

# EUROPEAN HOME PARLIAMENTS



## PRESS RELEASE: "How much Europe is needed in times of crisis?" - Pulse of Europe's European HomeParliaments proceed with their fourth round despite the pandemic and make it the topic instead

The European HomeParliaments (EHP) of Pulse of Europe are entering their fourth round despite the ongoing Corona pandemic – and are consistently continuing their path towards more Europeanisation. As of today, all interested citizens can discuss in a private EHP forum the current question of whether the EU should represent European interests more decisively in future pandemic crises. For the first time, a newly developed matching process offers the possibility of bringing together interested citizens who do not know each other, especially across borders, into an EHP. This current round is again supported by numerous EU politicians in their capacity as political dialogue partners, including Manfred Weber (DE, EPP), Othmar Karas (AT, EPP), Katarina Barley (DE, S&D), Łukas Kohut (PL, S&D), Pedro Marques (PT, S&D), Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield (FR, Greens/EFA), Franziska Brantner (DE, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen), Nicola Beer (DE, Renew Europe), Martin Schirdewan and Helmut Scholz (DE, GUE/NGL).

FRANKFURT AM MAIN, April 27, 2021

For the fourth time, the **pro-European citizens' movement Pulse of Europe** is organising its **European HomeParliaments (EHP)**. As of **last Saturday, April 24, 2021**, and **through June 6, 2021**, all interested citizens can register as hosts of such a private political debate and take part in this project by holding a meeting in their own home, in a café, in the park or via video call with family, friends and acquaintances. All you need is an interest in European politics, about two hours of your time, and the fun of a lively discussion, in the certainty that your opinion will be heard in Brussels, even beyond the elections.



One of the special features of this fourth round is that, thanks to a **matching process**, Pulse of Europe makes it possible to offer its civic participation format to individual citizens who do not yet know each other and are nevertheless interested in participating in an EHP. Citizens are brought together by the organisers of Pulse of Europe, irrespective of their age, social background or political views. This ensures a **high degree of diversity** in the EHP debates and can bring citizens closer together in an EHP, especially across borders throughout Europe. Pulse of Europe is, thus, consistently pursuing its course

towards

**more Europeanisation** of its citizen participation format, which is **offered in more than half of all EU member states** and also is available in **English, French, Italian, Portuguese and Polish in addition to German**. These measures make the European HomeParliaments a unique project of European citizen participation.

The fourth round of the European HomeParliament debates will **focus on the current pandemic situation** and will examine the possible consequences that should be drawn at the European level from the events and experiences of the past few months in order to ensure that the EU is adequately prepared to deal with future pandemics. The all-volunteer activists of Pulse of Europe are very pleased that the

addressees of the results of the HomeParliament debates and, thus, the political dialogue partners are once again numerous and renowned Members of the European Parliament, including: **Manfred Weber (DE, EPP), Othmar Karas (AT, EPP), Katarina Barley (DE, S&D), Łukasz Kohut (PL, S&D), Pedro Marques (PT, S&D), Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield (FR, Greens/EFA), Franziska Brantner (DE, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen), Nicola Beer (DE, Renew Europe), Martin Schirdewan and Helmut Scholz (DE, GUE/NGL)**.

All current information on the European HomeParliaments can be found here:

<https://homeparliaments.eu/>.

The topic "EU in the pandemic" will be discussed in more detail by the HomeParliamentarians on the basis of three concrete aspects: **1) Should vaccines and necessary medical products be produced entirely in the EU in the future in order to ensure the supply of the EU population? 2) Should scarce medical products and medicines only be allowed to be exported from the EU once European citizens have been supplied? and finally 3) Should the EU enable its citizens to move and travel freely throughout the EU after vaccination or proven immunity via an EU-wide vaccination passport?**

The official kick-off of the fourth round of EHP was a Europe-wide citizens' dialogue last Saturday, April 24, 2021. Citizens from eleven EU member states participated. They first discussed in country-specific HomeParliaments, followed by a moderated, cross-national online-discussion on how the EU should deal with the pandemic. Different and common goals between countries were highlighted. Part of the event was **Jutta Paulus (DE, Greens/EFA), health expert from the European Parliament**.

The European HomeParliaments were held by Pulse of Europe for the first time in 2018 as an **innovative model of "bottom-up" citizen participation**. With each round, every interested person can debate with his or her guests (ideally four to eight people) according to a format worked out by Pulse of Europe, and the participants are allowed to articulate which policies they expect from the EU in the future for the topic at hand. The experience of the first three HomeParliament rounds, 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 succeed.

The particularly topical issues of this fourth EHP round are again controversial and promise a lively exchange. The mixture of debate and the subsequent vote makes the European HomeParliaments of Pulse of Europe a special instrument among the various existing models of citizen participation and consultation. The EHP organisers attach particular importance to ensuring that the results of the debates do not disappear into a drawer afterwards. Therefore, this fourth EHP round of the European HomeParliaments will of course also be characterised in a special way by the fact that the participants can expect **concrete feedback from key political decision-makers in Brussels**.

In addition, the organisers of the European HomeParliaments by Pulse of Europe are very specifically prepared **to directly incorporate the EHP debate results of the fourth and previous rounds into the**

**"Conference on the Future of Europe", officially starting on May 9, 2021**

**([https://futureu.europa.eu/profiles/pulse\\_of\\_europe\\_e\\_v/activity?locale=de](https://futureu.europa.eu/profiles/pulse_of_europe_e_v/activity?locale=de)).**

According to Pulse of Europe, the success of this conference will depend very much on its proximity to citizens and the achievement of concrete and practicable results such as they can already be delivered by the European HomeParliaments.

The European HomeParliaments of Pulse of Europe will again be supported by the democracy network **Democracy International e.V., Cologne**, as well as by the petition platform **openPetition gGmbH, Berlin**; the latter provides a technical infrastructure for the registration of the HomeParliamentarians, the retrieval of the discussion documents prepared by Pulse of Europe as well as the upload and evaluation of the debate results, and also enables the implementation of Corona-compatible video HomeParliaments. 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**.

**Registrations as hosts for a European HomeParliament in the fourth round are now possible via: [www.homeparliaments.eu](http://www.homeparliaments.eu) as well as via [www.pulseofeurope.eu/homeparliaments](http://www.pulseofeurope.eu/homeparliaments).**

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

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

[www.facebook.com/pulseofeurope](https://www.facebook.com/pulseofeurope)

[www.instagram.com/pulseofeurope](https://www.instagram.com/pulseofeurope)

[www.twitter.com/pulseofeurope](https://www.twitter.com/pulseofeurope)

**Any questions? Welcome!**

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**Pulse of Europe** is a pro-European citizens' movement that was founded in November 2016 in Frankfurt am Main and is currently active in around 100 cities in more than 10 countries. Our goal is to make the European idea constantly visible and audible - through various actions such as public rallies, other events and campaigns, and especially through the European HomeParliaments. We campaign for the preservation of a united and democratic Europe and, thus, oppose the growing right-wing populist and nationalist tendencies in Europe. Pulse of Europe is independent, non-partisan, non-denominational and financed exclusively by private donations.