



# Conference on the **Future** of **Europe**

## SUMMARY RECORD

**Working Group on Values and rights, rule of law, security**  
**Chaired by Věra Jourová, Vice-President, European Commission**  
**Friday 7 April 2022, 09:00-11:00, Strasbourg – hybrid format**

### **1. Opening by the Chair**

Chair Věra JOUROVÁ welcomed all participants to this last meeting of the Working Group, outlining that the aim would be to reach preliminary consensus on the draft proposals. She asked participants to focus their interventions on substantial issues, where they strongly disagreed or wanted to raise an important point, while specifying that the meeting should not serve to enter into specific drafting.

Chair JOUROVÁ explained that she, together with the Working Group's Spokespersons and with the assistance of the Common Secretariat, would work after the meeting on final draft proposals to be presented to the Plenary. She emphasised that the aim would be to reach consensus on as many proposals as possible and that where there is a clear objection, the issue would be raised to the Executive Board of the Conference. In any event, citizens' recommendations should remain the main basis of proposals.

Finally, the Chair recalled the next steps of the process, with the last Plenary meeting taking place on 29-30 April and the closing event being held on 9 May.

### **2. Intervention by the Spokespersons**

The Working Group's Spokespersons explained the last changes done to the draft proposals, stressing that the structure has been kept but that important modifications had been brought to ensure proposals that are more concrete and that stay close to citizens' recommendations. They also emphasised that it was important that proposals would not be taken out of context, and this last meeting should serve to give a last touch to their wording.

### **3. Discussion on the revised draft proposals, as per the annex, with a view to presenting revised draft proposals to the Plenary on 8-9 April 2022**

During the debate, the Working Group extensively addressed the first proposal. Participants discussed the deletion of a reference to an economic cost-benefit analysis in case of enlargement, with a debate on the meaning of the corresponding Dutch citizens' recommendation. Other contributions touched upon, inter alia: creating European Union liaison offices, establishing a legal obligation for the EU to accede human

rights conventions, adding a reference to a social rights pillar, and including the rule of law in the European semester.

More generally, this issue overlaps with other Working Groups' proposals was also, with some members stressing the need to ensure coherence across Working Groups, especially with regards to those covering 'Digital transformation' and 'A stronger economy, social justice and jobs'.

As the discussion on the first proposal dragged on, the Working Group was unable to address other proposals.

#### **4. Closing by the Chair**

Chair Věra JOUROVÁ concluded the meeting by thanking participants for their contributions. She regretted that the Working Group was unable to review all proposals and suggested as a potential solution to convene an additional meeting on the following day. In the event where this would not be technically possible, participants should instead send their written comments so they can be taken into account ahead of the last Plenary. Either way, Chair JOUROVÁ emphasised that all contributions will be duly considered.

*NB: On the back of the meeting of 7 April, two additional meetings were held respectively on 8 and 9 April. The meeting of 8 April allowed to distinguish between those draft proposals which could gather preliminary consensus without changes, those which would need slight changes to gather preliminary consensus, and those which one or more Plenary components would object to (none). The 9 April meeting, involving the Working Group's Chair, the Spokespersons, one representative from each Plenary component as well as the Common Secretariat, allowed to finalise those draft proposals which were said to need slight changes.*