



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Dubravka Šuica
Vice-President

Brussels,
MdG/hk – Ares (2020)

Mr Giuseppe Valerio
President
Mr Giuseppe Abbati
Secretary General
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Via Marco Partipilo, 61
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Dear President, dear Secretary General,

Thank you for your letter of 18 March to Commission President von der Leyen, who has asked me to reply on her behalf. We appreciate your support for the Commission President's efforts in reaching out to citizens across the Union, and take good note of your ideas and suggestions.

On 22 January, the Commission presented its Communication on “Shaping the Conference on the Future of Europe”. The Conference should give European citizens a greater say on what the Union does and how it works for them. Through an open, inclusive, transparent and structured debate, the Conference aims to make it easier for European citizens to get involved in democracy, beyond the European elections.

The scope, format, structures and objectives of the Conference will be defined in a Joint Declaration signed by the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission, acting as equal partners. This Joint Declaration should, in the Commission's view, subsequently be open to other signatories, including other institutions, bodies and partners.

Naturally, the COVID-19 crisis will also have an impact on the Conference on the Future of Europe. It will need to be shaped in a manner that takes this emergency and its effects, into account.

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A multilingual digital platform will be set up to give citizens easy and live access to the Conference, including to all documents and materials. Existing tools for citizens' engagement will be stepped-up as part of the Conference while new interactive ways for public discussions will also be promoted.

You can find more information in the Communication on Shaping the Conference on the Future of Europe https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/commissions-contribution-shaping-conference-future-europe_en

We very much look forward to your active engagement in the Conference on the Future of Europe once it is launched.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Šuica', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dubravka Šuica