialised feedback mechanism will aggregate and analyse key points raised. The platform will also provide information on the Conference's structure and work, as well as resources for event organisers. Citizens will easily be able to look up events in which they wish to participate thanks to an events map.

The platform will operate in all EU official languages, will use simple language and will be mobile friendly. It will fully respect the privacy of users, including EU data protection rules. Participation on the platform and the events promoted through it will have to respect the Charter of the Conference on the Future of Europe, which lays down standards for respectful debate.

We encourage you to join this truly European democratic exercise and seize the opportunity to shape the Future of Europe. We count very much on your mobilisation and active participation, both directly and through your networks and communities throughout Europe. In particular, we would be grateful if you could promote the digital platform, including through your communication channels, and organise and register events under the auspices of the Conference.

The Conference's official hashtag #TheFutureIsYours is an invitation to EU citizens to contribute and define the EU's future: "The future is in your hands".

Kind regards,

Co-Chair

Co-Chair

Co-Chair

Guy Verhofstadt Member of the European Parliament

Ana Paula Zacarias
Secretary of State for EU
Affairs

Dubravka ŠuicaVice-President of the
European Commission

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021C0318(01)