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Dear Mr Pomés-López,

Thank you for sending me the “Resolution of the Presidium of the Youth of the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement (CFEME)”, which President von der Leyen has also received. I welcome your enthusiasm for engaging with the upcoming Conference on the Future of Europe and would like to reassure you on some of the points raised in the Resolution.

The ultimate objective of the Conference is to bring citizens and policymakers closer together by giving citizens a greater say in the shaping of future EU policies. The Conference will help to build and reinforce a vibrant European public space for discussion and debates, using participatory democracy as a means to strengthen our representative democracies.

Indeed, the Conference is not a Convention. It should be a resolutely grassroots exercise, driven by citizens and by civil society: we therefore need to involve the broadest possible cross-section of the European population, from all walks of life and from all corners of the Union, including those who do not usually participate in EU-related events. The Conference will also, indeed, have a particular focus on the participation of young people, since the future is in their hands.

In order to ensure that as many citizens as possible participate, the Conference will have multiple entry points: an interactive digital platform which will be available in all EU languages, European Citizens’ Panels, various citizens’ events at national, regional and local levels, and, in all likelihood, Conference Plenaries. The precise organisation and interplay between these different strands will, however, need to be finalised by the Conference’s own governing bodies, once they have been set up. All contributions to the Conference will be collected, analysed and reported on in a transparent and horizontal manner.

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Mr Jan Pomés-López

President

Youth of the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement

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The Commission greatly values the fundamental role that civil society plays in promoting open, democratic and inclusive societies by acting as vital links between citizens and institutions and, as such, we strongly encourage you to participate at all levels: local, regional, national and European. Civil society organisations will be able to do this in a number of ways: by putting forward proposals directly on the platform and by promoting the platform among your networks, so that as many citizens as possible take part; by organising and attending debates and events via the platform (and of course in person if the health situation allows it); or by participating in Conference Plenaries, once they are confirmed, where young people should also be represented.

From the Commission's perspective, which is a holistic one, proposals emanating from European (and possibly national) Citizens' Panels will not in any way be in competition with the input of civil society organisations - they complement them. Citizens should be able to express themselves both through representatives and directly, in line with Article 11(1) of the Treaty on European Union, which states that "The institutions shall, by appropriate means, give citizens and representative associations the opportunity to make known and publicly exchange their views in all areas of Union action."

The random selection dimension also increases the potential cross-section of the EU population which will be involved, thereby ensuring that a broader range of citizens participate.

On the topics for discussion during the Conference, the Commission believes that openness remains crucial if this is truly to be a grassroots exercise. The EU's headline ambitions, as set out in the Commission's Political Priorities and the European Council's Strategic Agenda, provide a sufficiently broad framework to allow citizens to focus on what they consider to be important. At the same time, citizens will always be able to raise any other issues that are of concern to them.

As you know, the Conference on the Future of Europe is an interinstitutional project and the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council are currently finalising a Joint Declaration which will specify the Conference's scope, structure and objectives. Meanwhile you will find the Commission's position, as well as future updates and information on participation, [here](#).

The ultimate key to the Conference's success is our joint commitment to follow up on citizens' ideas and proposals, where possible, including through legislative action if appropriate and fully in line with institutional prerogatives and subsidiarity. This remains a centrepiece of my mandate because it is European democracy, which is at stake.

The European Commission very much looks forward to your active participation and continued support of this important initiative.

Yours sincerely,



Dubravka Šuica