

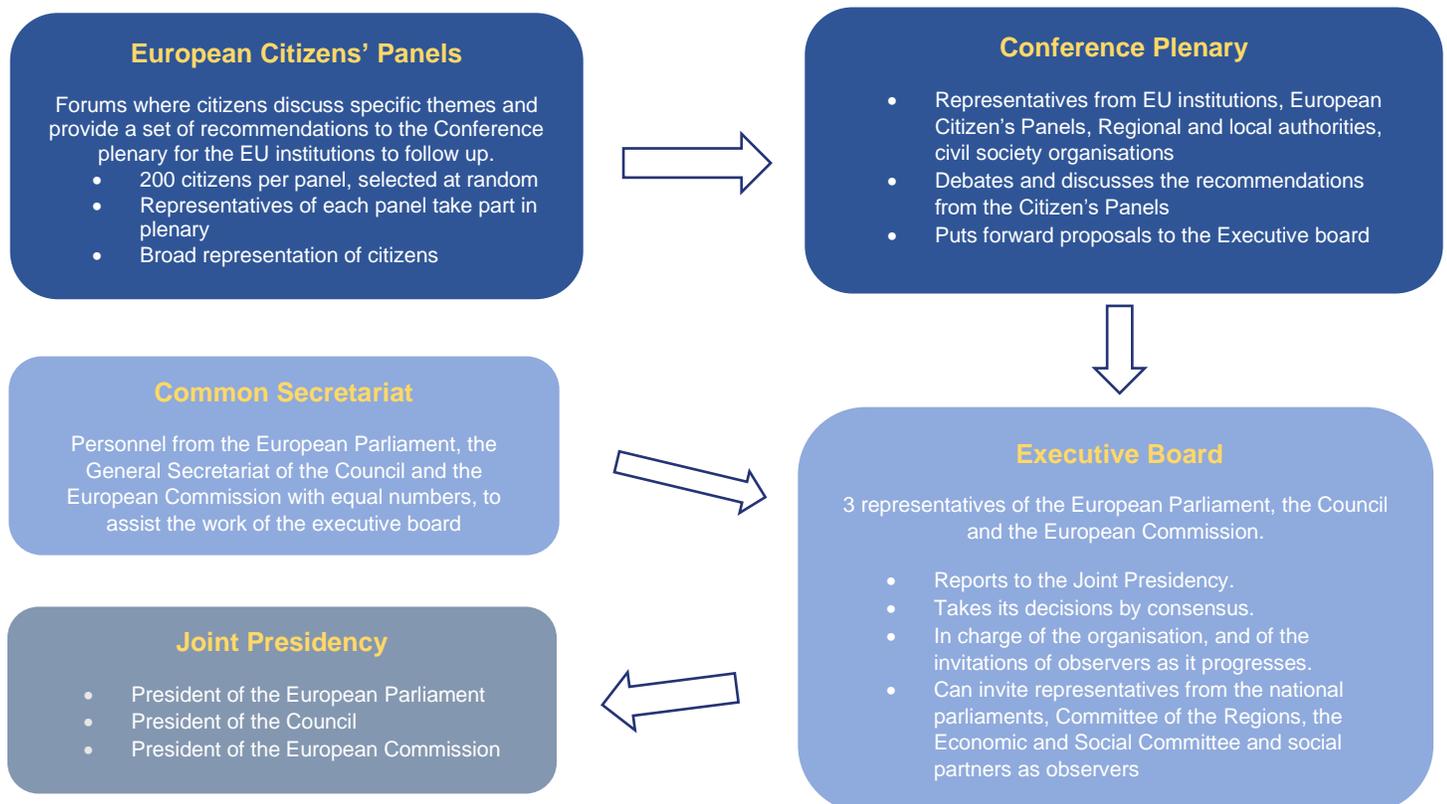
What is the Conference on the Future of Europe?

The Conference on the Future of Europe is a participative forum of discussions and debates where people from all across Europe can share their ideas and vision of the continent. The goal is to give citizens a role in shaping EU policies around issues that they consider important and that affect their daily lives.

Implementation: first steps

Following the European elections in 2019 and the launch of the new European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, the president, expressed her commitment to the launch of this European debate. In March 2021, a [Joint declaration on the Conference on the Future of Europe](#) was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. It was signed on the 10th of the same month by the leaders of the three main European institutions, acting as its Joint Presidency: Ursula von der Leyen, representing the European Commission, David Sassoli for the European Parliament and António Costa for the Council of the European Union. This declaration set forward the scope, structure and goals of the Conference, where citizens will decide which topics should be raised. The launch event of the Conference was organised on 9 May 2021 in Strasbourg (France).

Structure



Tools for the Conference

The Conference on the Future of Europe relies on several tools:

- **A multilingual digital platform** is set, so that citizens can share their ideas, which will be collected, analysed, monitored and published during the conference. The platform gathers information and feedback from decentralised events and collects ideas from citizens.
- **Decentralised events** will be held in-person, in a hybrid format or online by people and organisations as well as national, regional and local authorities across Europe. These events can be published on the multilingual platform.
- **European Citizens' panels** will take place in different countries to discuss different topics and put forward citizens' proposals.
- **Conference plenary meetings** will make sure that the recommendations coming from the European Citizens' panels will be discussed without a predetermined outcome and without limiting the scope of pre-defined policy areas.

The Executive board selected [ten topics](#) to gather the opinion of European citizens:

- Climate change and environment
- Health
- A stronger economy, social justice and jobs
- EU in the world
- Values and rights, rule of law, security
- Digital transformations
- European democracy
- Migration
- Education, youth, culture and sport
- Other ideas

European citizens will be able to share their events or ideas related to the topics mentioned above. Those ideas will be debated in the Conference Plenary. The results of the Conference will be presented by the Joint Presidency in a report, which will be followed up by the three institutions.

Regions' participation

During the Conference, European regions' voice will be represented through six elected representatives from regional and six from local authorities who will take part in the Conference Plenary. The European Committee of the Regions (CoR), who also speak for regional and local authorities will be represented at the **Conference's plenary** by 18 participants and can be invited as an observer to the **Executive board**. The [CoR delegation at the Conference on the Future of Europe](#) will mobilise its network such as associations of local and regional authorities across the EU to encourage local and regional politicians to organize citizens' debates.

Useful documents

- Presentation of the Conference's digital platform:
https://multimedia.euoparl.europa.eu/en/guy-verhofstadt-ana-paula-zacarias-and-dubravka-suica-co-chairs-of-executive-board-of-conference-on-20210419-1300-SPECIAL-CONFERENCE_vd
- Platform's website: <https://futureu.europa.eu/>
- Recording of the opening in Strasbourg:
https://multimedia.euoparl.europa.eu/en/conference-on-future-of-europe-inaugural-event-20210509-1400-SPECIAL-CONFERENCE_vd
- Toolkit for the events: <https://futureu.europa.eu/pages/our-guides>
- More information: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/conference-future-europe_en

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