

# Motions and Declarations

Motion/Declaration number	4
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Name of the person introducing the Motion to the GA	Ms. Corlienke de Jong
Member party	Fryske Nasjonale Partij (FNP)
Title (of the Motion/Declaration)	The Conference on the Future of Europe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Having regard to the proposal by the President-Designate of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen of 16 July 2019 within the framework of the Political Guidelines for the Next European Commission 2019-2024: ‘A new push for European Democracy’;</li> <li>- Having regard to the European Council conclusions of 12 December 2019 on the general approach to the Conference on the Future of Europe;</li> <li>- Having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 15 January 2020 on the European Parliament’s position on the Conference on the Future of Europe;</li> <li>- Having regard to the communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council of 22 January 2020 on Shaping the Conference on the Future of Europe;</li> <li>- Having regard to the resolution by the Committee of the Regions of 12 February 2020 on the Conference on the Future of Europe;</li> <li>a) Whereas the European Union institutions are preparing for a Conference on the Future of Europe to address its current and future challenges: a process with a duration of two years, which should start preferably on Schuman Day, 9 May 2020 and be completed by the summer of 2022;</li> <li>b) Whereas there is an urgent need to address both what the Union should seek to achieve in terms of policy and how democratic processes and institutional matters could be enhanced;</li> <li>c) Whereas the European Union institutions agree that the Conference should be an occasion to closely involve EU citizens through a combination of participatory forms, the institutions still have to find consensus on its precise content, structure, scope and timing;</li> <li>d) Whereas all the European Union institutions envisage a broad consultation of citizens in the course of the process, and the Parliament, the Commission, and the Committee of the Regions emphasise that the participation of citizens in the Conference should be organised in such a way that the</li> </ul>	

diversity of our societies is fully represented;

- e) Whereas the role of regional and local representatives in the Conference on the Future of Europe has not yet been decided;

**the European Free Alliance:**

1. Welcomes the proposal from the European Union institutions for a Conference on the Future of Europe and looks forward to make its contribution to achieving tangible results;
2. Considers that the Conference offers an excellent opportunity to collect the opinions from citizens from rural as well as urban areas, from regional communities and minorities and from across the Union and use their input to enhance the policy and functioning of the European Union;
3. Emphasises that – taking account of the principle of subsidiarity – elected local and regional representatives across the Union should be involved in defining new Union policies and in bringing the Union and its citizens together;
4. Insists that a decentralised approach should be adopted so that also areas and populations beyond the European and national capitals will be involved; to that end, that the European Union institutions should work together with regional parliaments and municipal councils on organising elements of the Conference;
5. Calls for a stringent debate on the democratic functioning of the Union and the role of regional and local democracy, taking into account the political and institutional balance between all levels of governance;
6. Calls on the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council to include the elements and principles of this motion into the working programme of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

**Reasoning:**

At the moment of writing this motion (*24 February 2020*), the content, structure, scope and timing of the Conference on the Future of Europe – the new flagship-project of the European Union institutions – is still a work in progress. Before the start on Europe Day, 9 May 2020, the European Union institutions will adopt a Joint Declaration. By then, the main approach will be defined. However, we expect that there will be ample room for adjustments on content, venue and participants over the course of the two years that the Conference will last.

For the European Free Alliance and its Member Organisations, it is important that their voice and the voice of their voters is heard in the process of the Conference. Therefore we stress the importance of the participation of populations beyond the capitals and the involvement of representatives of regional parliaments and local councils in the Conference on the Future of Europe.