

Committee on Constitutional Affairs
The Chair

To the Chairperson(s) of the committee(s) concerned

Dear Chair,

I have the pleasure of inviting you to an Inter-parliamentary Committee Meeting that the Constitutional Affairs Committee (AFCO) will hold on Thursday 9 November 2021.

The main aim of this meeting is to exchange views with national Parliaments on their expectations for the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Following the signing by the three Presidents of the Joint Declaration on 10 March and the launch of the Multilanguage Digital Platform on 19 April, the Conference on the Future of Europe took off at its inauguration event on 9 May in Strasbourg. Since then, the Conference has been working at full steam and the works of its various fora like the Plenary, Citizens' Panels, and executive bodies are advancing. It is thus, highly appropriate and timely to hold a debate between national parliaments and the European Parliament on the expectations for the Conference at this early stage.

The Conference on the Future of Europe is a unique opportunity for a debate on how the EU should develop in the future, identify where it is rising to the challenges of current times, and enhance those areas that need reform or strengthening. It constitutes a first-of-a-kind pan-European forum for discussion, where citizens of all Member States can debate the EU's priorities and make recommendations to be taken into account by the political-institutional powers that be and ideally, translated into practical measures.

The European Parliament has continuously supported proper engagement of the national parliaments, which together with the European Parliament should drive the Conference with the aim of providing meaningful results.

Therefore, we deem that an Inter-parliamentary Committee Meeting, allowing us to discuss the expectations of national parliaments for the Conference on the Future of Europe is essential, in order to ensure an in depth and mature debate on the expected outcome of this unique exercise.

Also invited to the meeting are the Co-Chairs of the Executive Board of the Conference on the Future of Europe, Guy Verhofstadt - Chair of the European Parliament Delegation, Gašper Dovžan - State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia representing the Council Presidency and Dubravka ŠUICA - European Commission Vice-President in charge of Democracy and Demography.

I would thus, like to cordially invite you, together with a small delegation from your committee, to the Inter-parliamentary Committee Meeting of AFCO, to be held on 9 November 2021 aimed at discussing the expectations of national parliaments for the Conference on the Future of Europe.

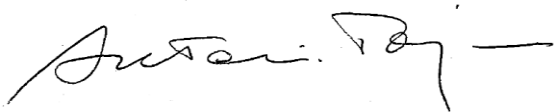
In this context, I would be very pleased to welcome up to four Members of the relevant committee(s) from each national Parliament (two from each Chamber in the case of bi-cameral Parliaments) to attend this meeting. Due to the sanitary prevention measures, which are still in force in the European Parliament, the meeting will take place by remote participation. Should you be unable to attend, I would welcome any written contribution, which would be distributed to our Members and other participants.

Practical and technical details concerning the connection regarding the meeting will be forwarded in due course to your Parliament's services for relations with the European Parliament.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to accept this invitation, and I am looking forward to your participation in this event on 9 November 2021 and to a constructive and fruitful debate.

In attachment, you will find a copy of the draft programme of the meeting. A final copy will be circulated closer to the date of the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antonio Tajani', followed by a horizontal line.

Antonio Tajani

Encl: Draft Programme of the Inter-parliamentary Committee Meeting of 9 November 2021