

Madrid, 28 enero 2021

Roma, 28 gennaio 2021

Eva MAYDELL PAUNOVA

President

European Movement International

Place du Luxembourg 2

1050 Brussels, Belgium

Subject: Urgent Declaration about the participation of the Organized Civil Society at the Conference on the Future of Europe

Dear President of the European International Movement, Dear Eva,

Taking into account the last news that has emerged by various institutions and, specifically, yesterday from the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament (AFCO), and the document of the MEPs Daniel Freund and Helmut Scholz on 26th of January 2021, we understand that it is urgent that the European Movement International has to make and publish a new Declaration on the Conference on the Future of Europe, since it seems that the Interinstitutional Declaration calling for the Conference on the Future of Europe is imminent without collecting, at all, the demands that we have maintained from the European Movement.

In this Declaration, among other considerations, we must defend and demand the issues that we have been demanding so far that seem are not going to be included in the proposals of the future interinstitutional declaration at the Conference on the Future of Europe. Among others, we believe that participation must be defended "on an equal partner" with the institutions, as did say the President of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, in her investiture speech in the European Parliament, on 16th of June 2019. Furthermore, taking into account that the European Institutions will have the possibility to participate on the Convention, where civil society will not participate.

Secondly, organized civil society that in these proposals, at least the ones that we have had knowledge, does not appear anywhere. The European International Movement and its National Councils must be present in the Conference as it was already in the Hague Congress.

Third, maintain the main character that President of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, has already given to the participation of youth not through separate agoras but in equal partners with the rest of the institutions as it was said in the aforementioned inauguration speech and in the Political Orientations document of the 16th of July 2019.

Fourth, the agora system is contrary to what we have been defending since it is not a direct relationship with the institutions but through intermediaries. And, in this sense, the agoras of youth are even worse, where they are still further removed from the debate and pigeonholed into a series of "youthful" issues and not all the European issues.

Finally, in general, taking into account all that news, we can affirm that the set of information is distorting the Conference on the Future of Europe, as well as the document of the European Parliament, turning it into a pre-convention and not as a new Conference characterized by the citizen participation in debate with institutions.

These are just some of the comments, but we are sure that there are many more aspects that, for the moment, we have not perceived but that surely through all the associations and the whole of society we will know how to identify more issues.

For this reason, it seems to us that it is necessary to elaborate and publish an urgent declaration of the International European Movement and of all National Councils.

Kind regards,

Francisco Aldecoa Luzarraga
Presidente del Consejo Federal Español del Movimiento Europeo

Pier Virgilio Dastoli
Presidenti del Consiglio Italiano del Movimento Europeo