Committee on Constitutional Affairs

Summary of the outcome of the extraordinary meeting of 08-06-2020

The Conference on the Future of Europe and the role of the European Parliament
AFCO/9/01332

Exchange of views

The Committee Members held an exchange on the Conference on the Future of Europe, which will also feature as a subject next week on the agenda of the Plenary session in June. The adoption of a resolution, tabled by political groups, to wind up the debate in plenary is also foreseen.

In the debate in AFCO, members reiterated their call to Council to adopt their mandate for interinstitutional negotiations on the organisation of the Conference as soon as possible so that these can be concluded swiftly and the Conference can start in autumn.

Members underlined that meaningful citizen's participation - beyond citizens' dialogues - and concrete follow-up of the outcome of the Conference are essential, to live up to the expectations that citizens have from the Union to deliver, including in new areas such as health policy or defence, especially in the face of the recent and current crises and challenges that the Union faces. While not prejudging the topics for discussion and the outcome of the Conference (including possible Treaty changes), some members considered that Parliament could nevertheless outline their position on (institutional) topics ahead of the Conference. The need to involve national (and regional) parliaments was stressed by several speakers.

Some members took a more critical stance, warning against centralising powers in the Union or doubting the representativeness of citizens in the Conference, pointing to the role of MEPs as elected representatives of citizens.

Some underlined the need to focus on concrete delivery in concrete policy areas, doubting whether topics like Spitzenkandidaten and transnational lists would generate a lot of interest of citizens.