



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

## SUMMARY RECORD

**Working Group on Values and rights, rule of law, security**  
**Chaired by Renate Nikolay, Head of Cabinet of Ms Věra Jourová, Vice-President,**  
**European Commission**  
**Friday 25 March 2022, 09:00-11:00, Strasbourg – hybrid format**

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

Ms Renate Nikolay informed that due to the illness of the Vice-President Ms Věra JOUROVA, she would chair the Working Group meeting on her behalf.

Ms Nikolay welcomed all participants, outlining that the purpose of this 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group would be to discuss the first draft of proposals relating to Values and rights, rule of law, security. These first draft proposals had been drafted by the Chair and the Spokespersons, with the assistance of the Common Secretariat, on the basis of the contributions of the European and National Citizens' Panels, as well as Plenary debates, Multilingual Digital Platform and national events.

The Chair recalled that a first stocktaking of the Working Group's discussion would be done during the Plenary on the following day (26 March).

### **2. Presentation of the first proposals by the Spokespersons**

The Working Group's Spokespersons emphasised the constructive and productive process followed for the drafting of the first proposals.

On cluster 1 (Rule of law, democratic values and European identity), they highlighted the need to clarify a recommendation from the Dutch National Panel regarding conditioning the accession of new Member States to added value to the EU. They also mentioned the idea of setting up a conference on rule of law building on the Commission's annual report on rule of law. Finally, they underlined the discussion held on the extension of the conditionality regulation to non-budgetary areas.

On cluster 2 (Data protection), they indicated that the first draft is well advanced and reflects well the opinions expressed by the citizens.

On cluster 3 (Media, fake news, disinformation, fact-checking, cybersecurity), they observed a broad consensus, and recalled the importance to refer to a "mandatory" status of the school trainings on media literacy.

On cluster 4 (Anti-discrimination, equality and quality of life), they pointed out different points of view concerning the investments to be carried out for ensuring quality of life. They also raised the need to discuss further the incentives that should be undertaken to achieve more equality on the labour market, including through possible tax breaks and affordable childcare.

Finally, on cluster 5 (Animal rights, agriculture), they expressed their broad satisfaction with the first draft of proposals. .

### **3. Discussion on the first draft proposals**

During the debate, the Working Group discussed in great depth the content of the draft proposals, in particular on the following points:

- on cluster 1, many participants called to add an explicit reference about the Charter of Fundamental Rights, as well as a more concrete definition of the European citizenship rights;
- on cluster 2, participants highlighted that further reflection is needed about the opportunity to penalise licensing of entities processing personal data;
- on cluster 3, the notion of “undue political interference” triggered substantial discussion within the Working Group leading several members to call for clarification at a later stage ;
- on cluster 4, some participants stressed that the future of the economic model, the role of trade unions, as well as the best ways to deal with tax avoidance and tax heavens should be further considered ;
- on cluster 5, participants suggested a better reflection of the priorities of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy.

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

The Chair, Ms Renate Nikolay, emphasised that very good progress had been made during the meeting. She explained that the draft proposals would have to be revised in line with the ideas expressed during the session and that written contributions could be sent to the Common Secretariat in this regard. Revised drafts will be drawn up according to the same procedure as the drafts, i.e. by the Chair and the Spokespersons with the assistance of the Common Secretariat, and be presented at the next meeting of the Working Group on 7 April.

She concluded by highlighting that meeting’s discussion would serve as a great basis for reporting to the Plenary the day after.