



Brussels, 27 February 2021

Mr. António Costa
Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic
Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU

Dear President in office,

We write to you as the presidents of the three main pro-European Groups in the European Parliament in order to express our worries regarding the proposed governance system for the Conference on the Future of Europe.

We accept that the Conference is to be jointly presided over by the Presidents of the three institutions. Such collective presidency will provide leadership at the highest level and ensure serious follow up of the Conference's work.

The role and competences of the Executive Board, on the other hand, are quite different. We support the proposal of the Executive Board taking decisions by consensus, with equal representation and equal weight in decision-making of the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission. But we should leave the members of the Board free to organise themselves in the way they see fit. They will do so consensually.

We therefore call on you to adjust your proposal and remove the reference to the co-chairing of the Executive Board. This would be in line with the spirit of the Joint Declaration, which has refrained from going into procedural and technical details of the Conference's organisation.

Our citizens find the institutional set up of our Union complex. With the Conference on the Future of Europe, we can show them we want things to be done differently.

As you know, the Conference of Presidents is set to assess the draft Joint Declaration next Thursday and we hope that it can be adjusted ahead of this meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Manfred Weber
President of the European People's Party Group

Iratxe García Pérez
President of the Socialists and Democrats Group

Dacian Cioloș
President of the Renew Europe Group