



Outline of the 34th Bi-annual Report of COSAC

Draft as of 6 July 2020

Chapter 1: Conference on the Future of Europe

The Conference on the Future of Europe, originally planned to be launched in May 2020, has been postponed indefinitely because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet the Conference is more important than ever, particularly in the context of the pandemic. Its main aim is to contribute to reshaping the EU and boosting citizens' support for the EU, but it will also focus on the question of how the EU can ensure it is better equipped for future crises. This chapter will seek to gather ideas in preparation for the Conference.

For instance, a discussion is needed on how the process of addressing the pandemic affects the topics to be examined by the Conference. Another question is to what extent the Conference should deal with institutional matters – up to and including the possibility of treaty changes. There should also be a discussion on how the Conference could be organised in concrete terms, both at national and regional level, how national Parliaments could be involved, and what specific role the committees on EU affairs could play in this process. Finally, the chapter will explore how the concerns and ideas of European citizens, as well as other actors, could be included and addressed.

Chapter 2: Lessons learned from the pandemic

The second chapter will build on the Member States' and the European level's experiences in the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim is to allow this experience to be drawn on for a holistic European approach. The impacts of the pandemic and the resulting economic crisis will not only shape Germany's Presidency of the Council, but will also influence the thematic priorities and discourse at European level for a long time to come. We should learn from this crisis, and from each other, and try to turn the crisis into an opportunity.

This chapter will examine the possibilities for better consultation and coordination between the Member States. In addition, it will look at the question of to what extent European structures may be optimised in order to enhance pandemic preparedness and resilience during economic crises. This includes the division of competences between the EU and the Member States. Furthermore, opportunities to develop links between the Member States in the fields of healthcare as well as research and innovation should be examined. The chapter will also cover the progress made in terms of the digital transformation, partly as a result of the crisis, *inter alia* through the enhanced use of digital tools in working life, in the economy and in society, as well as an increase in virtual formats for inter-parliamentary dialogue. Building on the Commission's proposals for a European Recovery Plan and a European Green Deal, the chapter will, finally, explore the question of how the economy can be sustainably revitalised by means of stimulus packages and reforms.