



Conference on the **Future** of **Europe**

Brussels, 12 July 2021

Dear Mr Vaiya,

We would like to thank you and the co-signatories for the Open Letter of 19 June 2021, in which you call for the Conference to include marginalised communities. As Co-Chairs of the Executive Board of the Conference on the Future of Europe we fully agree that it is of utmost importance for the Conference to allow all European citizens, from all walks of life and corners of the Union, to have their say and this is clearly the objective in the Joint Declaration. We are aware that this can be a challenge and believe that organisations such as the co-signatories of the Open Letter can play a crucial role in helping to achieve this objective and we very much encourage you to do so.

As you know, one of the central features of the Conference is the multilingual digital platform (<http://futureu.europa.eu>), through which citizens from across Europe have the possibility to provide their views on any topic that they consider important for the future of the EU. They are able to put forward their ideas, comment on other people's ideas, as well as to create and participate in events. The platform is the Conference's central hub, a place where all contributions to the Conference will be brought together and shared. We would like to invite the co-signatories to promote the use of this platform to ensure that we reach as many citizens as possible. We would also very much appreciate if the co-signatories would use the possibility to organise events under the umbrella of the Conference, to report on their outcome and to share ideas resulting from these events on the platform. We believe that this would be an excellent way to reach a broader group of citizens, including those that would maybe otherwise not engage with the Conference.

When it comes to the representation in the European Citizens' Panels, which are indeed a key innovation at European level, ensuring diversity is guiding the composition of these panels. Citizens will be chosen randomly to ensure that they are representative of the EU's diversity, in terms of geographic origin, gender, age, socioeconomic background and level of education. Young people between 16 and 25 will make up one-third of each panel. Participants will include at least one female and one male citizen per Member State. While there are no further quotas foreseen, we believe that this approach is well suited to ensure the diversity of the Panels, through its random nature.

The Plenary is equally unique in that it brings together citizens and representatives of the institutions on an equal footing. Part of the Plenary are also 8 representatives of civil society, several of them are co-signatories of the Open Letter. They will have the opportunity to bring the voice of more marginalised communities to the Plenary.

Your message will be treated in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by European Union institutions and your data will be used only for purposes of replying to the received correspondence.



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As regards your offer to discuss the concerns you voice in the Open Letter we suggest that you take up contact with the Co-Heads of the Common Secretariat of the Conference.

We are looking forward to working with you on this unique endeavour and would like to thank you and the co-signatories for reaching out to us.

Yours sincerely,

Co-Chair

Guy Verhofstadt

Member of the European
Parliament

Co-Chair

Gašper Dovžan

State Secretary for EU Affairs

Co-Chair

Dubravka Šuica

Vice-President of the European
Commission