



The President

Ms Eva Kjer Hansen
Chair of the European Affairs Committee
Danish Parliament
Christiansborg
DK - 1240 Copenhagen

D 302078 07.02.2020

Dear Chair,
Dear Ms Kjer Hansen,

Thank you for your letter of 20 December 2019 relative to the contributions of the European Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament on the involvement of national parliaments in the Conference on the Future of Europe and on the way to engage with citizens in EU affairs, which you addressed to me in your capacity of Chair. I read it with great interest.

The Conference on the Future of Europe was particularly welcomed by the European Parliament, as the last decade has exposed the shortcomings of the EU governance in addressing the challenges we face efficiently as well as a lack of vision on a common future. This is now a timely opportunity to debate on the future of Europe with citizens, national parliaments and stakeholders in view of shaping the Union together.

In this regards, the issues that you raise in your proposals are important and of particular concern to the European Parliament. May I recall that in the previous legislature, the European Parliament adopted detailed positions on participation mechanisms for national parliaments in the European political process¹, as well as on transparency². In addition, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs will dedicate its next Interparliamentary Committee Meeting to "the working methods of Council", to be held on 28 April 2020, proving the importance that Parliament attaches to discussing such issues with national parliaments.

The contributions of the European Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament are very valuable ahead of the negotiations that will take place between the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council in view of adopting a Joint Declaration outlining the format and organisation of the Conference on the future of Europe.

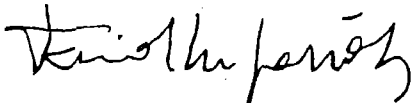
¹ European Parliament resolution of 19 April 2018 on the implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national parliaments, P8_TA(2018)0186, http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2018-0186_EN.html?redirect

² European Parliament resolution of 17 January 2019 on the Ombudsman's strategic inquiry OI/2/2017 on the transparency of legislative discussions in the preparatory bodies of the Council of the EU 2018/2096(INI), P8_TA(2019)0045, http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2019-0045_EN.html

You are certainly aware that the European Parliament adopted a resolution relative to its position on this Conference on 15 January 2020³. The Parliament stressed herein that the involvement of citizens, organised civil society and a range of stakeholders at European, national, regional and local level are a key element of the Conference. It particularly emphasised that national parliaments should be fully part of the Conference process where they would be represented in a balanced way, reflecting their respective diversity.

I look forward to further exchanges of views with national parliaments on these subjects to improve the democratic functioning of the Union and increase the Union's capacity to act. It is essential that we work closely towards achieving these objectives and I thank you for your commitment in that respect.

Yours sincerely,



David Maria SASSOLI

³ European Parliament resolution on 15 January 2020 on the European Parliament's position on the Conference on the Future of Europe, P9_TA-PROV(2020)0010, http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0010_EN.html