



Berlin, *16. April 2021*

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Dr Reiner Haseloff
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Leipziger Straße 3-4
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Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr Speaker,

On behalf of the German Bundestag and the Bundesrat, we are pleased to invite you to this year's Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments on Monday, **10 May 2021**. The event will be held as a video conference.

We would have liked to welcome you in person to the Reichstag Building in Berlin, the seat of the German Bundestag. Unfortunately, this form of in-person event in Berlin to conclude the German Presidency of the Council of the EU has proved impossible due to the ongoing dynamic nature of the pandemic. In order to take into account the particular features of a virtual conference, we wish to adapt the timing and content of the format in order to promote as lively a discussion as possible among all Speakers.

That is why the focus of our topic for Session I is a current political issue of fundamental importance – the challenges and opportunities for representative democracy posed by a public sphere changed by digitalisation.

In Francesca Bria and Professor Jeanette Hofmann we have two high-ranking experts who will provide an introduction to the topic as keynote speakers and make a valuable contribution to the debate. Session I will be chaired by a moderator who will also encourage a spontaneous exchange of opinions. The



shorter Session II will involve the presentation for adoption of two reports on inter-parliamentary cooperation.

After the conference, we are very pleased to be able to offer a number of virtual meeting rooms to enable exchanges at bilateral level, both with the German Presidency and between all participating Speakers.

Experience has shown that the video conference format does not permit an intensive coordination of conclusions or for these to be adopted by consensus. By way of exception, we are therefore planning to issue only the conclusions of the conference presidency, as coordinated with the parliaments of the Troika, following the conference.

Please find attached the draft programme for this year's EUSC and the Troika meeting along with technical details for how to join virtually. You will receive further information on the conference as soon as possible.

We look forward to your participation.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Wolfgang Schäuble

Dr Reiner Haseloff