



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 13 September 2022  
(OR. en)

12279/22  
ADD 1

LIMITE

AG 105  
INST 311

**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Conference on the Future of Europe – Follow-up: Conference proposed measures where the Council could act on its own

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Delegations will find herewith a table listing those Conference proposed measures where the Council could act on its own.



**FIRST CATEGORY: COORDINATION OF MEMBER STATES' POLICY AT EU LEVEL**

**12. Proposal - Enhancing EU's competitiveness and further deepening the Single Market<sup>1</sup>**

**Objective:** We propose strengthening the competitiveness and resilience of the European Union's economy, single market, industry and addressing strategic dependencies. We need to promote an entrepreneurial culture in the EU, where innovative businesses of all sizes, and in particular Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), as well as start-ups are encouraged and can thrive in order to contribute to more resilient and cohesive societies. There is a need for a strong functioning market economy in order to facilitate the vision of a more social Europe. This objective could be achieved by:

	Measures	To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?	How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?
15	Strengthening cross-border cooperation in order to enhance cohesion and resilience within and beyond regions, by fostering the European Cross Border Mechanism and similar tools; (discussions)	Territorial cooperation is one of the key fields of activity of cohesion policy. In October 2021, the Council adopted conclusions inviting the Commission to continue exploring ways to boost the potential of EU border regions in close collaboration with Member States.	Coordination of Member States' policies within the existing instruments and processes; thematic discussions focusing on exchange of best practices in the context of relevant national economic policies.

<sup>1</sup> Citizens' recommendations on which the proposal is mainly based: European Citizens' Panel 1: 10, 11 & 14; Germany: 2.1, 2.2; The Netherlands: 1, 2; France: 3, 9; Italy: 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 4.a.2, 6.1; Lithuania: 1, 7.

### 13. Proposal - Inclusive labour markets<sup>2</sup>

**Objective:** We propose to improve the functioning of labour markets so that they ensure fairer working conditions and promote gender equality, employment, including that of young people and vulnerable groups. The EU, Member States and social partners need to work to end in-work poverty, address the rights of platform workers, ban un-paid internships and ensure fair labour mobility in the EU. We must promote social dialogue and collective bargaining. We need to ensure the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, including its relevant headline targets for 2030, at EU, national, regional and local level in the areas of “equal opportunities and access to the labour market” and “fair working conditions”, while respecting competences and the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and to include a Social Progress Protocol in the Treaties. While doing so, there should be a respect of national traditions and the autonomy of social partners and a cooperation with civil society. This objective could be achieved by:

	Measures	To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?	How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?
8	Promoting employment of disadvantaged groups (NL 4), in particular among people with disabilities (online platform);	Alongside and in support of Member States' policies, the EU has introduced a series of legal provisions, initiatives and strategies to improve the employment situation of disabled people. In 2010, the EU signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which is a legally binding international instrument. The main instrument supporting the CRPD's implementation in the EU is the European disability strategy 2021-2030, whose aim is to empower people with disabilities so that they can enjoy their full rights, participate in society and have equal access to employment as others.	The Council is planning a set of conclusions on the integration persons with a disability into the labour market.

<sup>2</sup> Citizens’ recommendations on which the proposal is mainly based: European Citizens’ Panel 1: 1, 2, 7, 28, 30; Germany: 4.1, 4.2; The Netherlands: 4; France: 6; Italy: 5.a.1, 5.a.4, 6.1, 6.2.

		<p>In 2019, the Council adopted a set of Conclusions recommending that persons with disabilities should receive tailored support for transitions to the general labour market, for labour market reintegration and for equal enjoyment of workers' rights, including in sheltered employment (Improving the employment of people in a vulnerable position in the labour market). The EU offers funding dedicated to the promotion of employment and social inclusion through the European Social Fund (ESF).</p>	
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## 23. Proposal - The EU as a strong actor on the world scene in peace and security

**Objective:** We propose that the EU continue to act to promote dialogue and guarantee peace and a rules-based international order,<sup>3</sup> strengthening multilateralism and building on long standing EU peace initiatives which contributed to its award of the Nobel Prize in 2012, while strengthening its common security through<sup>4</sup>:

	Measures	To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?	How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?
5	Reflect on how to counter disinformation and propaganda in an objective and factual way	The Council is actively involved in EU efforts to counter foreign information manipulation and disinformation, including through a dedicated working party. EU efforts include measures of a “soft law”,	On 15 December 2020, the Council adopted conclusions on strengthening resilience and countering hybrid threats, inviting the Commissions to develop and eventually

<sup>3</sup> From debate in Working Group and Plenary

<sup>4</sup> See Change 2 from the French national panel/events

	<p>political, and diplomatic or legislative nature.</p> <p>Progress is ongoing with recent and upcoming instruments and tools such as the EU Hybrid Toolbox and the Toolbox for countering Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), both highlighted in the Strategic Compass; the Strengthened Code of Practice against disinformation, the European Democracy Action Plan (3rd pillar) as well as the Digital Services Act.</p>	<p>implement additional transparency requirements for online platforms to promote a well-functioning digital public sphere, develop greater accountability and enhance transparency in addressing disinformation.</p>
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## 27. Proposal - Media, Fake news, Disinformation, Fact-checking, Cybersecurity<sup>5</sup>

**Objective:** Tackle disinformation by further promoting media independence and pluralism as well as media literacy, in particular by:

	Measures	To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?	How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?
4	Promoting citizens’ media literacy and awareness about disinformation and unintentional dissemination of fake news, including through mandatory school trainings. Member States should also be encouraged to provide adequate human and financial resources to this end	Media literacy is a component of the ‘digital competence’, one of the key competences for lifelong learning defined in the dedicated European reference framework. In its 2016 Conclusions on developing media literacy and critical thinking through education and training, the Council invites both Member States and the Commission to encourage use of the funding opportunities offered by all relevant EU funds and programmes in order to support the various efforts	The Council has approved Conclusions and/or Resolutions on this matter in the past and it could be envisaged to do so again in the future.

<sup>5</sup> Citizens’ recommendations on which the proposal is mainly based: ECP2: 5, 12, 13, 17, 28; Belgium NCP: 1.5.1, 2.1.1 up to 2.4.3; The Netherlands NCP: 3.1.

		meant to promote and develop media literacy.  See also proposed measure 27.3 above (AVMSD, Commission new guidance for strengthening the Code of Practice on Disinformation).	
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## 41. Proposal - Legal Migration<sup>6</sup>

**Objective: Strengthen the EU's role on legal migration:**

	Measures	To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?	How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?
5	Increasing efforts to inform and educate citizens of the Member States about the topics related to migration and integration (recommendation 30 and LT recommendation 9 and WG debate).	The Erasmus+ funded School Education Gateway (soon to be revamped as the 'European School Education Platform') enables education practitioners to exchange information, share materials and access services (e.g. online courses) on the topics of inclusion, cultural diversity and integrating newly arrived migrant students in classrooms. The Erasmus+ programme also funds projects and other activities for the integration of migrants in all sectors of education and training.  Ten years ago, the Council adopted conclusions on the participation and social inclusion of young people with emphasis on those with a migrant background.	The Council has approved Conclusions and/or Resolutions on this matter in the past and it could be envisaged to do so again in the future.

<sup>6</sup> Citizens' recommendations in which the proposal is mainly based: European Citizens' Panel 4 (ECP4) 6, 7, 9, 28, 30; Lithuania 9

		The Blue Card Directive encourages Member States to strengthen advertising activities and information campaigns concerning the EU Blue Card for third-country nationals.	
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## 46. Proposal - Education

**Objective:** The EU and its Member states should seek to establish by 2025 an inclusive European Education Area within which all citizens have equal access to quality education and life-long learning, including those in rural and remote areas. To this aim, the European Union and its Member states should in particular:

	Measures	To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?	How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?
3	Support the training of teachers, to learn from best practices and use up to date innovative and creative teaching techniques that reflect the evolution of teaching methods, including practical activities, building also on the lessons to be drawn from the COVID-19 pandemic and other kinds of crises, as well as promote opportunities for mobility.	Two recent Council conclusions are specifically dedicated to teachers: the 2020 conclusions on European teachers and trainers for the future, and the 2022 conclusions on enhancing teachers' and trainers' mobility, in particular European mobility, during their initial and in-service education and training. The importance of providing support in view of designing and using contemporary and innovative teaching approaches is frequently underlined in EU education-related texts, as well as the need to learn from crises. For instance, the 2021 Council Recommendation on blended learning approaches for high-quality and inclusive primary and secondary education recommends actions to Member States based on lessons learned in the context of the	The Council has approved Conclusions and/or Resolutions on this matter in the past and it could be envisaged to do so again in the future.

		COVID-19 crisis.	
4	In order to meet the educational needs of all children and families, prioritise access to hardware and efficient broadband	The 2021 Council Recommendation on blended learning approaches for high-quality and inclusive primary and secondary education recommends Member States to invest in high-speed internet connectivity for school-site and distance learning environments. The need to improve digital infrastructure and tools has been underlined in several acts (see for instance the 2020 Council conclusions on countering the COVID-19 crisis in education and training).	The Council has approved Conclusions and/or Resolutions on this matter in the past and it could be envisaged to do so again in the future.

## 48. Proposal - Culture and exchanges

**Objective:** In order to promote a culture of exchange and foster European identity and European diversity across different areas, the Member States, with the support of the European Union, should: <sup>7</sup>

	Measures	To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?	How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?
2	Promote multilingualism as a bridge to other cultures from an early age. Minority and regional languages require additional protection,	The ‘multilingual competence’ is recognised as one of the key competences for lifelong learning which are part of the European Reference Framework.  One of the general objectives of the Creative Europe programme is to	The Council has approved Conclusions and/or Resolutions on this matter in the past and it could be envisaged to do so again in the future.

<sup>7</sup> Dutch NCP (‘Our vision of culture, youth and sport’), recommendation no 2.

<p>taking note of the Council of Europe Convention on Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The EU should consider setting up an institution promoting language diversity at the European level. From elementary school onwards, it should be mandatory that children reach competence in an active EU language other than their own to the highest possible level. In order to facilitate the ability of European citizens to communicate with wider groups of their fellow Europeans and as a factor of European cohesion, learning of the language of the immediate neighbouring EU Member States in cross border areas and reaching a certifiable standard in English should be encouraged by Member States.</p>	<p>safeguard, develop and promote European culture and linguistic diversity, and to promote Europe's cultural heritage.</p> <p>Multilingualism is one of the priority topics of the EU Work Plan on Culture 2019-2022.</p> <p>In April 2022, the Council adopted Conclusions on reinforcing intercultural exchanges through the mobility of artists and cultural and creative professionals, and through multilingualism in the digital era.</p>	
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## 49. Proposal - Sport

**Objective:** Sport is crucial for our societies - in order to defend our values, ensure healthy lifestyle and ageing, promote a culture of exchanges and also celebrate the diversity of European heritage. For this reason, the Member States, with the support of the European Union, should aim to:

	Measures	To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?	How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?
1	Put emphasis on values, especially gender equality, fairness and inclusiveness that can be concretely reflected through sport practice throughout education.	In November 2021, the Council approved a Resolution on the key features of a European Sport Model, inviting Member States to promote values in sport and sport organisations, and inviting the sport movement and all relevant stakeholders to work to preserve and strengthen i.a. gender equality and social inclusion in sport.  In April 2022, the Council approved conclusions on sport as a lever to transform behaviour for sustainable development, considering, among others, gender and inclusiveness in sport.	The Council has approved Conclusions and/or Resolutions on this matter in the past and it could be envisaged to do so again in the future.
2	Raise awareness about health benefits of sport and physical activity. <sup>8</sup>	In November 2021, the Council approved conclusions on lifelong physical activity, recalling the importance of sport practice and physical activity on health.	The Council has approved Conclusions and/or Resolutions on this matter in the past and it could be envisaged to do so again in the future.
4	Improve attention given not just to professional and commercial sports but also to local and traditional sport,	The Erasmus+ programme (2021-2027) in its Sport chapter covers ‘grassroots sport’ (physical leisure activities practiced regularly at non-professional level	The Council has approved Conclusions and/or Resolutions on this matter in the past and it could be envisaged to do so again in the

<sup>8</sup> ECP 1 recommendation no 29.

	as an aspect of European Cultural Diversity and cultural heritage promotion, and champion support for sports in a non-professional setting.	by people of all ages for health, educational or social purposes).  The Council's Resolution on the key features of a European Sport Model highlights the diversity of sports in the EU. Member States are invited to recognise the contribution of volunteers, grassroots sport clubs, families and local communities in the field of sport and support them when appropriate.	future.
5	At the same time, encourage the showcasing of European identity by organising more inter-EU sports events, creating EU sports teams, or displaying EU flags or symbols at European sporting events.	The Council's Resolution on the key features of a European Sport Model considers that there are common features that define a European sport model in which the Member States can interact, even if it does not cover the proposed EU dimension.	The Council has approved Conclusions and/or Resolutions on this matter in the past and it could be envisaged to do so again in the future.

## SECOND CATEGORY: FOREIGN POLICY RELATED ASPECTS

### 21. Proposal - Decision making and cohesion within the Union

***Objective:*** We propose that the EU improve its capacity to take speedy and effective decisions, notably in Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), speaking with one voice and acting as a truly global player, projecting a positive role in the world and making a difference in response to any crisis, notably through:

	Measures	To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?	How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?
2	Basing cooperation in security and defence policy on the recently endorsed Strategic Compass and making use of the European Peace Facility <sup>9</sup>	<p>The Strategic Compass aims at bringing greater coherence to actions in the area of security and defence that are already underway, and sets out a number of new actions and means. Based on a joint threat analysis, it defines policy orientations, concrete goals and objectives for the next 5 to 10 years.</p> <p>The EU is also already making use of the European Peace Facility (EPF) in an unprecedented way. At their meeting in Versailles on 10 and 11 March, EU leaders agreed to make an even further “increased use” of the EPF in the future.</p>	The Council, acting unanimously, is empowered to adopt decisions establishing CSDP operations and assistance measures funded under the Facility in particular on the basis of initiatives from (a) Member State(s) submitted in accordance with Articles 42(4) and 43(2) and Articles 28 and 30(1) TEU respectively.

<sup>9</sup> See Digital Platform, further developed in WG

## 23. Proposal - The EU as a strong actor on the world scene in peace and security

**Objective:** We propose that the EU continue to act to promote dialogue and guarantee peace and a rules-based international order,<sup>10</sup> strengthening multilateralism and building on long standing EU peace initiatives which contributed to its award of the Nobel Prize in 2012, while strengthening its common security through<sup>11</sup>:

	Measures	To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?	How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?
1	Its joint armed forces that shall be used for self-defence purposes and preclude aggressive military action of any kind, with a capacity to provide support in times of crises including natural catastrophes. Outside European borders it could be deployed in exceptional circumstances preferably under a legal mandate from the UN Security Council and thus in compliance with international law, and without competing with or duplicating NATO and respecting different national relationships with NATO and undertaking an assessment of EU relations with NATO in the context of the debate on the EU's strategic autonomy.	<p>The EU contributes to “<i>the strict observance and the development of international law, including respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter</i>” (Art. 3(5) TEU). It uses civilian or military assets provided by the Member States on missions for “<i>strengthening international security in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter</i>” (Art 42(1) TEU).</p> <p>Regarding NATO, the Strategic Compass notes that “<i>a stronger and more capable EU in security and defence will contribute positively to global and transatlantic security and is complementary to NATO, which remains the foundation of collective defence for its members. These two go hand in hand.</i>”</p>	<p>Within the legal framework provided by the Treaties, there can only be armed forces and capabilities “for” (not “of”) the EU provided by the Member States (Art. 42(1) TEU) on a case by case basis for the specific needs of a given crisis management operation. As to a possible common EU defence, according to Art. 42(2) “<i>The [CSDP] shall include the progressive framing of a common Union defence policy. This will lead to a common defence, when the European Council, acting unanimously, so decides(...)</i>”.</p> <p>As regards the mutual assistance clause (Art. 42(7) TEU), work is ongoing at the moment to better ‘operationalise’ this provision so as to be prepared in case of need.</p> <p>The types of missions the EU may undertake</p>

<sup>10</sup> From debate in Working Group and Plenary

<sup>11</sup> See Change 2 from the French national panel/events

			are defined in Art. 43 (1) TEU.  In this context, the Council may act in particular on the basis of initiatives from (a) Member State(s) submitted in accordance with Art. 42(4) and 43(2) TEU.
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## 24. Proposal - The EU as a strong actor on the world scene in relationship building

	<b>Measures</b>	<b>To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?</b>	<b>How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?</b>
1	Make greater use of its collective political and economic weight, speaking with one voice and acting in a unified way, without individual Member States dividing the EU through inappropriate bilateral responses <sup>12</sup> .	Member States are increasingly coordinating their approach to third countries and at international organizations. EU positions on agreements and statements being negotiated with third parties are coordinated and agreed, in advance, in the Council, to ensure EU unity. The EU is also coordinating its approach on candidatures in international organizations, making use of its full voting potential.	The Council constantly exercises its policy-making role on international issues by setting out the EU position to be taken. In relation to the CFSP, Art. 29 TEU empowers the Council, in particular on an initiative by any Member State to adopt decisions “ <i>which shall define the approach of the Union to a particular matter of a geographical or thematic nature</i> ”. Art. 29 TEU further states that “ <i>Member States shall ensure that their national policies conform to Union positions</i> ”.

<sup>12</sup> See Recommendation 24 from ECP4 and NCP Italy Cluster 2, Rec 7, further developed in WG

## **THIRD CATEGORY: COMMUNICATION ACTIONS**

### **6. Proposal - Information, awareness, dialogue and life-style**

**Objective:** Foster knowledge, awareness, education, and dialogues on environment, climate change, energy use, and sustainability:

	<b>Measures</b>	<b>To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?</b>	<b>How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?</b>
3	Promote and facilitate dialogue and consultations between all levels of decision making, especially with youth and at the local level (DE, NL and FR recommendations, Panel 3 – recommendations 27, 35, Plenary discussion)	<p>The EU institutions are encouraging dialogue and consultation with citizens via different instruments for citizen participation, including e.g. the European Citizen’s Initiative (ECI), Petitions to the European Parliament, Public Consultations, the Citizens’ Dialogues.</p> <p>The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions have a consultative role in the EU decision making, as representatives of the organised civil society and of the regional and local authorities.</p>	The Council could further pursue efforts to reach out to young audiences via existing and new channels.

## 22. Proposal - Transparency of the EU and its relations with the citizens

**Objective:** We propose that the EU, in particular in its actions at the international level, including trade negotiations, improve its accessibility for citizens through better information, education, citizen participation, and transparency of its action, notably by:

	Measures	To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?	How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?
1	Strengthening links with citizens and local institutions to improve transparency, reach the citizens and communicate and consult better with them about concrete EU initiatives and at the international level <sup>13</sup> .	<p>The Council deliberations on legislation are public (directly accessible to all citizens). Traditional multipliers (namely media representatives) are briefed extensively about decision-making in the Council.</p> <p>There is consistent multilingual communication about and promotion of all Council meetings, European Council meetings and international summits via all the channels that are used by target audiences and in a way that evolves in line with their shifting needs, preferences and expectations which are regularly surveyed and assessed.</p> <p>Transparency rules and Public info activities (including Europe Direct centres) allow EU citizens to learn about the decision making process. At the international level, communication is done mainly via the EU delegations (under the responsibility of the Commission and the EEAS).</p> <p>Regarding citizen consultations, there are currently a number of EU initiatives supporting public participation, such as Citizens' Dialogues, European</p>	The GSC provides Member States with informative, neutral and fact-based content (for example via the Communicator's Portal) and cooperate with other EU institutions, in order to reach as many citizens as possible.

<sup>13</sup> See Recommendation 18 from ECP4, further developed in WG

		Citizens' Initiative, petitions and public consultations (Better Regulation policy).	
5	Improving its media strategy by strengthening its visibility on social media and actively promote its content and encouraging innovation by promoting an accessible European social media. <sup>14</sup>	Social media channels are used intensively by all EU institutions and there are ongoing efforts to increase their reach and impact. The GSC works towards this aim in coordination with the Presidency and the Member States. There are some ongoing pilot projects to launch EU social media platforms, but their results still need to be evaluated (e.g. EU Voice and EU video, launched by EDPS and DIGIT)	

### 37. Proposal - Citizens information, participation and youth (bis)

**Objective: Make the European Union more understandable and accessible and strengthen<sup>15</sup> a common European identity, in particular by:**

	Measures	To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?	How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?
2	Making reliable information on the EU easily accessible in an inclusive manner to all citizens. EU institutions should use more accessible language and avoid using bureaucratic terms in their communication, while at the same time maintaining the quality and	The EU institutions have to use clear language in their communication products and follow accessibility guidelines, trainings, recommendations and practices (both on- and offline) to the highest possible standards. Communication decisions and the continuous improvement of communication products and platforms is informed by user research and user	Improvement of the europa.eu website and other initiatives could be explored.  The Council could examine additional steps in their strategy to engage with multipliers and members of key target audiences (such as youth representatives).

<sup>14</sup> See Recommendation 25 from ECP4

<sup>15</sup> Change WG 15 A, compromise formulation

	<p>expertise of the given information and adapting the information to different communication channels and audience profiles.<sup>16</sup> It should consider, for instance, creating a mobile application where information concerning EU policies is presented in a clear language.<sup>17</sup> A special effort should be made to reach out to young people through digital media, youth movements and various ‘ambassadors’ (organisations and individuals) explaining<sup>18</sup> the EU project;<sup>19</sup></p>	<p>evidence. Messages are also tailored according to the audience targeted and the channel used. Youth outreach is a priority in the EU institutions' communication strategies.</p> <p>The europa.eu website, where a wealth of information on key policy areas is presented, is also mobile-friendly.</p>	
5	<p>Bringing Europe closer to citizens by improving<sup>20</sup> contact points and dedicated hubs, or “Houses of Europe”, at local level to provide resources, information and advice to citizens on EU matters, as well as listen to their concerns and engage in debates with associations to help spread citizens’ views at European level;<sup>21</sup></p>	<p>The Commission has representation offices in all Member States, and the Parliament has Liaison Offices in EU capitals and other major cities, which are actively communicating on the EU.</p> <p>The Council has recently launched a mobile outdoor exhibition travelling from one Presidency country to another.</p> <p>National and local authorities also have an important role in bringing Europe closer to its citizens.</p>	<p>Further possibilities for improving communication in the Member States through different channels could be explored.</p>

<sup>16</sup> ECP2 33, BE FR and NL National panels)

<sup>17</sup> ECP2 26

<sup>18</sup> Change WG 17

<sup>19</sup> BE National Panel

<sup>20</sup> Change WG 21, compromise

<sup>21</sup> BE and FR National Panels

## **FOURTH CATEGORY: OTHERS**

### **36. Proposal - Citizens information, participation and youth**

**Objective:** Increase citizens’ participation and youth involvement in the democracy at the European Union level to develop a ‘full civic experience’ for Europeans, ensure that their voice is heard also in between elections, and that the participation is effective. That is why the most appropriate form of participation should be considered for each topic, for example by:

	<b>Measures</b>	<b>To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?</b>	<b>How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?</b>
The below measure relates to the organization of the ordinary legislative procedure within each of the participating EU institution.			
10	Strengthening cooperation between EU legislators and civil society organisations to utilize the link between decision-makers and citizens which civil society organisations constitute; <sup>22</sup>	The EESC serves as a relay between EU legislators and civil society. The EESC’s activities enhance the debate and discussions with civil society and its representative organisations.	The EU legislators have a wide margin of discretion to consider various information in their assessments.

<sup>22</sup> DK representative of national events

### 37. Proposal - Citizens information, participation and youth (bis)

**Objective:** Make the European Union more understandable and accessible and strengthen<sup>23</sup> a common European identity, in particular by:

	Measures	To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?	How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?
	The below measure, in particular the extent of use of machine translation, could be assessed by DG LING. Accessibility matters could be considered by the Council's DG COMM.		
3	Making a greater use of artificial intelligence and translation technologies to circumvent <sup>24</sup> language barriers, <sup>25</sup> ensuring the accessibility and usability of all the digital tools for people with disabilities; <sup>26</sup>	<p>Regarding communication by the EU institutions, automatic translation tools are already available on some channels, although they have some shortcomings, especially for some languages. The institutions are working to ensure that their websites and digital tools are as user-friendly and as accessible as possible. The Council Secretariat is already using AI for translation.</p> <p>The EU has also adopted various pieces of legislation for people with disabilities, online and offline. The focus has been on promoting innovation regarding specific disabilities.</p>	<p>The EU institutions could explore the possibility to further use machine translation tools, where appropriate. This process is ongoing in some institutions.</p> <p>More and better accessibility could also be explored.</p>

<sup>23</sup> Change WG 15 A, compromise formulation

<sup>24</sup> Change WG 18A

<sup>25</sup> ECP2 Recommendation 25

<sup>26</sup> Change WG 18B

## 39. Proposal - EU decision making process

**Objective:** Improve the EU’s decision-making process in order to ensure the EU’s capability to act, while taking into account the interests of all Member States and guaranteeing a transparent and understandable process for the citizens, in particular by:

	Measures	To what extent are the EU Institutions already working on the measures addressed in the proposal (What is being done)?	How could the proposal/measure be implemented, if at all (assessment of feasibility)? (Please refer to the legal basis on which this could be done – if any)?
	Part of the below measure relates to the implementation of transparency within the Council.		
2	<p>Ensuring transparency of decision-making by allowing independent citizens’ observers to closely follow the decision-making process, guaranteeing broader<sup>27</sup> right of access to documents, and develop on this basis stronger links and an enhanced dialogue between citizens and the EU institutions;<sup>28</sup></p> <p>The EU needs to improve the transparency of its decision-making process and institutions. For instance, the meetings of the Council and the European Parliament, including its votes, should be broadcasted online in the same way. This would allow interested citizens to follow EU</p>	<p>There is already a great degree of transparency and information available for citizens on the EU decision-making processes. Regulation 1049/2001 gives broad public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents.</p> <p>Documents and debates in the Council on legislative files are public and broadcasted through Internet. The June 2020 New Approach to Legislative Transparency adopted by COREPER further defines the scope of transparency and publicity of documents, the basis of which can be found in the Access to Documents Regulation (1049/2001).</p> <p>The Commission presented two proposals to modify Regulation 1049/2001 in 2008 and 2011, which did not succeed. Work has been ongoing at technical level between the services of the three institutions on the development of a joint database on the state of play of legislative files or Joint Legislative Portal. The aim is to</p>	<p>Pursuant to Article 16(8) TEU, the Council already meets in public when it deliberates and votes on a draft legislative act.</p> <p>The Council could make more extensive use of Article 8 of its Rules of Procedure, which specifies other cases of Council deliberation open to the public and public debates, and of Article 9 of the Rules of Procedure, which allows making votes, explanations of votes and minutes public in other cases.</p>

<sup>27</sup> Change WG 43

<sup>28</sup> ECP2 Recommendation 34, NL National Panel

	<p>policy-making, and hold politicians and policy-makers accountable;<sup>29</sup> the European Parliament's right of inquiry should be strengthened;<sup>30</sup> EU decision-making process should be further developed so that national, regional, local representatives, social partners and organised civil society are more involved.<sup>31</sup> Inter-parliamentary cooperation and dialogue should be strengthened. National parliaments should also be closer involved in the legislative procedure by the European Parliament, e.g. by way of participation in hearings.<sup>32</sup> In addition, a better involvement of the subnational level and of the Committee of the Regions helps to take better into account the experiences gained with the implementation of EU law.<sup>33</sup></p>	<p>offer both further traceability of the various steps in the legislative process, and the possibility to retrieve related documents. As the main target audience is the general public, the JLP would provide easy access to comprehensive information, in an understandable and user-friendly manner, with direct links to existing repositories run by the institutions.</p> <p>As regards the strengthening of the EP's right of inquiry, the EP's AFCO committee has adopted in October 2011 a report with a draft Regulation on the EP's right of inquiry, based on Article 226, third paragraph, TFEU, aiming to replace the current rules on the exercise of the EP's right of inquiry which date from 1995. However, due to fundamental differences of views with the EP, the Council has so far not been in a position to give its consent, as required by Article 226 TFEU.</p> <p>National, regional and local representatives, as well as social partners and organised civil society, are involved through various structures and cooperation mechanisms.</p>	
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<sup>29</sup> Discussion in WG based ECP2 Recommendation 34, NL National Panel, MPD (Final Kantar Report: *"Increased transparency and greater involvement of the citizens is supported"* in EU decision-making process is also supported

<sup>30</sup> Change WG 44A.

<sup>31</sup> WG discussion (presentation by National Parliaments and Committee of the Regions)

<sup>32</sup> Change WG 45C

<sup>33</sup> Change WG 46B