



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

SUMMARY RECORD

Working Group on A stronger economy, social justice and jobs

Chaired by Iratxe García Pérez (replaced partially by Gabriele Bischoff), European Parliament

16 March 2022, 17:00-19:00

1. Introductory remarks of the Chair

Chair Iratxe Garcia Perez opened the fifth meeting of the Working Group (WG) by informing the members of the working group that earlier on the same day, she had shared with the group the GRID for the working group as prepared by the Common Secretariat. She informed the Working Group that the GRID contained three columns at this stage, one reflecting the recommendations by the European Citizens' Panel, one with the recommendations from the relevant National Citizens' Panels, and a third column with relevant excerpts from the summary records of the WG and from the forthcoming report on the Multilingual Digital Platform. The different recommendations from the Citizens' panels had been clustered by topic to facilitate the discussion. The Chair noted that she wanted to work in full transparency with the group and therefore wanted to share the GRID. To facilitate the multilingual deliberations, machine translations were provided into the languages of the working group. The Chair also informed that while written contributions were formally not allowed at WG level she would welcome any contribution the Members wanted to send her. After those preliminary remarks, the Chair invited the Members of the WG to comment on the GRID, in particular highlighting elements that were missing as well as recommendations that the Members found particularly important.

2. Discussion -

A number of WG Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the GRID as they felt that it did not give sufficient prominence to the aspects related to the economy. They proposed that the GRID is complemented with three further clusters - on competitiveness, on SMEs, and on the single market, in order to reflect the ideas that these members had raised in previous WG meetings and could also be found on the Platform. By contrast, some other members of the WG were satisfied with the GRID and noted that strengthening the economy had already been reflected in the recommendation from the citizens, for instance by proposing to support companies in dealing with the Green and Digital



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transitions and felt that three additional clusters would be detrimental to the balance of the GRID as a whole, but could consider a reshuffling to better reflect competitiveness issues.

When discussing the specific elements that were currently missing from the GRID, different Members of the WG focused on different issues. Some focused on economic issues, raising for instance improving research and innovation, setting up research hubs, having an SME fitness test for new legislation, reducing red tape and introducing a competitiveness check. Some Members focused on the aspects related to resilience and autonomy of the European economy, focusing on the need to establish autonomy of digital infrastructure, developing strategic sectors, such as Space, the security of supply and the diversification of supply chains. Other Members focused on education and upskilling, highlighting ideas such as the setting up of a European Open University with free courses for all, developing the future workforce and supporting children and the youth with the Child and Youth Guarantees, and investing more in language learning. With respect to labour, Members highlighted the importance of a fair minimum wage, respecting collective bargaining and different welfare models, the need to support digital labour and in particular platform workers. However the largest number of interventions focused on social issues, including having a single European Social Number, supporting the development of less developed regions, ensuring a fair minimum income, improving social services, including housing, long term care as well as support for informal carers, and finally on multiple occasions the inclusion of a social progress protocol to the Treaties. Furthermore, some members pointed out the important of fair taxation and supported the proposals in that respect.

Finally, a couple of Members of the WG reiterated their concerns about the way the reports on the Multilingual Digital Platform were drafted, focusing on a qualitative narrative, rather than representing the most endorsed ideas. One Member was dissatisfied with having this extraordinary WG meeting.

3. Concluding remarks of the Chair

The Chair informed the group that the next meeting of the Working Group would take place in the margins of the Plenary on 25-26 meeting. The intention of the Chair was to be able to table the first draft proposals coming from the working group. These would be prepared based on a revised GRID following this meeting.



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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 | MUREŞAN | European Parliament |
| Mr | Niklas Hendrik | NIENASS | European Parliament |



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| Ms | Leverne | NIJMAN | National citizens panels/events |
| Ms | Marina | NIKOLAOU | National Parliaments |
| Mr | Władysław | ORTYL | Committee of 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 of 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 |