



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

## **SUMMARY RECORD**

**Working Group on A stronger economy, social justice and jobs, chaired by Iratxe Garcia Perez,  
European Parliament**

**22 October 2021, 14:00-16:00**

### **1. Introductory remarks of the Chair**

The meeting took place in hybrid format. The Chair welcomed all Members and underlined the importance of representing the diversity and inclusiveness of the Conference on the Future of Europe. She also reminded about the main objective and procedural aspects of the Working Groups, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and the Terms of Reference. In this regard, the agenda of the constitutive meeting focussed on the following elements:

- First relevant outcome of the European Citizens' Panel on "A stronger economy, social justice and jobs/Education, culture, youth and sport/Digital transformation" – short presentation by the Panellists and discussion.
- Relevant contributions on the Multilingual Digital Platform – first discussion.

### **2. Discussion**

The representatives of the European Citizens' Panel on "A stronger economy, social justice and jobs/Education, culture, youth and sport/Digital transformation" intervening during the discussion pointed to the topics the Panellists had identified during the first session and endorsed for further discussion, notably:

- strengthening social rights and building a fair and accessible labour market with special attention to youth, women and vulnerable groups;
- promoting an innovative, competitive and resilient economy;
- providing equal opportunities and developing the necessary skills.

The other members of the Working Group picked on the issues emerging from both the European Citizens Panels, the Multilingual Digital Platform and national citizens' consultations. Several interventions highlighted inter alia:

- re-thinking the post-pandemic economic model, according to a sustainable and inclusive approach, by strengthening competitiveness, growth and resilience, building on the experience of NEXT Generation EU and SURE; seizing the opportunities of green and digital transitions, while taking into account the impact on the most vulnerable citizens and territories and ensuring just transitions;
- the upward convergence of social rights and protection across the EU (including through the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, a new social contract and the inclusion of a social progress protocol);

- the need use the full potential of the EU budget to focus on reforms, investments and innovation;
- fair taxation and fight against tax evasion and avoidance;
- improving skills and inclusiveness of the economy, with special focus on youth, women and vulnerable groups.

Some of the interventions touched upon:

- the need to not disproportionately increase fiscal and regulatory burden on businesses, in particular SMEs, for instance through a “competitiveness check” of new initiatives;
- the importance of maintaining fiscal stability and EU’s fiscal stance.
- the EU's budget to finance the above and its ability to generate own resources.

All interventions converged in saying that the WG should establish concrete objectives and deliver results, based on the recommendations coming from the European Citizens’ Panels, the national citizens’ panels and taking into account contributions from the Multilingual Digital Platform.

### **3. Concluding remarks of the Chair**

The Chair praised the open and constructive discussion and noted that to have an outcome, the Working Group had to establish a joint position, requiring the agreement of all the components. She highlighted that many of the positions expressed were not mutually exclusive but were in fact complementary of one another. This would represent a good basis for further discussions. The next meeting will take place in December and will already discuss the set of recommendations made by the European Citizens’ Panel.

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

<b>Chair: Iratxe GARCIA PEREZ (European Parliament)</b>			
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	Leah	CORSMIT	National citizens panels/events
Ms	Rosianne	CUTAJAR	National Parliaments
Ms	Helena	DALLI	European Commission
Mr	Johan	DANIELSSON	European Parliament
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
Mr	Peter	HUMMELGAARD	Council
Ms	Camila Isabelle Chalotte	JENSEN	European citizens panels
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	MUREŞAN	European Parliament
Mr	Niklas Hendrik	NIENASS	European Parliament
Ms	Marina	NIKOLAOU	National Parliaments
Ms	Aoife	O'LEARY	European citizens panels
Mr	Władysław	ORTYL	Committee of the Regions
Mr	Kacper	PAROL	European citizens panels
Ms	Sirpa	PIETIKÄINEN	European Parliament
Mr	Neale	RICHMOND	National Parliaments
Mr	Oliver	ROPKE	European Economic and Social

			Committee
Mr	Christophe	ROUILLON	Committee of the Regions
Mr	Vladimír	ŠORF	European citizens panels
Mr	Eoin	STAFFORD	European citizens panels
Mr	Andres	SUTT	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