



Parlamentul României Senat

Bucharest, February 25, 2020

Courtesy translation

OPINION of the SENATE OF ROMANIA

regarding the COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL "SHAPING THE CONFERENCE OF THE FUTURE OF
EUROPE"
COM (2020) 27 final

The Romanian Senate examined the COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL "SHAPING THE CONFERENCE OF THE FUTURE OF EUROPE, COM (2020) 27 final, according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon (Protocol no. 1).

For the parliamentary examination, the Resolution of the European Parliament of January 15, 2020, the Declaration of the Interparliamentary Conference on the Future of the European Union "Towards a stronger, more coherent, united and more relevant European Union on the international stage" - adopted during the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council - and the contributions of the Conferences of the parliamentary bodies specialized in Community and European Affairs (COSAC) – held in Helsinki and Zagreb - were taken into account.

Taking into account the report of February 14, 2020 of the permanent Committee for European Affairs, the Plenum of the Senate, during its session of February 19, 2020:

1. Welcomes the initiative of organizing the Conference, as a democratic cooperation exercise in the effort to solve the challenges the European Union is facing.
2. Considers that the Conference objectives must be defined in its beginning.
3. Highlights the necessity of clarifying the legal character of the Conference and the documents adopted in its framework, including its capacity to propose changes of the Treaties.
4. Agrees with the participation of the national parliaments as members with equal rights of the Conference and of the governing bodies, as well a representation of an equal number to that of the European Parliament.

5. Agrees with the participation of the advisory bodies - the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - in the conference proceedings, according to the proposal.
6. Welcomes the involvement of the citizens by organizing dedicated consultations and debates, but expresses reservations about the selection mechanism of the participants and the role of these agoras. The selection method through certain experts may jeopardize the legitimacy of the system of the democratic representation. The structured dialogue presumes that the members of the Conference to test, within the discussions, along with the citizens the shaping of the problems and the modalities of solutions already discussed in the meetings of the committees and plenary meetings of the Conference.
7. Supports the proposal that the inter-institutional agreement - the joint statement of the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission - may be signed by other signatories, including national parliaments.
8. Stresses the importance of respecting the principles of democratic representativeness and legitimacy of the members of the Conference and avoiding the populist approaches that already constitute a challenge for European democracy; European political parties have the responsibility of coagulating the political will of citizens, developing and promoting projects on the European society of the future.
9. Transmits the decision to participate in the joint effort to redefine and advance the European Union's agenda, an ambitious and more inclusive agenda, as a condition for a new social contract with European citizens.

p. President of the Senate


Titus CORLĂŢEAN