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z. Ktr.	09. Feb. 2021			Abl. Aussch.
z. d. A	S. 1. 1. 2021			Abl. Sonst.
VV am:				
Kopie an:				



The President

Mr Gunther Krichbaum
Chairman of the Committee on EU Affairs
Deutscher Bundestag
Platz der Republik 1
11011 Berlin
GERMANY

D 300699 03.02.2021

Dear Mr Krichbaum,

Thank you for your letter of 3 December 2020, also addressed to my fellow Presidents of the Commission, the European Council and the Presidency-in-office, in which you raised important matters relating to the organisation, structure and objectives of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Despite the relentless efforts of the German Presidency, an agreement on the Chair of the Conference and on the final text of the Joint Declaration has not been reached, due to the difficult end of the year with which we were all confronted, notably the reaction to the Covid 19 pandemic and the negotiations on Recovery and the new MFF, in parallel with Brexit negotiations.

It is highly positive that the Portuguese Presidency has resumed negotiations very intensively, and I am hopeful that, with Prime Minister Costa personally involved, the Presidency-in-office will succeed swiftly in reaching a deal with all the Institutions, with a view to launching the Conference without any further delay.

I fully share your view of the importance of this project and the need to fully engage with our citizens, as reiterated on many occasions by the European Parliament in its Resolutions as well as in the contributions from its High-Level Working Group on the Conference.

We have all witnessed, with the recent events in the United States, that democracies are fragile and have been reminded that they must be nurtured and not taken for granted. The Conference on the Future of Europe is therefore a unique opportunity, as you stressed in your letter, to ensure that all citizens contribute towards the shaping of our future EU democracy and its concrete policies.

It is worth recalling that the European Parliament will be a key institutional member of the Conference, as co-signatory of the Joint Declaration on an equal footing with the Council and the Commission, with a specific mandate and responsibility as regards European citizens in view of its role as the directly elected European Institution.

However, as regards the role of the national Parliaments in this endeavour, I would like to reassure you that their point of view is very well noted and understood in the European Parliament, which fully supports the appropriate involvement of their representatives in the Conference and its various bodies.

In that context, I very much look forward to a strong parliamentary dimension for the Conference and to cooperating with all the national Parliaments, in particular, as regards the involvement of our citizens.

I would be grateful if you could please transmit my reply to the co-signatories of your letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Maria SASSOLI', written in a cursive style.

David Maria SASSOLI