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Written Statement on
the European HomeParliaments
by Pulse of Europe

September 21, 2020

Our Europe, that is more than 445 million citizens in 27 countries and 24 different languages. This enormous diversity is what makes the European Union so unique. Europe has a huge range of opportunities and possibilities, for everyone. But it is also a daily task for us all to ensure that our Union thrives. That it remains alive and well equipped to meet the challenges of the future. That we tackle climate change, that we take all 27 Member States into a European Digital Decade, that we strengthen democracy.

Because the European Union is what we make of it. In other words: the European Union will only remain successful if we develop it further together and if the citizens of Europe play an active role in shaping it.

I am, therefore, very pleased that Pulse of Europe is organising the third round of the European HomeParliaments for the first time across Europe and is inviting thousands of Europeans to debate about Europe. This is an important signal, especially in these times.

The past months have demanded a great deal from all of us. At the same time, we have rediscovered our unity in the crisis. The Commission's proposal to the European Council in July can justifiably be described as historic. NextGenerationEU – our €750 billion investment plan for a more digital, sustainable and stronger Europe.

The European Green Deal, our plan to become the world's first climate neutral continent by 2050, is also groundbreaking. The European Green Deal will become the new growth strategy of our economy with innumerable opportunities for science and research. In the future, we want to live, work and produce in such a way that we give more to nature

than we take from it. I very much hope that this new momentum will continue to spur Europe on. If we stick together, Europe can meet all of its challenges.

I, therefore, very much welcome your choice to place the cohesion in our European Union at the centre of the third round of the HomeParliaments.

We will shortly be launching, together with the European Parliament and the Council, a Conference on the Future of Europe.

We want to give the people of Europe the opportunity to play a decisive and active role in shaping our priorities. Initiatives like the HomeParliaments should contribute their ideas to the work of the Conference. And I would urge you all to reflect courageously and boldly on Europe's future.

I will follow the results of the HomeParliaments closely and will come back to you at the end of your discussion in November.

I am looking forward to it and am grateful for your enthusiasm. This is exactly what makes the European Union come alive.

Long live Europe!