

PRESS RELEASE: "European Solidarity: Controversially and democratically debated. From home." - Launch of the third round of Pulse of Europe's European HomeParliaments across Europe

The European HomeParliaments of Pulse of Europe are entering their third round - and are also becoming more European. As of today, all interested citizens can debate in private on various aspects of "European Solidarity". For the first time, Pulse of Europe is offering its civic participation format in various EU member states, including Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Portugal, Poland and Sweden. The results of these private debates are directly transmitted to political decision-makers in Brussels, who will promptly respond to the HomeParliaments' votes. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is among the political addressees in the current round.

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After a successful debut in the summer and autumn of 2018 and a further round on the occasion of the European elections in spring 2019, the pro-European citizens' movement Pulse of Europe is now holding its European HomeParliaments for the third time. Starting today and up until November 2, 2020, every citizen can again register to host such a private debate and participate in the project at home, in a café, in the park or in light of Corona by video call with family, friends and acquaintances. All you need is an interest in European politics, approximately two hours time and the pleasure of a lively debate and all the while knowing that your views will be heard in Brussels beyond the elections.

The special feature of this third round is, among other things, that Pulse of Europe now offers its civic participation format in various EU member states and in other languages besides German and English. For the first time, Europeans from Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Portugal, Poland and Sweden will participate in the political decision-making process on the future of Europe with their debates - and thus make the European HomeParliaments a unique project of European citizen participation.

The subject of the current round of European HomeParliaments is dominated by the need for European cohesion through numerous solidarity measures, which have only further increased through the Corona crisis. The activists of Pulse of Europe are very pleased that EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has agreed to support this third round of European House Parliaments with a contribution (text and video). Other political addressees of the results of the HomeParliament debates, and thus dialogue partners, are well-known Members of the European Parliament, including Manfred Weber (DE, EPP), Othmar Karas (AT, EPP), Gabriele Bischoff (DE, S&D), Pedro Marques (PT, S&D), Fabienne Keller (FR, Renew Europe), Ska Keller and Damian Boeselager (DE, Greens/EFA), Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield (FR, Greens/EFA) and Martin Schirdewan (DE, GUE/NGL)

The topic of "European Solidarity" will be discussed in more detail by the HomeParliamentarians on the basis of three specific aspects: 1) economic solidarity between

Member States in times of crisis, 2) social inequality between Member States and 3) the fight against global climate change.

"More than ever before, the future of the European Union will depend on its ability to prove itself, even in times of crisis such as these, as a strong community of solidarity as well as a guarantor of respect for fundamental European values," says Daniel Röder, founder of Pulse of Europe. "The third round of our European HomeParliaments should therefore promote a Europe-wide debate on various forms of European cohesion and thus create an awareness of the scope of solidarity measures, especially across national borders".

Pulse of Europe first implemented the European HomeParliaments in 2018 as an innovative model of "bottom-up" citizen participation. The model allows for any interested person to debate with his or her guests (ideally four to eight people), according to a schedule drawn up by Pulse of Europe, what policies the participants expect the EU to pursue in the future in a specific thematic field. The experience of the first two rounds of HomeParliaments, in which several thousand citizens have already taken part, has shown that it is important to put as concrete political issues as possible to the vote. Only on the basis of concrete questions can realistic discussions be held and a critical, differentiated formation of opinion be achieved. The current topics of the third round of HomeParliaments on the future of European Solidarity are again controversial and promise a lively exchange. The mixture of debate and subsequent vote makes the Pulse of Europe HomeParliaments a special instrument among the various existing models of citizen participation and consultation. The organisers of the Pulse of Europe European HomeParliaments attach particular importance to ensuring that the results of the debate do not disappear into a drawer. Therefore, this third round of the European HomeParliaments will be unique in that participants can expect concrete feedback from EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and other key political decision-makers in Brussels.

The European HomeParliaments of Pulse of Europe are supported by, among others, the democracy network Democracy International e.V., Cologne, as well as by the petition platform openPetition gGmbH, Berlin; the latter provides a technical infrastructure especially for the needs of the European HomeParliaments in relation to the registration of HomeParliamentarians, the retrieval of the discussion documents prepared by Pulse of Europe, as well as the upload and evaluation of the debate results. According to the organisers of Pulse of Europe, both cooperation partners will make a decisive contribution to increasing the reach and progressive Europeanisation of the entire project. The European HomeParliaments are financially supported by the Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, Bonn.

Registration as a host for a European HomeParliament in the third round is now possible via: www.homeparliaments.eu as well as www.pulseofeurope.eu/homeparliaments.

For an up-to-date list of all Pulse of Europe cities, their venues and times, as well as information on possible special actions, please consult the list of cities on <https://pulseofeurope.eu/de/poe-staedte/>.

Please also consult local press releases and announcements on social media channels such as <https://www.facebook.com/PulseofEurope/>.

For more information on Pulse of Europe, please visit:

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Questions? With pleasure!

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