



Follow-up of the Conference on the Future of Europe – one year on

#EUDemocracy

16 June 2023

The Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFE) concluded its work with 49 proposals and 326 measures proposed by its plenary. Its legacy lives on through the follow-up of these proposals and the embedding of deliberative democracy in EU policymaking.

The Commission adopted its [Communication “Putting vision into concrete action”](#) on 17 June 2022 charting out the ways for bringing to life the proposals of the Conference. It lists over 500 proposals and actions that are part of the Commission’s follow-up.

The **Commission work programme for 2023** is driven by the Conference’s results. Out of the 43 new initiatives announced for this year, 35 are either directly or indirectly following up on the proposals.

On 2 December 2022 the three institutions hosted a **feedback event** with the participants of the European Citizens’ Panels, as well as various other participants of the Conference Plenary.

Not all CoFE proposals are within the Commission’s competence, and some may be best taken up by the other EU institutions, by Member States or by local and regional authorities.

One year after the Conference, **the Commission has acted on close to 95%** of those Conference measures that are within the Commission’s competence and in accordance with the Treaties.

Some of the proposals would require Treaty change, but new reforms and policies should not be mutually exclusive to discussions on Treaty change. President von der Leyen in her State of the Union address on 14 September 2022 has supported the European Parliaments’ call for a European Convention.

The Commission is also embedding **citizens’ participation** in its policymaking, which is itself a key follow-up of one of the Conference proposals.

“[This is why] the Conference on the Future of Europe was so important. It was a sneak peek of a different kind of citizens’ engagement, well beyond election day. The Citizens’ Panels that were central to the Conference will now become a regular feature of our democratic life.”

President von der Leyen’s State of the Union address on 14 September 2022



Three [new generation of citizens' panels](#) have already been organised making recommendations ahead of certain key proposals.



FOOD WASTE

The citizens' panel on food waste took place between December 2022 and February 2023 with 147 participants. They worked on 23 recommendations ahead of the Commission's proposal on the Revision of food waste and textile aspects of the EU waste framework Directive, which is planned for adoption on 5 July 2023.



VIRTUAL WORLDS

The citizens' panel on virtual worlds took place between February and April this year with 140 participants. They worked on 23 recommendations ahead of the Commission's initiative on virtual worlds, such as the metaverse, which is planned for adoption on 11 July 2023.



LEARNING MOBILITY

The citizens' panel on learning mobility took place between March and April this year with 142 participants. They worked on 21 recommendations for a Council Recommendation on updated learning mobility framework, which will be adopted in autumn this year.

"A gathering of citizens is democracy in action. Look at how valuable it is to bring citizens to the very heart of policymaking.

It is also about the trust between citizens and the institutions that serve them. This is why the European Commission is very proud to be the first executive body anywhere to introduce citizen panels as an integral part of the designing of policy. We want to lead by example."

Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President for Democracy and Demography



We are also strengthening our online engagement by developing our Have Your Say platform into a hub showcasing the different ways in which citizens can engage with the Commission.

The Commission acted in all 9 Conference topics

Examples of proposals and actions which have already been put forward:



1. Climate change and the environment

"Take EU actions that enable and incentivize consumers to use products longer." (CoFE proposal 5, measure 10)

[Proposal on common rules promoting the repair of goods](#) Adopted on 22 March 2023.

"Phase-out non-sustainable form of packaging, regulate environmentally-safe packaging, and avoid wasting of material in packaging..." (CoFE proposal 5, measure 4)

[Proposal on packaging and packaging waste](#) Adopted on 30 November 2022.



2. Health

“Consider the international dimension to health and recognise that medicines should be universally available, including in poorer countries” (CoFE proposal 10, measure 8)

Patents Package, including an initiative [on standard essential patents](#) and [on compulsory licensing for crisis management](#) Adopted on 27 April 2023.

“Improve understanding of mental health issues and ways of addressing them...” (CoFE proposal 9, measure 1)

[A comprehensive approach to mental health](#) Adopted on 7 June 2023.



3. Stronger economy, social justice and jobs

“Specific policies are needed to avoid a brain drain from some regions and countries within the EU...” (CoFE proposal 47, measure 7)

[Harnessing talent in Europe’s regions](#) Adopted on 17 January 2023.

“Promoting the digitalisation of European businesses ... with the overall aim of increasing competitiveness.” (CoFE proposal 12, measure 13)

[Further expand and upgrade the use of digital tools and processes in company law](#) Adopted on 29 March 2023.



4. EU in the world

“Strengthening the operational capabilities necessary to ensure the effectiveness of the mutual assistance clause...” (CoFE proposal 23, measure 4)

[Establishing the European defence industry Reinforcement through common Procurement Act](#) Adopted on 19 July 2022.

“... diversifying the supply sources of critical raw materials.” (CoFE proposal 17, measure 3)

[Establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials](#) Adopted on 16 March 2023.



5. Values and rights, rule of law and security

“Providing EU-wide criteria on anti-discrimination in the labour market ... and equality promoted.” (CoFE proposal 29, measure 4)

Equality package, including an initiative [on standards for equality bodies](#) and [on standards for equality bodies in the field of equal treatment and equal opportunities between women and men in matters of employment and occupation](#) Adopted on 7 December 2022.

“Promoting citizens’ media literacy and awareness about disinformation...” (CoFE proposal 27, measure 4)

[Guidelines for teachers and educators on tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy through education and training](#) Adopted on 11 October 2022.



6. Digital transformation

"... enhancing digital skills of children in a manner that is compatible with their healthy development..." (CoFE proposal 32, measure 1)

[European strategy for Better Internet for Kids](#) Adopted on 11 May 2022.

"Fully utilize the potential of trustworthy and responsible use of artificial intelligence..." (CoFE proposal 35, measure 8)

[AI Liability Directive](#) Adopted on 29 September 2022.



7. European democracy

"Defending and supporting free, pluralistic and independent media..." (CoFE proposal 37, measure 4)

[European Media Freedom Act](#), including an initiative [on establishing a common framework for media services in the internal market](#) and [on internal safeguards for editorial independence and ownership transparency in the media sector](#)
Adopted on 16 September 2022.

"Ensure proper civil and social dialogue mechanisms and processes at every step of the EU decision-making process..." (CoFE proposal 39, measure 5)

Social dialogue package, including a [Communication](#) and an initiative [on strengthening social dialogue in the European Union](#)
Adopted on 25 January 2023.



8. Migration

"... address the present challenges of irregular migration, such as human smuggling, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, ..." (CoFE proposal 42, measure 2)

[Amending the Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims](#)
Adopted on 19 December 2022.

"Ensuring the protection of all external borders..." (CoFE proposal 42, measure 2)

[Communication on European integrated border management](#) Adopted on 14 March 2023.



9. Education, culture, youth and sport

"Promote European exchanges in different fields..." (CoFE proposal 48, measure 1)

[Culture Moves Europe](#), mobility scheme for artists and cultural professionals, Launched on 10 October 2022.

"Taking action to guarantee that all families enjoy equal family rights in all Member States." (CoFE proposal 15, measure 5)

[Recognition of parenthood between Member States](#) Adopted on 7 December 2022.

