

**Professor Danuta Hübner**

**„European Parliament as a primary force for the reform of the European Union”**

**Debate on the Conference on the Future of Europe and the role of the European Parliament**

**Meeting of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs**

**European Parliament, Brussels (online), 9 December 2021**

I think that we as European Parliament should use the current moment in the Conference process to provide a guarantee to the citizens and other participants that the Parliament is the primary force for the reform and change toward making the Union truly fit for the future. This is an opportunity to assert more strongly the Parliament's role as a cornerstone and a driving force.

It is the time for a more robust assertion of the Parliament's role. The role of the European Parliament must be seen in the context of the need for the CoFE to deliver. It is important that we focus on deliverables of the Conference starting now. By March we should have a major skeleton that would present recommendations from all the working groups. This could be the moment for an important resolution of the European Parliament.

This skeleton could be a kind of an explanatory statement of intentions on where Europe should go. We will see at that time whether this vision would require a change in our treaties or not. The Conference cannot only be a forum to exchange ideas. It needs to be solution oriented and we must focus now on the type of output that we will need to deliver.

The time for starting to think about the final product is now. And the EP should take the lead.