

17 July 2020

Mr Charles Michel, President of the European Council
Mrs Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
Mr David Sassoli, President of the European Parliament
Commissioner Šuica, European Commission

Dear Presidents, dear Commissioner

Re: EAPN calls for clear involvement of organised civil society and people experiencing poverty in the Future of Europe conference

We are writing to you on behalf of the [European Anti-Poverty Network](#) (EAPN), the largest platform of anti-poverty organizations in Europe, representing more than 6000 organisations across 32 countries, working with and for people with direct experience of poverty. **We write to you today to share our concerns and our recommendations on the Future of Europe process**, given our previous work on this (including our position paper and our contribution to the written consultation).

Following the decision of the Council of the European Union, we are concerned that the direct participation of organised civil society is in jeopardy, and we are concerned that the selection of NGOs to participate in the conference may be 'random'.

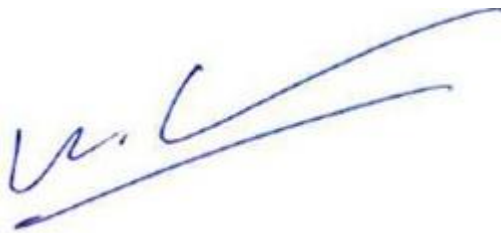
On behalf of our members throughout Europe, we thus ask the following:

1. **That the structure of the Conference for the Future of Europe involves, among others, NGO networks active at the European level.** These networks would bring in the voices of their members and the people they represent from all over Europe, and would make a strong contribution to the Conference.
2. **That information is managed to enable a coherent 'flow' from the national to the European level.**
3. **That the main events of the Conference for the Future of Europe are 'livestreamed',** and thus open to people throughout Europe.
4. That the conference allows for any citizen of the EU to react on concrete drafts of the outcomes of the Conference.

We cannot imagine this conference without hearing the authentic voice of citizens and civil society, whose representatives will be delegated at European level by pan-European networks incorporating national networks of civil society NGOs. We demand that the key parameters of the process (organization, stakeholder participation and the way in which the conclusions of the Conference be drawn up) are set within the framework of the German Presidency of the European Union. EAPN is ready to participate in this process.

For 18 years EAPN, in collaboration with the European Commission (and on occasions also with the Parliament and Council) has been organising a bottom-up exercise to understand the priorities of hundreds of vulnerable citizens throughout Europe - via the [European People Experiencing Poverty meetings](#). Given the importance of engaging citizens in the Future of Europe process, we would like to propose that, in 2020 and 2021, the Future of Europe conference should incorporate the People Experiencing Poverty meeting into its process. The basis of a citizens' agora on social justice and equality already exists and could be used to provide this reflection directly. We would be happy to meet with you in person or online to discuss these matters. We look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely,



Carlos Susias, President of EAPN