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ASSEMBLEIA DA REPÚBLICA

Lisbon, 24 March 2021

Dear Colleagues,

On the 10th March, the Presidents of the Council of the European Union, the European Commission and the European Parliament signed the Joint Declaration on the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Since the launch of this idea, in July 2019, that the participation and involvement of national Parliaments in this Conference has been widely discussed. More recently, and upon initiative of the current COSAC Troika, this was reiterated in a letter, co-signed by most of the COSAC members, to the to the European Institutions, claiming for an active role of national Parliaments to be enshrined in the Joint Declaration, including the participation on its Executive Board.

Hence, and in accordance with the Declaration referred to, the Presidential Troika of COSAC will be a permanent observer member of the Executive Board of the Conference.

This Executive Board is *responsible for taking decisions by consensus, regarding the works of the Conference, its processes and events, overseeing the Conference as it progresses, and preparing the meetings of the Conference Plenary, including citizens' input and their follow up.*

The work of the Executive Board started today, 24th March, with its constitutive meeting, just two weeks after the signature of the Joint Declaration.

Thus, the members of the national Parliaments of the COSAC Troika attended this meeting in their capacity as permanent observers, together with the members representing the three European institutions. Observers from the Committee of the Regions, the Economic and Social Committee and the social partners (Business Europe and the European Trade Union Confederation) were also invited.



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The first meeting of the Board was of a constitutive nature, mainly focused on concrete discussions on the Digital Platform to be used, the Charter of citizens' participation and the visual identity of the Conference, so that citizens can start contributing to the Conference without delays. The Digital, and multilingual, Platform will be the centre of the actions to be developed in the scope of the Conference and in which the events and contributions of all the stakeholders, including citizens, will be registered. A first exchange of views on the internal work methods of the Executive Board was also held.

The COSAC Presidency is committed to actively participate in the Executive Board and, together with the other national Parliaments of the Troika, consequently maintain a regular and substantial exchange of information with the COSAC members on the Board activities, in a transparent and constructive manner. For that reason, it is our intention to plan an informal videoconference, very soon, to hold an exchange of views with all the COSAC Chairpersons on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Luís Capoulas Santos

Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Assembleia da República and current
COSAC Chair

Comissão Parlamentar de Assuntos Europeus

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