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Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank you for your support and ideas regarding the scope and organisation of the Conference on the Future of Europe. I am replying on behalf of my colleagues to whom your letter was addressed.

As stated in our Communication “Shaping the Conference on the Future of Europe” of 22 January {COM(2020) 27 final}, the European Commission would like to see the Conference being open to civil society, the European institutions and other European bodies, including the Committee of the Regions, the European Economic and Social Committee, as well as national, regional and local authorities, parliaments and other stakeholders – “all contributing as equal partners”.

The Commission fully agrees that national Parliaments should play a key role in the Conference. It welcomes all formal contributions from national Parliaments so that these ideas can be taken into consideration.

As set out in our Communication of 22 January {COM(2020) 27 final}, national and regional Parliaments and actors have an important role to play and should be encouraged to organise Conference-related events. The Commission acknowledges the significant experience of Member States regarding different forms of citizens’ consultations and other instruments of participatory and deliberative democracy, such as the citizens’ assemblies organised in some Member States. The Commission therefore shares your view that national Parliaments can make a significant contribution to the success of the Conference in terms of experience, organising events, and ensuring the Conference reaches as many citizens as possible. The Commission would be extremely interested in hearing the experience of the Danish Parliament in engaging with citizens in a dialogue on European affairs and the modalities of selecting a representative sample of the Danish population for such big debating events.

The Commission also agrees with you that the content of the Conference should address key topics that matter to citizens, such as the rule of law, fundamental rights and values, while at the same time allowing for an open discussion on any other subjects that they consider important. For these reasons, the Commission proposed that a first strand of discussions focuses on the topics contained in the European Council’s Strategic Agenda, along with the 2019-2024 Political Guidelines of the Commission on the basis of which President von der Leyen was elected by the European Parliament.

At present, the preparatory work on the Joint Declaration and the Conference is still underway and the engagement of national Parliaments is already strong with a number of opinions received within the permanent structured dialogue, as well as the exchanges that the Chairpersons of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) had with Vice-President Šefčovič and myself at the meeting in Zagreb on 19 and 20 January 2020.

While the European Parliament, Council and Commission will negotiate the text of the Joint Declaration establishing the Conference, the Commission can assure you that the early involvement of national parliaments is already shaping this process. This Joint Declaration should set the scope, format, structure and objectives of the Conference. The Commission would like it to be open to other signatories who want to actively contribute to the Conference. This can include individual national Parliaments.

The Commission would like to underline that it is only with the active engagement of national parliaments that the Conference on the Future of Europe can be a success. In this spirit, the Commission strongly welcomes your initiative to share your ideas, experiences and expectations with us. I look forward to continuing the political dialogue throughout the Conference.

Yours sincerely,



Dubravka Šuica