
TEXTS ADOPTED

Simulated edition

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I Choose Europe's Youth Agora position on the Future of Europe

“I Choose Europe” Resolution of 21 January 2020 of its (simulated) Youth Agora of the Conference on the Future of Europe

The First simulated Youth Agora of a first simulated Conference on the Future of Europe,

- having regard to the resolutions of the European Parliament of 16 February 2017 on improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty¹, of 16 February 2017 on possible evolutions of and adjustments to the current institutional set-up of the European Union², of 16 February 2017 on budgetary capacity for the euro area³, and of 13 February 2019 on the state of the debate on the future of Europe⁴,
- having regard to the proposal by the President-Designate of the Commission Ursula von der Leyen of 16 July 2019 in the framework of the political guidelines for the next European Commission 2019-2024 and the organisation of a Conference on the Future of Europe (the ‘Conference’),
- having regard to the European Council conclusions of 12 December 2019 on the general approach to the Conference on the Future of Europe,
- having regard to the opinion in letter form of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament of 9 December 2019 on the organisation of the Conference on the Future of Europe,
- having regard to the outcome of the meeting of 19 December 2019 of the working group of the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament on the Conference on the Future of Europe,

¹ OJ C 252, 18.7.2018, p. 215.

² OJ C 252, 18.7.2018, p. 201.

³ OJ C 252, 18.7.2018, p. 235.

⁴ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2019)0098.

- having regard to the objectives of the “I Chose Europe” campaign,
- having regard to Rules 21(3) of the the Rules of Procedure of the First simulated Youth Agora of a first simulated Conference on the Future of Europe,

- A. whereas youth turnout increased at the 2019 European Parliament elections, reaching 42% in 2019 in comparison to the 28% in 2014, thus demonstrating growing citizen engagement and interest in the European integration process, as well as an expectation that Europe will address its current and future challenges;
- B. whereas there is a need to tackle both the internal and external challenges that Europe is facing, as well as the new societal and transnational challenges which had not been fully envisaged when the Lisbon Treaty was adopted; whereas the number of significant crises that the Union has undergone demonstrates that reform processes are needed in multiple governance areas;
- C. whereas the principle of European integration since the creation of the European Economic Community in 1957, subsequently reconfirmed by all heads of state and government as well as all national parliaments of Member States during each round of successive integration and changes to the treaties, has always been the creation of an ‘ever closer union among the peoples of Europe’;
- D. whereas there is a consensus that the mandate of a Conference on the Future of Europe should be a process with a duration of two years, work thereon commencing preferably on Schuman Day, 9 May 2020 (the 70th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration), with a view to completion thereof by summer 2022;
- E. whereas this Conference process should be an occasion to closely involve EU citizens in a bottom-up exercise in which they are listened to and their voices contribute to the debates on the future of Europe;
- F. whereas the European youth should be at the core of the decision making process, as it is their future being discussed; and whereas organised civil society must support youth and must be taken on account within the decision making process of the Conference on the Future of Europe,

Reform of the Institutional Framework of the European Union

1. Is of the opinion that the institutional framework of the European Union should be reformed; and suggests the following structure consisting of:
 - A legislative branch, which should be composed two chambers, the Senate of the European Union on the one hand, and the Congress of Deputies of the European Union on the other hand; where the new Senate should therefore replace the Council of the European Union as a chamber of territorial and citizen representation; and where the new Parliament (Congress) should have the right of legislative initiative and should be composed of Members of the European Congress (MECs), who have been elected via transnational lists and following the *Spitzenkandidat*-system within a common European electoral law;
 - An executive branch, which should be composed of a European government formed by a college of ministers replacing the commissioners; with clear defined

- competences in the fields of trade, foreign and defense policy and monetary policy.
 - The judiciary would be formed by the courts of the Member States and a Supreme Court of the Union that will oversee constitutional issues and any kind of rights violations;
 - European Ombudsman;
2. Underlines that the Copenhagen-criteria must be reinforced and implemented;
 3. Calls for all proposals to be enshrined and merged into a new European Constitution;

Education in the Union and knowledge of the functioning of the European institutions

4. Is of the opinion that the following issues and priorities should be addressed:
 - the lack of awareness and knowledge on EU Affairs;
 - the lack of trained teacher on EU Affairs;
 - Insufficient knowledge of media professionals (newspapers, audio video media) on EU Affairs;
 - the lack of programs, articles in public media for EU Affairs, lack followers;
 - Schools curriculum do not dedicate enough teaching hours for EU Affairs;
 - the lack of knowledge for existence of educational resources online for EU Affairs;
 - Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU does not address the need for education on EU Affairs;
5. Proposes the use social media as a tool for education on EU Affairs; suggest the use of already existing EU digital educational tools for EU Affairs; insists on the need of training for teachers and professionals working with young people on EU Affairs;
6. Calls for a joint proposal from the Parliament and Commission to be adopted for X number of mandatory time of education on EU Affairs in public schools (for example 30h in Secondary and X University level);
7. Recommends the use of non-formal education (club, youth centers, youth organizations etc.) as complimentary to school education on EU Affairs; further proposes the design of educational tools for young people on EU affairs by using social media as outlet, for example adds, online apps, etc;
8. Calls for the increase of funds for educational institutions to work on projects that educate and promote EU Affairs and understanding of the Union;

Climate action and fight against climate change

9. Proposes imposing taxes on carbon usage in order to foster carbon-free technologies; further proposes creating European wide climate education in schools;

10. Proposes increasing funding from the EU budget for:

- Technologies and climate action;
- Afforestation;
- Energy transition of the member states;
- Foreign aid to tackle climate change for developing countries;

11. Stresses the importance of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050;

European Democracy and legitimacy: getting closer to the Union's citizens

12. Proposes to make the debates in the European Parliament more transparent; Calls for the EU to stick to the own rules and contracts and act like a Union (e.g. migration crisis), respecting the rule of Law and the principles of integration; Calls for the Institutions to create short videos highlighting key achievements weekly and monthly;

13. Insists in the need to facilitate conversations and to inform EU citizens on how they can have their say about EU; further insists in the need to establish closer contacts with citizens;

14. Calls for the improvement of the electoral system. Further recommends to introduce transnational lists with transnational *Spitzenkandidaten*;



15. The (simulated) Youth Agora instructs its chairs to forward this resolution to all actors and institution concerned and to further promote this resolution.