



# Draft Programme

European Office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung  
COMECE – Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the EU

## Catholic Youth Convention – “Sharing our dreams on the Future of Europe”

Thursday, 2 June 2022

16.30 – 18.30 CET

Online Event via Zoom

---

The end of the Conference on the Future of Europe and the initiative of making 2022 ‘European Year of Youth’ constitute the ideal framework to strengthen dialogue with all European citizens and especially with young Europeans, to boost youth participation in discussions around politics, economy, environment, education and issues of importance for young generations.

Heavily affected by the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, young people showed impressive adaptability to the changes the health crisis brought with itself – although the consequences of isolation, lack of social contacts and the impossibility to make valuable experiences are still a current reality for many of them. The health crisis pointed to the need of ensuring valuable exchange between younger and older generations, so that all can come together and better understand each person’s and generation’s needs. The challenges and opportunities of the ecological transition, for instance, make it necessary to enter in dialogue with all citizens on matters of intergenerational justice and solidarity.

Besides the environmental challenge, however, a dialogue proves to be necessary to understand the origins of the European project, rediscovering the values underpinning European integration and how they can be interpreted in light of present challenges. Through the openness and digital proximity of today’s world, young people strive to engage in meaningful dialogue with peers beyond the EU borders. Although digitalisation enabled a certain easiness of exchange and the apparent cancellation of geographical barriers, human encounter is what young people seek, both with their peers living within the EU and those seeing the EU from behind the Schengen borders.

The complexity of the Covid-19 pandemic and its effects are better understood when dialogue and conversations actively take place. How do young Christians envision the European project, its values, and how can they contribute to it? How can they boost processes of meaningful dialogue with people outside of Europe and foster reconciliation in view of the European future of the region of South-East Europe? What are their recommendations for the future of Europe and their ideas for a more inclusive, sustainable and co-created European project? **The Catholic Youth Convention: Sharing our dreams on the Future of Europe on Thursday, 2 June 2022, 16.30 – 18.30 CET**, will be an opportunity for young people to discuss these and other questions with EU officials and peers from the EU and beyond – proposing ideas for the challenges of our time and their vision and wishes for the future of our continent.



**Draft Agenda Thursday, 2 June 2022**

**16.30 Welcoming Remarks**

**Fr. Manuel Barrios Prieto**  
COMECE General Secretary

**16.35 – 17.30 The Future of Christian Democracy**

**Isabel Benjumea (tbc)**  
Member of the European Parliament, Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

**Gunther Krichbaum (tbc)**  
Member of the German Bundestag, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee

**Moderation: Ronja Kemmer**  
Member of the German Bundestag, Chairwoman of the Committee for Digital Affairs

**Break (5')**

**17.35 Dialogue with Representatives of the Plenary of the Conference on the Future of Europe**

**Ivo Belet**  
Cabinet Expert, Cabinet of Vice-President Dubravka Šuica - Democracy and Demography, European Commission

**Guy Verhofstadt (tbc)**  
Member of the European Parliament, Committee on Constitutional Affairs

**Michaela Šojdrová (tbc)**  
Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education

**Moderation: Stefan Lunte**  
General Secretary of Justitia et Pax Europa

**18.30 End of event**



## Additional Information

### Session on the future of Christian democracy:

**Guiding questions:** What is the role of Christianity in the EU today? How can we as Christians make a meaningful contribution to the European project? What values and principles should accompany reforms in the political, social and economic spheres? How can Christians shape a more equitable, sustainable and just Europe for all?

### Dialogue with representatives of the Plenary of the Conference on the Future of Europe:

Youth delegates will present their ideas and proposals on the Future of Europe (from the June Convention) and the ideas from Session 1 and 2. This session will be open to everybody. Youth delegates will enter in dialogue with the guests on the issues discussed during the Convention.