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## **NOTE**

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Conference on the Future of Europe - Proposals and related specific measures contained in the report on the final outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe: Updated assessment

Delegations will find herewith a note, as well as a table in Addendum 1, providing an assessment of the follow-up given to the proposals and related specific measures that are contained in the report on the final outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe<sup>1</sup>, from 9 May 2022, date of the closing of the Conference, until November 2023

The present document updates the preliminary technical assessment of the General Secretariat of the Council on the proposals and related specific measures contained in the final report of the Conference issued in June 2022<sup>2</sup>, and subsequently updated in November 2022<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> doc. 8933/22

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary technical assessment of the proposals and related specific measures contained in the report on the final outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe, doc. 10033/22.

<sup>3</sup> Updated preliminary technical assessment of the proposals and related specific measures contained in the report on the final outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe, doc. 10033/1/22 REV 1.

**Follow-up to the**  
**proposals and related specific measures contained in the report on**  
**the final outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe**<sup>4</sup>

## **I. Introduction**

1. On 9 May 2022, the report on the final outcome<sup>5</sup> of the Conference on the Future of Europe was presented to the Presidents of the European Parliament, of the Council of the European Union and of the European Commission, as provided for in the Joint Declaration signed in March 2021<sup>6</sup>. As part of the Joint Declaration, the three Presidents agreed to examine swiftly how to follow up effectively to this report, each within their own sphere of competences and in accordance with the Treaties.
2. This final report contains 49 proposals and 326 related specific measures, put forward by the Conference Plenary. These cover nine topics: ‘A stronger economy, social justice and jobs’; ‘Education, culture, youth and sports’; ‘Digital transformation’; ‘European democracy’; ‘Values and rights, rule of law, security’; ‘Climate change and the environment’; ‘Health’; ‘EU in the world’; and ‘Migration’.
3. The proposals and their related specific measures are mainly based on the recommendations formulated by citizens as part of the European and the National Citizens’ Panels organised in the framework of the Conference. They also build on the ideas shared on the Conference’s Multilingual Digital Platform, -including the outcome of the wide range of events and initiatives<sup>7</sup> organised by the Member States at national, regional and local levels, reaching many thousands of citizens from all across the EU -, as well as on the debates held in the Conference Plenary.

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<sup>4</sup> The present document updates the preliminary technical assessment of the General Secretariat of the Council on the proposals and related specific measures contained in the report on the final outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe, doc. 10033/1/22 REV 1

<sup>5</sup> doc. 8933/22

<sup>6</sup> doc. 6796/21

<sup>7</sup> More information about Member States’ activities can be found in the final report of the Conference, doc. 8933/2022, and on the section dedicated to National Citizens’ Panels and national events on the multilingual digital platform of the Conference.

4. During the Conference, as well as at the closing event, the Council reiterated its commitment to determine, after 9 May 2022, how to follow up on the results of the Conference, in accordance with the Joint Declaration.
5. On 10 June 2022<sup>8</sup>, the General Secretariat of the Council published a preliminary technical assessment showing, for each of the 49 proposals and 326 measures contained in the Conference final report, where the proposals and related specific measures were already being implemented, and where they could be further addressed by the EU Institutions. This assessment was subsequently updated on 30 November 2022<sup>9</sup>.
6. As provided for in the calendar of the Conference, on 2 December 2022, the three EU Institutions signatories of the Joint Declaration organised a feedback event for the citizens who participated in the European Citizens' Panels and for the representatives of National Citizens' Panels and national events to inform them about the work carried out since 9 May 2022 to give a follow-up to the final report of the Conference. Citizens were invited to share their views about this follow-up work and to ask questions to those political representatives, who answered all their questions.
7. One year and a half after the closing event of the Conference on the Future of Europe, the present document as well as the table in Addendum 1 provide an assessment of the follow-up given to the proposals and related specific measures that are contained in the report on the final outcome of the Conference until November 2023.

## **II. General overview of the actions undertaken to implement the proposals and related specific measures of the report on the final outcome of the Conference.**

8. Since 9 May 2022, the three Institutions have been working on the follow-up to the 49 proposals and 326 related specific measures included in the final report of the Conference, and this work is still ongoing.
9. This work has mainly taken place in the framework of the established EU legislative procedures. Indeed, many of the key initiatives outlined in the Commission Work Programme for 2023<sup>10</sup> followed up on the proposals made during the Conference. The

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<sup>8</sup> Preliminary technical assessment of the proposals and related specific measures contained in the report on the final outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe, doc. 10033/22.

<sup>9</sup> Updated preliminary technical assessment of the proposals and related specific measures contained in the report on the final outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe, doc. 10033/1/22 REV 1.

<sup>10</sup> doc. 13847/22

Commission Work Programme for 2024<sup>11</sup> also refers to the Conference, with several initiatives relating to issues addressed in the Conference proposals. The Joint Declaration on the EU Legislative Priorities for 2023 and 2024 provides that “*many Conference proposals have been reflected in the Commission work programme for 2023 and we jointly commit to giving them close attention*”. To this end, the European Parliament and the Council have worked together on the basis of the Commission initiatives in a number of policy areas included in the Conference final report.

10. Other Conference proposals and related specific measures requiring non-legislative work to be implemented, have also been taken into account in the Commission Work Programme for 2023 and 2024. On its side, the Council has identified those Conference proposals and related specific measures where it may act on its own, e.g., without a proposal or recommendation from another Union institution or body (in particular the Commission or the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy) and has started work on those measures, in particular regarding some aspects of the Council decision-making<sup>12</sup>.
11. The Council’s follow-up in terms of legislative and non-legislative work has notably been based on the preliminary technical assessment of the Conference proposals and related specific measures carried out by the General Secretariat of the Council on 10 June 2022. Since the assessment showed that the overwhelming majority of proposals (nearly 95%) could be implemented within the current Treaty framework, the Council has addressed those proposals as a matter of priority, with the objective of providing answers to citizens’ concerns within a relatively short time frame, with a positive impact on their everyday lives through concrete policy.
12. Concerning the very limited number of specific measures (around 5%) that would require Treaty change in order to be fully implemented<sup>13</sup>. The Council has received on 23 November the European Parliament’s proposals for the amendment of the Treaties and will act in line with its obligations under Article 48 TEU.

### **III. Main achievements**

13. The assessment on the implementation of the 49 proposals and 326 measures, provided in Annex of the present document, demonstrates that, at present, the overwhelming majority of

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<sup>11</sup> doc. 13917/23

<sup>12</sup> Cf. point 16 and 17 below.

<sup>13</sup> Cf. Preliminary technical assessment of the proposals and related specific measures contained in the report on the final outcome of the Conference on the future of Europe, doc. 10033/22, part C. Cf also in the Annex to this document, where measures that would require changes to the Treaties in order to be implemented are indicated in grey.

proposals and measures put forward by the Conference have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented.

14. In particular, the following main achievements can be highlighted as illustrations under the nine topics of the Conference<sup>14</sup>:

- On the topic of ‘A stronger economy, social justice and jobs’: In October 2022, the EU established new rules that promote adequate statutory minimum wages in the EU and help to improve working and living conditions for employees in the EU. In the same month, the Directive on gender balance on corporate boards was adopted, to promote a more balanced gender representation on the boards of listed companies throughout the EU. Moreover, the Directive on strengthening the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work between men and women, adopted in May 2023, establishes new rules to combat pay discrimination and help close the gender pay gap in the EU. Furthermore, in October 2023, the European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on strengthening geographical indications, in order to bring tangible benefits to the rural economy and safeguard the EU’s gastronomic heritage across the world.
- On the topic of ‘Education, culture, youth and sports’: In April 2022, the Council approved Conclusions on sport as a lever to transform behaviour for sustainable development, considering, among others, gender and inclusiveness in sport. Moreover, in June 2022, the Council adopted a Recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development which encourages learners of all ages to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes to live more sustainably and adopt healthier and more environmentally conscious lifestyles. Furthermore, in May 2023, the Council approved Conclusions on further steps for automatic mutual recognition in education and training. In addition, in May 2023, the Council and the Member States adopted Conclusions on the social dimension of a sustainable Europe for youth, calling to explore ways to increase the involvement of young people in the political process, and to integrate a youth perspective across all policies and levels of government. In October 2023, the Council adopted a Regulation on geographical indication protection for craft and industrial products, to ensure similar protection to regionally produced foods or beverages.
- On the topic of ‘Digital transformation’: In September 2022, the EU adopted a digital services package as the EU’s response to the need to regulate the digital space. The Digital

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<sup>14</sup> This list of achievements is non-exhaustive and is meant to provide an illustration without prejudging the importance of those achievements as compared to others. A complete list of the achievements, measure by measure, can be found in the Annex to this document.

Markets Act (DMA) aims at ensuring a competitive and fair digital sector with a view to promoting innovation, high-quality digital products and services and fairer prices for consumers. In addition, the Digital Services Act (DSA), adopted in October 2022, protects the digital space against the spread of illegal content and ensures the protection of users' fundamental rights. Furthermore, in November 2023, the Council and European Parliament reached a provisional agreement on a new framework for a European digital identity (eID), with a view to ensuring a trusted and secure digital identity for all Europeans.

- On the topic of 'European democracy': In June 2022, the Council approved Conclusions on the protection and safety of journalists and other media professionals. Moreover, in March 2023, the Council approved Conclusions on the role of civic space in protecting and promoting fundamental rights in the EU, which emphasize the role that freedom of association plays in ensuring a democratic and pluralist society and the proper functioning of public life. In November 2023, the Council and European Parliament reached a provisional agreement on the main political elements of a new regulation on the transparency and targeting of political advertising, which aims to make it easy for citizens to recognise political advertisements, so that they are better placed to make informed choices. Furthermore, building on the European Citizens' Panels held in the context of the Conference, the Commission organised citizens' panels on food waste, learning mobility and virtual worlds in the course of 2023.
- On the topic of 'Values and rights, rule of law, security': The Council approved Conclusions on foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) in July 2022, stepping up EU's engagement and ability to tackle disinformation. In 2022, the foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) Toolbox was created, aiming to ensure the coordination among many existing tools at EU level to counter FIMI. In addition, in September 2023, the Council and European Parliament adopted a new Regulation that will boost the digital information exchange in terrorism cases between national authorities and Eurojust, enabling Member State authorities and EU agencies to all have access to the most complete and updated information on terrorism cases. Moreover, in October 2023, the Council approved Conclusions on digital empowerment to protect and enforce fundamental rights in the digital age.
- On the topic of 'Climate change and the environment': during the 2022 energy crisis, the Council adopted a range of emergency measures, inter alia on gas storage, on coordinated demand-reduction measures for gas, on an emergency intervention to address high energy

prices, and on solidarity gas purchases. Moreover, in line with the new Common Agricultural Policy, which became fully operational in January 2023, Member States have to dedicate 25% of their direct payment envelopes for eco-schemes to support farmers who make commitments to observe agricultural practices beneficial for the climate, the environment and animal welfare and combatting antimicrobial resistance. In March 2023, a Regulation setting stricter CO2 emission performance standards for new cars and vans was adopted. In addition, new rules on the reform of the EU emissions trading system (EU ETS), were adopted in April 2023. The EU ETS is a carbon market based on a system of cap-and-trade of emissions allowances for energy-intensive industries, the power generation sector and the aviation sector. Emissions from shipping will be included for the first time, and a new, separate system has been established for buildings, road transport and additional sectors. Furthermore, as part of the “Fit for 55” package - a set of proposals to revise EU legislation aiming at cutting greenhouse gas emissions in the EU by at least 55% by 2030 - the new Renewables Energy Directive, adopted in October 2023, provides for rules to raise the share of renewable energy in the EU’s overall energy consumption. What is more, in November 2023, the Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on new rules to restore and preserve degraded habitats in the EU, with the aim of restoring at least 20% of the EU’s land and sea areas by 2030, and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050.

- On the topic of ‘Health’: in October 2022, the Council adopted two Regulations, one on serious cross-border threats to health, and the other on a framework of measures related to medical countermeasures in the event of a public health emergency at Union level. Together with the two other Regulations on a reinforced role for European Medicines Agency and on the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control adopted the same year, those Regulations aim at improving the EU’s capacities to respond to future pandemics and other cross-border health crises and at strengthening the reactive measures at Union disposal for the procurement, production and stockpiling of crisis-relevant medical countermeasures. In June 2023, following the Council’s call for such an initiative, the Commission issued a Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health, to put mental health on par with physical health and to ensure a new, cross sectoral approach to mental health issues.
- On the topic of ‘EU in the world’: The EU is active on the international scene through the EU’s external action, including the Common Foreign and Security Policy. In particular, to respond to the Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, the European Union is

committed to and will continue to provide strong financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support to Ukraine and its people. In this context, the Council has imposed 11 packages of restrictive measures against Russia. Moreover, as regards enlargement, the European Council granted Ukraine and Moldova the status of candidates for accession to the EU in June 2022, and to Bosnia Herzegovina in December 2022. The European Council has also reiterated its full and unequivocal commitment to the EU membership perspective of the Western Balkans. Moreover, the European Council, in its conclusions of 24-25 March 2022, called for work to be taken forward on the implementation of the Versailles Declaration, adopted by EU leaders on 11-12 March 2022, to build a more open and robust economic base, notably by reducing EU strategic dependencies in the most sensitive areas. In this context, to increase the resilience of EU's critical supply chains, in September 2023, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a regulation establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's semiconductor ecosystem (also known as the "Chips Act"). Moreover, on 13 November 2023, the European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on the Regulation on the Critical Raw Materials Act, aimed at achieving the security of supply of the raw materials needed for European industries, notably for clean tech industries.

- On the topic of 'Migration': In September 2023, the Council agreed to extend the EU temporary protection for people fleeing from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine to allow displaced persons from Ukraine to enjoy harmonised rights across the EU, including residence, access to the labour market and housing, medical assistance and access to education for children. The reform of the Migration and Asylum Pact, a key package of different legislations in this field, is currently being discussed by the co-legislators, and aims, amongst others, at harmonising asylum legislation at European level.

15. In addition to the main achievements highlighted above, as part of its commitment to ensure the best possible follow-up to the Conference, the Council has identified and examined the specific measures proposed by the Conference where the Council may act on its own, i.e., without a proposal or recommendation from another Union institution or body. These amount to 23 specific proposed measures, out of the 326, notably relating to the topics of disinformation and citizens' media literacy, communication towards citizens and transparency, multilingualism, the employment of disadvantaged groups, strengthening cross-border cooperation, education and sport. The work on those measures is ongoing within the relevant Council preparatory bodies.

16. Moreover, the Council has started to work on the implementation of the Conference measures calling for improving some aspects of the Council-decision making, and in particular for the extension of the use of qualified majority voting in the Council. A majority of those measures can be addressed through the flexibilities provided by the current Treaty framework, notably the general or specific passerelle clauses that enable the European Council or the Council to switch from unanimity to qualified majority voting, in accordance with the procedures set out in the relevant Treaty provisions. The Council is exploring the possibility to use some passerelle clauses, and in particular on specific fields within the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) policy area. Work is ongoing in this regard.

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