JOINT CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION

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The Conference on the Future of Europe comes at a crucial time for Europe and its people. The social and economic crisis exacerbated by the COVID19 pandemic, the climate crisis, challenges to democracy and EU claimed values demand proper and coordinated policies, increased transparency and stronger involvement of citizens and their representative associations.

The Conference should not only set an ambitious agenda, but also lead to decisions and be followed up by concrete actions.

We believe that the scope of the Conference should cover all relevant issues in order to address limitations in EU policies and seek effective and specific solutions to current and future challenges. This could include policies that create European economic, social and environmental cohesion, changes to the functioning of EU institutions as well as any Treaty changes needed to implement these policies. We also need to ensure that people's contributions are in line with the EU values and competences, a clear agenda and an operational framework.

We come together as a strong and representative platform in order to be the civil society interlocutor for the EU institutions and voice civil society's concerns into the Conference plenary. As European wide networks of civil society organisations representing citizens and people living on EU territory, we want, in coordination with our national members, to be closely involved in the Conference, but also in its agenda-setting, priorities, as well as in the follow up.

It is critical to establish a clear link between the Conference, its plenary and the citizens if we want to ensure a real civic engagement and not just a communication exercise which in the end will inevitably lead to increased distrust in EU and national institutions.

Civil society organisations are intermediaries between individuals and public institutions, as recognised by the Treaties (articles 10 and 11 TEU). They bring people together in a common cause, set collective goals for the common good and ensure participation and empowerment of all people, including the most vulnerable because of their status or condition. Civil society organisations are committed to ensure appropriate links between what is discussed and decided inside the institutional frameworks and people with their individual and collective expectations.

We believe that one of the crucial issues to be debated at the Conference is how to reconnect people with the European Union and its institutions. Fit for purpose legal instruments must be created in order to implement civil dialogue encompassing transversal issues affecting all citizens, ensuring that decision-making processes of all institutions and all stages are transparent, so that both EU institutions and Member States governments can be held accountable, moving from an intergovernmental approach, which is no longer fit to respond to current societal challenges to a culture of openness, and participation.

As the Civil Society Convention, we will meet regularly, drawing from feedback from our own members at national and local level, into the conference plenary. We shall nominate representatives to take part into the Conference plenary in order to give voice to the expectations of organised civil society. We shall also invite representatives from EU institutions to join our debates.

We will actively and proactively input into the different phases of the Conference Plenary and ensure that that discussions will lead to concrete proposals for action, decided in consultation with citizens and their representative associations. We also commit to scrutinise the way citizens' demands are taken into account, and to monitor the implementation of the decisions made.

We stand ready to contribute to the regeneration of the European project in full compliance with the European Union's values as defined in article 2 of the treaties and do our utmost to make the Conference on the Future of Europe a success.

LIST OF ORGANISATIONS:

CIVIL SOCIETY EUROPE

European Civic Forum

YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS

culture ACTION europe

Centre for European Volunteering

EASPD
IMPROVING SERVICES
IMPROVING LIVES

30 ecas
European Citizen Action Service
Years of empowering citizens

European NGO confederation for relief and development
CONCORD
Confédération européenne des ONG d'urgence et de développement

EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM

enaR

alda*
European Association for Local Democracy

AEGEE EUROPE

EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS

LIFELONG LEARNING PLATFORM
EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY FOR EDUCATION

European Humanist Federation

socialplatform

solidar

Eurodiaconia

Green 10

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL
the global coalition against corruption
EU OFFICE

EPF European Patients Forum

SMES EUROPA
Santé Mentale et Exclusion Sociale
Mental Health and Social Exclusion

volonteurope

CITIZENS FOR EUROPE

European Center for Not-for-Profit Law

DBI
DON BOSCO INTERNATIONAL

ECHR
European Center for Human Rights

HOUSING EUROPE

Finance Watch
Making finance serve society

Fair Trade
ADVOCACY OFFICE

New Europeans.net

journalismfund.eu

ILGA EUROPE

THE good LOBBY

IFOAM
ORGANICS EUROPE

Union of European Federalists
Union Europäischer Föderalisten
Union des Fédéralistes Européens

The European coordination of Civil Society Organisations

BALKAN CIVIL SOCIETY
DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Alliance
4 Europe

european
youth forum

eaea
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

EUROPEAN
ALTERNATIVES
Democracy | Equality | Culture
Beyond the nation state

NETWORKNGO
FOR INCLUSIVE
INFORMATION SOCIETY

PICUM
PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON
UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

PLAN
INTERNATIONAL

Philanthropy
Advocacy

EAPN
EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

EUJS
European Union
of Jewish Students

active Citizenship Network
CITTADINANZAttiva

IPPF
European Network

Friends of
the Earth
Europe

fyeg
Federation of Young
European Greens

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

European Youth
Card Association

contact@civilsocietyeurope.eu | www.civilsocietyeurope.eu

DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL

dem soc

ecsite
EUROPEAN NETWORK
SCIENCE CENTRES & MUSEUMS

AVSI
People for development

access !Nfo

ECOLISE
EUROPEAN NETWORK
FOR COMMUNITY-LED
INITIATIVES ON CLIMATE CHANGE
AND SUSTAINABILITY

EEB
European
Environmental
Bureau

EFF
European
Future
Forum

EUROPEAN
PARTNERSHIP FOR
DEMOCRACY

ERGO
Network
European
Roma
Grassroots
Organisations
Network

esu
european students' union

Eurochild

End FGM
EUROPEAN NETWORK

SDG WATCH
E U R O P E

NGO
SHIPBREAKING
PLATFORM

eurodoc

caritas europa

ΟΡΓΑΝΩΣΗ

The European coordination of Civil Society Organisations