

Dear European citizens, dear friends,

On May the 9th 2021, for the 71st anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, the first pan-European Conference open to citizens was officially launched. And with the involvement and the commitment of the European peoples, it will surely shape the future of the European Union. This Conference, successfully promoted by the European Parliament, includes randomly selected European citizens who are invited to sit and debate with Members of the European Parliament, European Commissioners, State Ministers but also local and regional councillors and representatives of civil society such as trade unions.

These public debates should not remain amongst a limited number of people while the future of 450 million inhabitants is at stake. That is why we firmly believe that **you should be included in this democratic process. Indeed, the future of Europe is also yours.** To prepare the debates on the Conference on the future of Europe, an on-line platform has been created where exchanges and debates can take place (<https://futureu.europa.eu/>). **We encourage local and regional institutions, because of their proximity, to put this debate on the public agenda, to stimulate participation and to disseminate the ways to make it effective on this platform;** but also social and grassroots movements, those organised by civil society that advocate for changes in the status quo of their nations. While this open platform is only available in the 24 official EU languages depriving some of you from being able to write and comment in your mother tongue, it will be the basis for the future debates in the Conference and we should be pro-active to drive its debates.

We, members of state Parliaments and the European Parliament, members of the Self-Determination team in the Conference, **we are fighting for the respect and the implementation of the right to decide for our stateless nations and peoples and the creation of a mechanism of clarity aimed at resolving any discussions on these processes through dialogue and negotiation.** This tool should ensure that positions cannot be imposed or debates prevented. In addition, we are convinced that everyone should have the right to get heard. Therefore, we warmly invite you to get involved to shape our common future (<https://futureu.europa.eu/pages/getinvolved>).

As previously explained, the debates in the Conference on the future of Europe will come from the platform and we want to make some ideas more visible, **particularly the self-determination principle.** Thus, we invite you to promote this idea in the platform and to comment on the chapter called **“Values and rights, rule of law, security”.** Thanks to your comments and commitment, this issue will have to be discussed in the working groups and in the Conference's plenary sessions and we will be in a position to highlight and stress your comments in all our interventions and debates putting this issue at the forefront of the political agenda.

The self-determination principle is a universal human right which should be respected and applied and we are committed to fight for it in this Conference on the Future of Europe. But to make it happen we need your help and support .

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