

EUROPEAN DIMENSION IN PRACTICE

Europa Platform Hungary is an open formation of non-governmental organisations and citizens interested in the future of Europe. It aims to monitor and participate in peaceful, democratic and cooperative citizen-centered European processes.

1 Europe is facing a number of new challenges. The COVID-19 virus outbreak is only one of these. An effective response is only possible through broad cooperation and joint actions, which also help to combat the epidemic.

2 We therefore welcome and support the 'Conference on the Future of Europe' initiative. Its effective work can help to develop and implement a citizen-friendly policy with clear and forward-looking perspectives. We envision this work as a series of dialogue-based programmes free of formalities and bureaucratic constraints.

3 Urgent steps are needed to start this process:

- a) we expect the three main EU institutions, which are primarily responsible for launching the 'Conference' process: the European Council, Parliament and the Commission, to agree without delay on a joint declaration on which its work should be based;
- b) on the basis of this document, the opening event of the 'Conference' should be held this year, during the German Presidency of the Council of the EU where a work programme setting out the next steps should be presented.

4 In our view, the 'Conference' cannot be a long line of self-serving, top-down and closed-door negotiations. Openness, broad and structured involvement of citizens and their organisations, and an accompanying substantive dialogue are essential if results are to be achieved by the French Presidency of the EU by the end of June 2022. Not just in words, but in deeds. We not only expect this approach, but also demand it. Accordingly, in the spirit of transparency, the Conference's programmes should be open and its documents accessible to all. We are ready to contribute actively to the successful proceedings of the 'Conference' with our proposals and programmes.

5 From the outset of the 'Conference', guarantees must be secured that the hopefully concrete agreements reached by the end of the process, in June 2022, will be implemented. We will closely monitor and facilitate this process.

6 We are convinced that a successful 'Conference' will have a beneficial effect on the European Union as a whole: it can make it more up-to-date and effective, while demonstrating the need for active involvement of citizens and structured civil dialogue.

7 As Hungarian and European citizens, we know that we are not alone in our efforts. Our goal is to make our work in Hungary and in Europe broadly known to find ground for joint actions. We trust in the power of cooperation.

Budapest, 28 October 2020

Signatories:

European House (initiator-coordinator), Alliance Europa Budapest, Association for Civil Zugló, Association of Environmentalists and Conservationists of Solt, Association for European Romas, Association for Horány, Association of German Municipalities of Baranya, Mr László Bálint, Mr Gábor Bárdos, Mr Péter Békéssy, Bionic Musculoskeletal Foundation Cultural Association of Kistarcsa, Dr Erika Czeródi, Danube Academy, Danubiana Network Association, European Civil Coordination Assocatio, Falutour Association of Rural Tourism of Pest County, Fauna Foundation, Dr László Benedek Flamm, Foundation for Children with Autism, Foundation for the 21st Century Hungary, Foundation for the Development of eCommunities, Friends of Lights Association, Gaja Environmental Association, Generation Europe Hungary Foundation, Colden Crown Foundation Mr Károly György, Dr Tamás Halm Mr Gábor Hárs, Dr István Héjjas, Hungarian Asexual Community, Hungarian Esperanto Association, Hungarian Farmers' Association, Hungarian Porphyria Association, Hungarian Trade Union Confederation Kőbánya Branch, National Szechenyi Circle Rowing Society, Public Benefit Association for the Tourism in Zala Hills Public Benefit Foundation for Szatmár-Bereg County, Mr István Salga, Mr József Simon, Society for Ethnic Community College, Dr Antal Szabadkai, Trade Union of Mine-, Energy- and Industry Workers, „Oltalom” Sports Association, Peace Club, Privátbankár.hu, Mr Gábor Sallai, The English-Speaking Union of Hungary, Union of European Federalists-Hungarian Association, Vica Versa Ltd., Mr Tibor Wolf, Women for the 21st Century Association, Women's Round Table Association of Veszprém