

## PRESS RELEASE: Participants of the European HomeParliaments demand more European Solidarity in a dialogue with politicians from Brussels and Berlin

The third round of Pulse of Europe's European HomeParliaments ended with a clear call for more European Solidarity. For the first time, more than 1,200 citizens in 12 EU member states and across borders discussed, in both offline and online forums, various solidarity measures in the EU through this transnational citizen participation format. The presentation of the results of these private debates were attended by numerous politicians from Brussels and Berlin, including Commission President

Ursula von der Leyen, who commented personally on the results via various formats such as webinars or video messages. The publicly accessible debate results of the European HomeParliaments are soon to be incorporated into the Conference on the Future of Europe.

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN, March 26, 2021**

After a successful premiere in the summer of 2018 and a further round on the occasion of the European Elections in the spring of 2019, the pro-European citizens' movement Pulse of Europe once again called on citizens to participate in the shaping of European policy through its citizen participation project European HomeParliaments. On this occasion, the focus of the private debates, which could take place at home, in a café, in the park or, in true Corona fashion, via video call with friends and acquaintances was the question of **the future of European Solidarity**. In a total of **171 HomeParliaments**, more than **1,200 European citizens** from **Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Portugal, Spain and Bulgaria** discussed **economic solidarity between member states in times of crisis**, for example through compensation payments to particularly crisis-ridden countries, as well as the **fight against social inequality between member states** and the **fight against global climate change**. More than one-third of these meetings took place via videoconferencing. This was primarily due to the Corona pandemic, but it did make it possible for citizens from different EU member states to come together in an uncomplicated and enriching way, and thus for the first time to engage in a **genuine European citizens' dialogue**.

In a clear vote, the overwhelming majority of HomeParliamentarians supported the need for closer European cohesion through numerous solidarity measures. In the event of a crisis, the HomeParliamentarians backed mutual financial support with an average vote of 7.4 on a scale of 0 to 10, particularly on the grounds that this would strengthen the EU's ability to act internationally. At the same time, it is intended to promote necessary structural reforms in the countries concerned. In France, particular emphasis was placed on the fact that the emergency aid is intended to support local structures.

A differentiated picture emerged with regard to the question of whether the EU should invest more in social policy measures to counteract social inequality between member states. The participants argued in favor of this because it would strengthen cohesion in the EU; they argued against it because a common social policy could only fail due to the different social systems and cultural backgrounds. The Home

-Parliamentarians did agree, however, that environmental and climate protection must be a priority in

all EU investments.

At the beginning of the third round of the European HomeParliaments, more than 30 politicians from Brussels and Berlin declared their willingness to respond to the results of the debates, for example in the form of a personal video message, including [EU Commission President von der Leyen](#). In addition, at the invitation of Pulse of Europe, numerous members of the European Parliament met in a total of five webinars over the past two months directly with several hundred participants to discuss the results of the debates and the implications for themselves and their political work in Brussels and Berlin. Among the participants were [Manfred Weber \(GER, EPP\) and Othmar Karas \(AT, EPP\)](#), [Katarina Barley \(GER, S&D\) and Lukas Kohut \(PL, S&D\)](#), [Nicola Beer \(GER, Renew Europe\) and Fabienne Keller \(FR, Renew Europe\)](#), [Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield \(FR, Greens/EFA\) together with the member of the Bundestag Franziska Brantner](#) as well as [Martin Schirdewan and Helmut Scholz \(DE, GUE/NGL\)](#).

At the wish of Commission President von der Leyen, the results of the debates of the European HomeParliaments are to be included in the "Conference on the Future of Europe", which will finally start in May. With the European HomeParliaments, Pulse of Europe offers a tried and tested, Europe-wide format for genuine "bottom-up" citizen participation to coincide with the official opening of the Conference on May 9, 2021.

The European HomeParliaments were conceived by Pulse of Europe as an **innovative model of "bottom-up" citizen participation** in 2018. The mixture of debate and the subsequent vote make the European HomeParliaments a special instrument among the various existing citizen participation and consultation models. The organizers of Pulse of Europe attribute particular significance to the fact that the results are coupled to the concrete feedback of the political dialogue partners in Brussels and are thus ultimately incorporated into the political opinion-forming process in Brussels.

The fourth round of European HomeParliaments will start on **April 24, 2021**; among the topics to be discussed is **how much Europe is needed in times of crisis such as the Corona pandemic**. It is planned to organise the HomeParliaments in even more EU member states. In addition, a matching algorithm will make it possible to draw together particularly diverse rounds of talks. More information on the thematic focus and the political dialog partners involved in this round will follow shortly.

**All information on the European HomeParliaments, including the results of the third round on the future of European Solidarity and the respective feedback from the political dialogue partners in Brussels and Berlin, can be accessed at any time via [www.homeparliaments.eu](http://www.homeparliaments.eu) as well as [www.pulseofeurope.eu/homeparliaments](http://www.pulseofeurope.eu/homeparliaments).**

**Background:** A European HomeParliament is a private discussion group with four to eight participants. To participate, interested hosts register on a specially programmed platform and then invite friends or acquaintances to take part. Alternatively, the organizers of Pulse of Europe will put together colorful discussion groups via draw. In these rounds of talks, discussions are held for about two hours on an EU political topic, each covering three aspects. Pulse of Europe provides all the necessary materials, including simple moderation instructions, free of charge. The results of all European HomeParliaments are then uploaded to the platform by the hosts, evaluated by the organizers of Pulse of Europe and immediately sent to renowned EU politicians for their comments; they have already made a personal commitment to this before the start of a HomeParliament round.

**For more information on Pulse of Europe, please visit:**

[www.pulseofeurope.eu](http://www.pulseofeurope.eu)

[www.facebook.com/pulseofeurope](http://www.facebook.com/pulseofeurope)  
[www.instagram.com/pulseofeurope](http://www.instagram.com/pulseofeurope)  
[www.twitter.com/pulseofeurope](http://www.twitter.com/pulseofeurope)

**Questions? With pleasure!**

**Stephanie Hartung**

Member of the Board/Press

Spokesperson Mobile: +49 (0)172  
8612509

Email: [presse@pulseofeurope.eu](mailto:presse@pulseofeurope.eu)

**Pulse of Europe e.V.**

Wolfsgangstraße 63

60322 Frankfurt am Main/Germany