



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

SUMMARY RECORD

Working Group on A stronger economy, social justice and jobs

Chaired by Iratxe García Pérez, European Parliament

11 March 2022, 9:00-11:00

1. Introductory remarks of the Chair

Chair Iratxe Garcia Perez opened the fourth meeting of the Working Group (WG) by noting the changed geopolitical situation following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the relevance of this for the topics considered by the WG, including handling refugees, social affairs and housing and noting that now it is even more the time to strengthen the European project. She also informed the WG of the extraordinary meeting scheduled for 16 March. These opening remarks led to a number of interventions where members reflected on how the changed circumstances would need to be reflected in the outcomes of the conference and in particular this working group. At the same time a number of speakers noted that the recommendations delivered by the European and National Citizens panels already aimed to strengthen Europe and should remain the basis of the discussions, calling to move to the presentations of the recommendations.

2. Discussion -

The bulk of the discussion was focused on the presentation of the recommendations from the European and National Citizens' Panels. Four citizens presented the recommendations from the European Citizens' Panel 1. In their presentations they focused on 1) fair pay and reasonable working conditions and in particular instituting a fair minimum wage and respecting the working time directive; 2) a focus on the young and the elderly, in particular in ensuring a healthy family environment, including decent housing and dignified ageing; 3) learning the lessons from the crisis when it comes to the modes of working, for instance working from home or moving to a 4 day work week; and 4) focusing on research to ensure the sustainability and independence of the European economy. The representatives from Lithuania and the Netherlands also presented the proposals coming from their national panels.



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These presentations were followed by reactions from the WG members on the recommendations. Many welcomed the recommendations highlighting the ones that they found most important. These included transitioning to a sustainable economic model, upward social convergence, ensuring sustainable energy supplies, EU autonomy, ensuring gender equality, quality work, investments and resilience. At the same time, some Members felt that particular ideas or aspects could be added to the recommendations from the Panels, or that particular some aspects could be strengthened. Such elements included strengthening cohesion policy and supporting local administrations, banning youth minimum wages, the portability of social rights, ensuring overall minimum income (in addition to wages), revising the European semester and the stability and growth pact, enhancing citizens' financial literacy, improving competitiveness and creating jobs, increasing the EU's ability to borrow for extraordinary expenditure, increasing the emphasis on the European Pillar of Social Rights, and decreasing the degree of red tape for companies and SMEs in particular.

Some Members raised particular questions or comments about the recommendations. These included a questions as to whether social policies had to be harmonized or whether a sufficiently high minimum level would suffice, allowing MS to go over and beyond, that there teleworking and home working could be detrimental to gender equality, and that European and National Citizen Panel recommendation were in some instances at odds, for instance when it came to energy sources or who should be responsible for social policy.

3. Concluding remarks of the Chair

The Chair informed the group that the next meeting of the group would take place online on 16 March and that the subsequent in-person meeting would be in the margins of the Plenary on 25-26 March. In view of the meeting on 16 March, the Chair would aim to circulate a non-paper clustering the different recommendations as well as the input from the Platform report and the WG summary records.



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ANNEX. List of members of the Working Group on A stronger economy, social justice and jobs

Chair: Iratxe GARCIA PEREZ (European Parliament)

Spokesperson: Kacper Parol

Title	First name	Last name	Component
Mr	Vincenzo	AMENDOLA	Council
Ms	Clotilde	ARMAND	Local/Regional representative
Ms	Manon	AUBRY	European Parliament
Ms	Regina	BASTOS	National citizens panels/events
Ms	Nicola	BEER	European Parliament
Mr	Markus	BEYRER	Social Partners
Ms	Gabriele	BISCHOFF	European Parliament
Ms	Maret Michaela	BRUNNERT	European citizens panels
Mr	Christian	BUCHMANN	National Parliaments
Mr	Jan	CHLUP	National citizens panels/events
Ms	Rosianne	CUTAJAR	National Parliaments
Ms	Helena	DALLI	European Commission
Ms	Elisa	GAMBARDELLA	Civil Society
Ms	Iratxe	GARCÍA PÉREZ	European Parliament
Mr	Wilm	GEURTS	Council
Mr	Roman	HAIDER	European Parliament
Ms	Eveliina	HEINÄLUOMA	National Parliaments
Mr	Michiel	HOOGEVEEN	European Parliament
Ms	Meira	HOT	National Parliaments
Ms	Camila Isabelle Chalotte	JENSEN	European citizens panels
Ms	Marina	KALJURAND	European Parliament
Mr	Siim	KALLAS	National Parliaments
Mr	Joémy	LINDAU	European citizens panels
Mr	Stefano	MALLIA	European Economic and Social Committee
Ms	Vladimíra	MARCINKOVÁ	National Parliaments
Ms	Mairead	MCGUINNESS	European Commission
Ms	Andreja	METELKO-ZGOMBIC	Council
Ms	Roberta	METSOLA	European Parliament
Mr	Radu-Mihai	MIHAIL	National Parliaments
Ms	Lucía	MUÑOZ	National Parliaments
Mr	Siegfried	MUREȘAN	European Parliament



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Mr	Niklas Hendrik	NIENASS	European Parliament
Ms	Leverne	NIJMAN	National citizens panels/events
Ms	Marina	NIKOLAOU	National Parliaments
Mr	Władysław	ORTYL	Committee or the Regions
Mr	Kacper	PAROL	European citizens panels
Ms	Sirpa	PIETIKÄINEN	European Parliament
Mr	Neale	RICHMOND	National Parliaments
Mr	Vibe	RØMER WESTH	Council
Mr	Oliver	RÖPKE	European Economic and Social Committee
Mr	Christophe	ROUILLON	Committee or the Regions
Mr	Vladimír	ŠORF	European citizens panels
Mr	Eoin	STAFFORD	European citizens panels
Ms	Eva-Maria	LIIMETS	Council
Ms	Katja	TRILLER VRTOVEC	Council
Ms	Els	VAN HOOF	National Parliaments
Ms	Monika	VANA	European Parliament
Mr	Luca	VISENTINI	Social Partners
Ms	Ružica	VUKOVAC	National Parliaments