



**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

**OPINION
ON THE SCOPE AND ORGANISATION OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF
EUROPE**

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Vilnius

The Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 15 January 2020 on the European Parliament's position on the Conference on the Future of Europe, the Communication (COM (2020) 27) from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Shaping the Conference on the Future of Europe, Position No P_CRP2-13 of the Republic of Lithuania on the Conference on the Future of Europe drafted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania;

maintaining a consistent stance towards the active role of national Parliaments in addressing European Union matters;

emphasising the role of national Parliaments in implementing European Union decisions, in particular the powers in the review procedure of the EU Treaties conferred by the Treaty of Lisbon;

reiterating the position set out in the protocol decision of 6 December 2019 that national Parliaments must participate in the Conference on the Future of Europe on an equal footing with the European Parliament and have the same decision-making power as the representatives of other participating institutions in order to ensure proper representation of citizens, transparency and tangible results in the interests of voters;

being aware that the success of the Conference on the Future of Europe depends on active and proper involvement of all parties concerned;

striving for a consistent, effective and active process of the Conference on the Future of Europe;

having taken note of the desire to listen to the citizens at the Conference on the Future of Europe;

- welcomes the initiative of the Conference, which is aimed at hearing the voice of the citizens;
- takes the view that the debate on the future of Europe must be fundamental in shaping a clear vision on key issues related to the future of the European Union;
- underlines that solutions achieved through concerted effort in the face of a vast array of current challenges promote the well-being of citizens in every individual Member State and the European Union as a whole, ensure greater security and offer new prospects, and that it is therefore necessary to make a combined effort to build a future and to listen to what people

want, because although European Union citizens are the foundation of the Union, their expectations are not always met;

- points out that the Conference could serve as an excellent opportunity to highlight once again the European Union's advantages and strengths, as well as to openly identify the challenges we face and find ways to resolve them, so that we could become stronger both externally and internally;
- hopes that the Conference will be an excellent tool to summarise the ongoing debate on the future of the European Union and agree on specific objectives, policies and ambitions for the future of the European Union;
- emphasises that national Parliaments, being closest to the citizens they represent, play a key role in the run-up to the Conference on the Future of Europe, and believes that national Parliaments will make a significant contribution to the success of the Conference;
- takes the view that, in order to ensure a level playing field and equal participation of citizens' representatives at the Conference as well as full involvement of national Parliaments in the preparatory and implementation phases of the Conference, representatives of national Parliaments should be involved in the Conference governing body where they could be represented by the Presidential Troika of COSAC;
- considers that, in order to ensure the widest possible reflection of citizens' views, the plenary meetings of the Conference should be attended by at least six representatives from national Parliaments (or three representatives from each of the two parliamentary chambers);
- shares the opinion that the management of the Conference should be the simplest and least bureaucratic possible and that the process of the Conference should be open, transparent and public in order to be truly effective;
- supports the view that the Conference should allow for open discussions without a pre-determined outcome, but believes that the content of the Conference should be defined, as too much diversity in the issues to be addressed could make it difficult to identify specific objectives and could render the Conference ineffective; agrees, therefore, that the Conference should focus on the main topics of the strategic agenda in order to achieve concrete results, while the scope for consideration of institutional issues should be determined by the outcomes of discussions on the main debate, and that the amendment of the Treaties should not be the purpose of this Conference;
- notes that the discussions of the Conference should be geared towards medium and long-term objectives;
- stresses the importance of feedback and the authentic results of the Conference, which should be translated into action;
- agrees with the opinion that the Conference should not be a Brussels event, as it is an event for the citizens of the European Union as a whole, and therefore supports the idea to hold the Conference debate in the Member States without bypassing their capitals.

Gediminas Kirkilas

Chair of the Committee