

11 March 2021

Thank you for your letter of 19 February, in which you reiterate the importance of the involvement of national Parliaments in the Conference on the Future of Europe.

The role of national Parliaments will indeed be crucial to the success of the Conference. Throughout interinstitutional negotiations on the Joint Declaration on the Conference, the Presidency, on behalf of the Council, has maintained that national Parliaments should be closely associated in the Conference and that their involvement would be particularly important to ensure effective participation of citizens and stakeholders in the Conference process.

Reflecting the Council's position, the Joint Declaration agreed with the European Parliament and the Commission recognises an important role for national Parliaments in the Conference's process and in its governance. In particular, it foresees that the presidential Troika of COSAC will participate as permanent observer in the Conference's Executive Board. Representatives from all national Parliaments will also be represented in the Conference's Plenary.

I look forward to cooperating closely with you in the context of the Conference, which will be a broad and open forum for debate bringing together citizens, the Member States – including their national Parliaments – and the EU institutions.

Yours sincerely,

António Costa
Prime Minister
Co-President of the Conference on the Future of Europe

*H.E. Mr Luís Capoulas dos Santos
Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Assembleia da República*