

**Dear members of the Council of the ministers of the European Union,**

**It has been over 14 months since the end of the Conference on the Future of Europe. Still, we have struggled a lot to figure out what exactly each EU institution is planning to do with our work.** The EU Parliament kept us involved, especially after the 9th of May 2022, and showed constant support towards our proposals including triggering Article 48 for the Lisbon Treaty for the first time in history to deal with proposals calling for Treaty change.

As written to the then-Czech Presidency of the Council, you are aware of the efforts we have put into the Conference since October 2021 to deliver on the 9th of May a proper and comprehensive report. This report was finalized after consensus with each component of the Plenary was reached; therefore, on the 9th of May all three EU institutions officially took the commitment to provide concrete actions based on this report, as is stated in the Conference's joint declaration.

During the past year both the EU Parliament and EU Commission have supported the Conference and its outcome on many occasions, and through many actions, proposals, and public statements. Hence, **the constant and firm silence of the Council has been even more striking.** We have mentioned this silence before, including on the 12th of March 2022 during the Conference plenary, and during the Conference Feedback Event on 2nd of December 2022. Here, we asked the Council which recommendations they supported. We asked for an answer before the 9th of May. We did not receive an answer at all, instead we received the same silence that we are still receiving now. We understand that there were other pressing issues to deal with, but this does not allow you to break the commitment you promised in the Joint Agreement, when you launched the Conference, together with the Parliament and the Commission.

Many of our proposals push for more involved European action in different areas, which may require EU reform. We think, however, this silent and stalling behavior is damaging the potential of this conference, although this project has been initiated by the three institutions. We believe that more cooperation would mean less bureaucracy and faster response to political situations. European and national interests have been intertwined together for decades. You chose this Conference, now it is up to you to show interest and respect for the citizens involved and their proposals. This means to reinforce the trust of the people in their politicians. They would recognize that their own governments are not preventing change for the better, the change for which they have been waiting.

This applies to all our proposals; we do not necessarily want to achieve treaty change. However, in case that amending the treaty is the only way for implementing a proposal, we see it as a necessity that this is done.

**The requirement of amending the treaty and requesting to open a convention is already supported by the Parliament and the Commission.** The Council has not expressed its support, thus showing again its unwillingness to listen to the citizens' voice, and to pursue the change the EU needs.

**Many member states expressed their concern that such proposals were made because of the influence of Parliament.** During the European Citizens Panels, citizens worked with each other, trying to formulate ways to improve the EU. They have not been in contact with politicians, and therefore influence from Parliament was not possible. They simply found out afterwards that some issues required greater changes than expected. Treaty changes. It is no wonder that the elected members of Parliament have the same opinions as the European citizens.

Many Member States believe that now it is not the right time to start the process of treaty change, due to its complexity. **Amending treaties tomorrow when the necessity is today makes no sense.** There will never be a perfect time.

We hope that today you will show us that our worries were unnecessary, that you respect your commitments, that it took longer than expected to come to a decision, and most importantly that you will work with us towards a better future.

Huub Verhoeven	Citizens' panel Ambassador
Joy Clara Schäfflein	Citizens' panel Ambassador
Dorin Hell	Citizens' panel Ambassador
Laura Maria Cinquini	Citizens' panel Ambassador
Mansef Campos	Citizens' panel Ambassador
Aleksandar Milisov	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Alexandru-Mihai Raileanu	Citizens' Panel Participant
Alisa Wegner	Citizens' Panel Participant
Almudena	Citizens' Panel Participant
Álvaro	Citizens' Panel Participant

andrea cavestro	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Annemie De Clerck	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Antonia Kieper	Citizens' Panel Participant
Antonio Giardina	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Antonio Sellerino	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Augusts Redovics	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Baciu Oana Stefania	Citizens' Panel Participant
Beate Buchberger	Citizens' Panel Participant
Cara Giovanna	Citizens' Panel Participant
Chiara Alicandro	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Christos Miggas	Citizens' Panel Participant
Cinque Maria	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Clara Garcia	Citizens' Panel Participant
Dajana Milinkovic	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Daniela Dumitru	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Dennis Wambolt	Citizens' Panel Participant
Desislava Simeonova	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Dominik Unterüberbacher	Citizens' Panel Participant
Dragan Volarević	Citizens' Panel Ambassador

Dumitru Daniela	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Dumitru Daniela	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Elena Dimitrova	Permanent Representative of the Bulgarian Parliament
Elena Rodriguez Doval	Citizens' Panel Participant
Elsa Bestard Navarro	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Elyes Ouerghi	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Eric jullien	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Éva Mészáros	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Ēvalds Dukulis	Citizens' Panel Participant
Ewa Buchta	Citizens' Panel Participant
Filiberto Calabrese	Citizens' Panel Participant
Filipe C. Silva	Citizens' Panel Participant
Francesco	Citizens' Panel Participant
Francesco Indiveri	Citizens' Panel Participant
Gabriela Hegenberg	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Geraldie Bulk	Citizens' Panel Participant
Giardina Antonio	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Hafida GUELLATI	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Hajnalka Kozmáné Gombkötő	Citizens' Panel Ambassador

Ilenia Greco	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Inês Pascoal da Silva	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Inocencio Lázaro Alonso	Citizens' Panel Participant
Ivo Raso	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Jakob Schreiber	Citizens' Panel Participant
Jessy Calapnese	Citizens' Panel Participant
Jesús Teruel	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Joémy LINDAU	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Jorge Matono	Citizens' Panel Participant
Juan Milla Olaya	Citizens' Panel Participant
Julia Eichberger	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Krasimir Zlatinov	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Leonie Kukla	Citizens' Panel Participant
Lindau Joémy	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Linnea Fenske	Citizens' Panel Participant
Lucia Balirano	Citizens' Panel Participant
MAGNERY Gisele	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Magnery Giselle	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Maria Cinque	Citizens' Panel Ambassador

Maria Helena Marrana	Citizens' Panel Participant
Maria João Bernardo	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
María López	Citizens' Panel Participant
Marina Chambel	Citizens' Panel Participant
Mark O'Brien	Citizens' Panel Participant
Martina Brambilla	Citizens' Panel Participant
Masevszki Jánosné	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Moritz Ritter	Citizens' Panel Participant
Nicoletta Busa	Citizens' Panel Participant
Normunds Legzdīņš	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Paloma	Citizens' Panel Participant
Paolo Barone	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Paolo Vittorio Mauro	Citizens' Panel Participant
Pellarin	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Péter Csákai-Szőke	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
PG	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Piero Savaris	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Scalabese Piciberto	Citizens' Panel Participant
Seweryn Gołaszewski	Citizens' Panel Participant

Simon Weber	Citizens' Panel Participant
Teresa Ermenegilda Curatelo	Citizens' Panel Participant
Teruel	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Thilde Karlsson	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Tuomas Suihkonen	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Valentina Balzani	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Vasiliki Fassou	Citizens' Panel Participant
Violeta Anton	Citizens' Panel Participant
Vladimír Lako	National panelist
Wiktoria Tyszka Ulężałka	Citizens' Panel Ambassador
Troels de Leon Petersen	Citizens' Panel Ambassador