



ENoP STATEMENT | CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

INTRODUCTION

The European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP) welcomes the positions and contributions of the Council and Parliament on the *Conference on the Future of Europe* and encourages next steps towards the adoption of a Joint Declaration with the European Commission that will define the concept, structure and scope of the Conference.

In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the European Union faces grave socio-economic challenges that are heavily impacting the member-states and bringing forward existing weaknesses and divisions in the Union. This difficult period, marked by political polarization, shows that today more than ever the European Union needs the support and vision of its citizens in overcoming the crisis and shaping the future of Europe together.

Therefore, we see the *Conference on the Future of Europe* as a remarkable opportunity to engage European citizens in an inclusive dialogue about Europe, our core values of democracy, solidarity, tolerance and our common future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As an actor of political dialogue and pluralistic representation, ENoP shares a list of **10 recommendations** to the institutions of the European Union, that we consider fundamental for the success of the initiative.

The *Conference on the Future of Europe* shall make sure:

1. To place the **core values of the European Union linked to democracy, solidarity and tolerance** at the forefront of the Conference, and use them as guiding principles for the debate, taking also into account the promotion of peace, security and sustainable development, the health and the wellbeing of EU citizens.
2. To enable the **broad participation of civil society from all EU member-states**, while keeping a gender balance and inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups.
3. To mobilise and enable the **participation of youth from all EU member-states** who are the engine of change in Europe and whose future the Conference will debate.
4. To implement a **“bottom-up” approach and “eye-level” cooperation** when consulting with citizens that would allow for genuine dialogue.

5. To acknowledge and make use of **the role of political foundations as bridge-builders between civil society, academia and political actors**. ENoP and its member-foundations can be strong partners in mobilizing both civic and political participation in discussions related to the future of Europe.
6. To include **innovative formats for inclusion of civil society**, such as online tools and social media as to allow citizens for more direct involvement in deliberations on important questions.
7. To **raise awareness among citizens about the strong interlinkages between internal and external EU policies**, and the importance of EU external actions aiming at democracy support and development cooperation in partner-countries.
8. To engage in a **constructive and inclusive dialogue** that brings cohesion among member-states.
9. To organise **parallel citizen consultations in all member-states** that contribute to a single strategy for Europe.
10. To ensure a thorough **evaluation of the Conference and a concrete follow-up on the proposals made by participants**, taking into consideration **possible changes in the setup of the institutions of the European Union**.

ENoP believes that only through genuine and inclusive dialogue between civil society and political actors can the EU overcome existing challenges and shape a better common future.

We strongly believe that the results and the outcome of the *Conference on the Future of Europe* have to be taken with attention by EU decision-makers.

We look forward to engaging with all stakeholders in this process over the next two years to facilitate the contribution of political foundations with the aim of looking at the medium to long-term future of the EU and the reforms needed to improve its policies and institutions.

ABOUT ENoP

The European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP) serves as a platform for dialogue and exchange between the European political foundations, civil society organisations, active in the fields of democracy support and sustainable development, and the institutions of the European Union.

Today, the Network brings together 54 member-foundations from 23 countries and 6 political families, represented at the European Parliament, namely: ECR, EPP, Greens, GUE, Renew Europe and S&D. Our members are active in over 100 countries around the world, where they bring civic education, support democratic processes and sustainable development through work with civil society and political actors.

In 2016, ENoP has signed a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with the European Commission, acknowledging the important role of the Network in the fields of development cooperation and democracy support. This FPA marks a set of common objectives of a Strategic Partnership to:

- Promote an enabling environment for political foundations, civil society and political parties;
- Encourage participation in policy-making processes through political foundations, their partner organizations and political parties;
- Strengthen the capabilities of political foundations in promoting democracy and developing pluralistic societies.

CONTACT

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