



A WORKING DOCUMENT WITH PROPOSALS

for the forum on EU institutional reforms with innovative ideas
within the frame of the „Practice solidarity and shape Europe“ project

Bratislava, 20-21 September 2018

1. The Treaty of Lisbon came into force almost a decade ago, in December 2009. In our view time has come to have a thorough analysis of the implementation of its provisions and have it modernised and streamlined in order to better respond to the quickly emerging new challenges EU faces today.
2. Our reform proposals intend to increase the democratic legitimacy of the EU institutions by promoting a direct dialogue with the public, with the citizens. They should be acting and systemically involved in the process leading to the reinforcement of the European project, to a new and stable EU serving its citizens.
3. The upcoming 2019 European Parliament election should and must be a decisive landmark in this direction when concerted efforts are needed to step up activities against the rise of nationalist, populist, xenophobic and anti-EU tendencies.
4. We fully endorse the ongoing revision of the European Citizens Initiative. If a proposal succeeds to collect one million signatures the Commission should be obliged to take the necessary legislative steps on the issue.
5. The instruments for an effective and permanent structured civil dialogue between the Commission and the representative bodies of civil society should be established and maintained. The current ad-hoc arrangements are not satisfactory.
6. The current concept and practice of European citizenship should be enhanced and broadened making it possible – among others – to EU citizens residing in an other member state to participate in national elections.
7. The potential of the recently launched European Solidarity Corps should be fully discovered and used. It is an effective new instrument to address and mobilise young people in such fields as natural disasters or socially marginalised groups.
8. We stand for the Europeanisation of the European Parliament. A concrete step in this direction would be the setting up of an European list eg. a certain number of MEPs are elected by citizens of all the Member States.
9. The same principle should apply to the European Economic and Social Committee, a civil society body with advisory function to the EU institutions. A certain number of EESC members should be elected by a representative circle of civil society umbrella organisations operating on European level.

10. Transparency is key in gaining public trust. In this regard the weakest point in the current institutional system is the Council. Bold steps are needed among others in the field of making systematically publicly available its working documents, agendas and minutes.
11. We are not in agreement with the proposal of Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the Commission that his position should merge with that of the European Council. The proposed super-president post would run against the principle of separation of powers.
12. A reformed European Union needs a larger budget. In our view contributions of Member States to the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-27 should be increased. In addition new sources of revenues eg. Common Consolidated Corporate Tax or a scheme to reduce plastic packaging should be introduced.
13. The above proposals together with others should be put on the agenda of the next European Convention. Citizens and their representative associations should play a proactive role in its preparations by organising an all-European citizens forum prior to the 2019 EP elections.
14. There are two open-ended questions where we would like to come to a conclusion during the Bratislava debates:
 - a) should we keep or abolish the current rotating 6-month Council presidency among the Member States?
 - b) the current system is that each Member State sends its representative, a Commissioner to Brussels to the College. Do we agree with the proposal to reduce the number of Commissioners in order to make the work of the College more efficient?

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Prepared by European House Budapest

<info@europeanhouse.hu>