



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

SUMMARY RECORD

Working Group on 'Health', Chaired by Mr Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President, European Commission

Thursday 7 April 2022, 18:00 - 20.00

1. Introductory remarks of the Chair

The sixth meeting of the Working Group was held in hybrid format and was webstreamed on the Conference [Multilingual Digital Platform](#). The Chair indicated that the revised draft proposals were trying to accommodate views expressed at the last meeting of the Working Group. The meeting aimed at discussing the remaining open issues.

2. Discussion

PROPOSAL 1 - Healthy food and healthy lifestyle

- Measure 2:
 - In order to address concerns expressed by some on the nutriscore, it was agreed to indicate that a European-wide scoring system for processed food should be based on independent and scientific expertise.
 - A few felt that taxation of non-healthy processed food was not the right way to solve the problem, while others insisted to keep it since it was a request from the European Citizens' Panel.

PROPOSAL 2 – Reinforce the healthcare system

- Measure 3
 - Some members asked to mention the need to amend article 4 and 168 TFEU in order to achieve strategic autonomy in the health sector.
- Measure 5:
 - Some members were of the view that the Recommendation 51 of the European Citizens Panel was not fully reflected and that the private sector should not benefit from public funding. Others warned against opposing the public and private health sectors, saying that both were

necessary and complementary to ensure access to quality and affordable healthcare to all patients in all territories. Wording was found to address the concerns expressed on both sides.

PROPOSAL 3 – A broader understanding of Health

- Measure 1:
 - Some members underlined the importance to address mental health and addictions, while others said that both issues are different and should be dealt with separately.
- Measure 2:
 - A member mentioned the importance of sexual education for young people and proposed that free condoms be provided in all public spaces.

PROPOSAL 4 – Equal access to health for all

- A member asked to mention in the objective of the proposal that all Europeans should have equal and universal access to health care.
- Measure 1:
 - Some members suggested to add a reference to the importance of the proximity of care.
- Measures 2 and 3:
 - Some members considered that EU competences should not supersede national ones and insisted on the respect of the subsidiarity principle. Several others called for stronger wording to include health as a shared competence and to amend Article 4 TFEU in order to reflect Recommendation 49 of the European Citizens' Panel and address the challenges in the health area. Some others said that the Recommendations that do not require Treaty changes should be implemented rapidly. The Chair said that Treaty change is an aspirational goal which should not detract us from what can be done immediately and that he would reflect on the way to take into account the discussion on the matter.
- Measure 4:
 - On cross-border cooperation: a member asked to add severe burns in the list of highly specialised treatments and was of the opinion that a European network for transplants and organ donations should be put in place.
 - A member said that the cross-border health directive was not working in practice and should be amended.

It was agreed to make a general reference to the war in Ukraine which demonstrates the need to have even more resilient health systems and to further develop the European Health Union.

Commissioner Kyriakides intervened remotely and indicated that topics discussed were very much in line with current Commission initiatives, in particular the pharmaceutical and the farm to fork strategies. She said that legislation on the use of antibiotics, hormonal substances and endocrine disruptors already exist but underlined that industry's engagement is key. In this regard, she referred to the EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices involving industry stakeholders. She suggested to

add "safe choices" under proposal 1, measure 2. She also said that the Commission would adopt a proposal on a mandatory harmonised front-of-pack labelling at the end of 2022 but that there was no final decision on the system to be proposed. Regarding competences, she said that she could agree with a lot of what has been discussed, underlining at the same time the need to remain pragmatic and to focus on results, giving the example of the EU vaccine strategy. She considered that much can be done within the boundaries of the current Treaties. The Commission will assess carefully all proposals and turn them into policy actions.

3. Concluding remarks of the Chair

The Chair thanked all members for their involvement and constructive cooperation. Together with the Spokesperson of the Working Group, he would report to the Conference plenary on 8 April. He concluded that, based on the WG and Plenary debates, he intends to adjust, together with the Working Group Spokesperson and the Common secretariat, the revised draft proposals, and circulate them to the members of the Working Group.

ANNEX: List of Members of the Working Group on Health

Chair: Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ (European Commission)

Title	First name	Last name	Component
Mr	Pascal	ARIMONT	European Parliament
Ms	Alina	BÂRGĂOANU	National citizens panels/events
Ms	Katerina	BAT'HOVÁ	Council
Ms	Linette Eleni	BLANKENSTEINER	European citizens panels
Mr	Leandro	BORG	Council
Ms	Claudette	BUTTIGIEG	National Parliaments
Ms	Anda	ČAKŠA	National Parliaments
Ms	Susanna	CECCARDI	European Parliament
Mr	Roberto	CIAMBETTI	Committee of the Regions
Mr	Alain	COHEUR	European Economic and Social Committee
Ms	Nathalie	COLIN-OESTERLÉ	European Parliament
Ms	Margarita	DE LA PISA CARRIÓN	European Parliament
Ms	Isabel	DÍAZ AYUSO	Committee of the Regions
Ms	Ines	GASMI	European citizens panels
Ms	Camille	GIRARD	European citizens panels
Ms	Daniela	GÎTMAN	Council
Mr	Ilenia Carmela	GRECO	European citizens panels
Mr	Sebastián	GUILLEN	European citizens panels
Ms	Kinga	JOÓ	National citizens panels/events
Ms	Radka	MAXOVÁ	European Parliament
Ms	Rūta	MILIŪTĒ	National Parliaments
Mr	Alin Cristian	MITUȚA	European Parliament
Ms	Dolors	MONTSERRAT	European Parliament
Mr	Nicolas	MORAVEK	European citizens panels
Ms	Linda	MOUSTAKIM	European citizens panels
Mr	Renaud	MUSELIER	Local/Regional representative
Ms	Ewa	NOWACKA	Council
Ms	Ria	OOMEN-RUIJTEN	National Parliaments
Mr	Dimitrios	PAPADIMOULIS	European Parliament
Ms	Troels de Leon	PETERSEN	European citizens panels
Mr	Mark	PLEŠKO	National citizens panels/events
Mr	Jean-François	RAPIN	National Parliaments

Mr	Ivo	RASO	European citizens panels
Ms	Michèle	RIVASI	European Parliament
Ms	Valeria	RONZITTI	Social Partners
Ms	Christa	SCHWENG	European Economic and Social Committee
Mr	Maroš	ŠEFČOVIČ	European Commission
Ms	Elisaveta	SIMEONOVA	Council
Mr	Ivan Vilibor	SINČIĆ	European Parliament
Ms	Niamh	SMYTH	National Parliaments
Ms	Paola	TAVERNA	National Parliaments
Mr	Louis	TELEMACHOU	Council
Mr	Jesús	TERUEL TERUEL	European citizens panels
Mr	Zoltán	TESSELY	National Parliaments
Ms	Patrizia	TOIA	European Parliament
Ms	Kathleen	VAN BREMPT	European Parliament
Ms	Anna	VIKSTRÖM	National Parliaments
Mr	Claude	WISELER	National Parliaments