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“Our Goal in the Conference: To make EU governance transparent and accountable”

Meeting of the European Parliament’s Delegation to the Conference on the Future of Europe Plenary

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I think there is still time to take seriously the challenge to increase participation of people on the Platform. With 31.000 participants on the platform, the number is still very low, and depicts a lack of visibility of the platform. This needs to be addressed immediately, also by our individual efforts on the ground.

We also continue to see very few national media outlets taking interest in it, and thus our individual efforts supporting the official communication should be maximised.

On the citizen panels: I believe the experts could be selected with more care. I do not see any intrusion there but I have the impression that some of them see this exercise as one more webinar type meeting where they try to convince the participants of their knowledge of the topic, with, sometimes, impenetrable language.

The “pedagogical” aspect of the Conference, explaining Europe, should not be discounted. In order to affect a proper deliberation, citizens should get solid blocks to build their reflection on, not just scattered information on various issues presented at a lightning speed.

We see that the selected citizens are very engaged and feel honoured to be a part of the decision-making process. We should honour them by providing them with the base to start on the deliberation.

On setting up the Parliament’s profile on the plenary: I think we should, with the input of all interested political Groups, decide on some key issues to present to the Plenary as the Parliament's proposals for making the EU governance processes less cumbersome, more transparent, more accountable to citizens.

The Parliament, directly elected by the people of Europe, is the best situated institution to put on the table political solutions to institutional gridlocks that slow down the EU decision making capabilities.

On the Multilingual Platform the issue of unanimity came up as one of the barriers in reaching decisions. It was also accented on the very first citizen panel. I think that we, as the representation of the European citizens, could take up this issue as our centrepiece in the plenary. Other institutions would not touch it – certainly not the Council.

The initiative has to come up from us, as a legitimate carrier for such a proposal that would make a real change in the EU. It should be our signature proposal.

The EP delegation should carefully select the issues we want to put to the plenary and spend our trust capital on them in order to pass them.

I think that the issue of doing away with unanimity is such an issue. It is worthy of putting it on our priorities list.