



Conference
on the **Future**
of **Europe**

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European Citizens' Panel 2 : "European
democracy / Values and rights, rule of law,
security"

Recommendations

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RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE PANEL (TO BE TAKEN FORWARD TO THE PLENARY)

Stream 1 Ensuring rights and non-discrimination

Substream 1.1 Non-discrimination / Substream 1.2 Gender equality

1. "We recommend that the EU provides criteria on anti-discrimination in the labour market (quotas for youth, elders, women, minorities). If companies fulfil the criteria, they get subsidies or tax breaks".

We recommend enhancing employee's awareness about:

- **supranational and national institutions (e.g. trade unions).**
- **mechanisms which ensure companies respect existing rules on non-discrimination in the workplace.**
- **qualification programmes for social groups that suffer discrimination in the job market (youth, elders, women, minorities).**

We recommend the adoption of a two-stage EU law. First, provide subsidies to hire employees from certain categories susceptible to discrimination. Second, the law should oblige employers to employ such groups for a minimum period."

This is because the EU is responsible for maintaining a balance between free market interests and the protection of vulnerable categories, which should be legally safeguarded. Heterogeneous groups are desirable for companies as they offer diverse qualifications. Subsidies are an additional incentive to be provided to companies.

2. "We recommend the EU creates an incentive programme that facilitates the creation of affordable kindergartens and playgrounds in big and small companies. Shared facilities are also a viable option for smaller firms to get the subsidy.

We recommend the EU forces companies to create kindergartens in a manner proportional to the number of employees."

We recommend this because uniting family life and professional life improves job performances, reduces unemployment, and brings parents, especially women, in a situation that enables them to continue their career. Stressing the social dimension, the proposed solution guarantees the safety of the children and reduces parental anxieties.

Substream 1.3 Protecting human rights and the rights of nature and animals

3. "We recommend to safeguard animals' wellbeing and sustainability in farming by amending directive 98/58 EC *concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes*. More detailed minimum criteria must be defined. It should be specific, measurable, and time bound. The minimum criteria should be set in a way that leads to higher animal wellbeing standards and at the same time enables a transition towards a climate and environmental sustainability and ecological agriculture".

We, as citizens, believe that it is important to have stronger minimum standards to be harmonized within the EU regarding animal farming. We are aware that the transition might pose problems in some agricultural sectors that benefit from subsidies, and for those are in transition to ecological and sustainable farming. However we find it very important to ensure that this transition happens.

4. "We recommend to promote more environment and climate-friendly agriculture in Europe and world-wide by taxing all negative emissions, pesticides and extreme use of water, etc... , based on their environmental burden. Custom duties on all agricultural goods that are imported into the EU must eliminate competitive advantages of third countries without the same standards as the EU. To promote animal-friendly agriculture, we recommend that emissions caused by long range transport of animals should be taxed".

By establishing such a system we believe it is possible to support the transition towards a climate and environmental-friendly agriculture.

5. "In the actual context of many fake news, we recommend to promote more independent, objective and balanced media coverage by: 1. Developing at EU level a minimum standards directive for media independence. 2. Promoting at EU level the development of media competences for every citizen".

The EU must produce a directive to ensure the independence of the media and freedom of speech.

6. "We recommend to stop subsidising agricultural mass-production if it does not lead to a transition towards a climate, environmentally sustainable and ecological agriculture. Instead we recommend to redirect the subsidies to support a sustainable transition".

Instead of subsidising the agricultural sector of mass farming, the subsidies should be redirected to farms that are in transition to comply with the new minimum standards for animal welfare.

Substream 1.4 Right to privacy

7. "We recommend that entities that process personal data shall be licensed at EU level. These entities shall also be subject to independent, external annual data protection audit. These entities shall be punished for data protection violations proportionally to their annual turnover in a stricter way than under the current regulation. The license should be lifted after two consecutive violations, and immediately after a serious violation".

We recommend all this because current regulations (GDPR) are not sufficient and entities need to be better monitored and sanctioned to make sure they do not violate data protection and the right to privacy.

8. "We recommend strengthening the EU competence in: 1) data protection education, 2) data protection raising awareness and 3) protecting personal data of minors. We recommend providing clearer and stricter rules about processing data of minors in the GDPR, including consent rules, age verification and control by legal guardians. We also recommend to introduce in the GDPR a special category for sensitive minors' data (e.g. criminal record, health information, nudity) so that minors are protected from any form of abuse and discrimination".

This recommendation is needed because minors are especially vulnerable to data protection and privacy violations and currently there is no sufficient data protection awareness among the general population, especially minors, teachers and legal guardians. They all need to learn how to use online and offline data related services and how to protect childrens' privacy rights. Moreover, legal guardians often may consent to the processing of childrens' data without

being fully aware or informed and children may fake parental consent. Last but not least, this recommendation is needed because a proper EU-wide data protection awareness campaign targeted specifically to minors, legal guardians and teachers does not exist, despite its crucial importance.

9. "We recommend introducing standardized privacy policies and easily understandable, concise and user-friendly consent forms that clearly indicate what data processing is strictly necessary and what is optional. We recommend that removing consent should be easy, fast and permanent. We recommend forbidding entities to limit their services more than necessary if there is no consent to optional data processing".

We recommend this because current EU rules are not precise enough, withdrawal from consent is lengthy, temporary and complex, and because entities do not have interest in offering their services to citizens who reclaim their data protection rights.

Stream 2: Protecting democracy and the rule of law

Substream 2.1 Protecting rule of law

10. "We recommend that the conditionality regulation (2020/2092, adopted on 16 December 2020) is amended so that it applies to all breaches of the rule of law rather than only to breaches affecting the EU budget".

The conditionality regulation allows for the suspension of EU funds to Member States breaching the rule of law. However, under the current formulation it only applies to breaches that affect, or risk affecting, the EU budget. Furthermore, the current phrasing of the conditionality regulation is self-protective of the EU's budget and of the EU's institutions rather than the citizens of the Member States concerned. Therefore, we recommend changing the current text of the regulation so that it covers all violations of the rule of law.

11. "We recommend that the EU organises annual conferences on the rule of law following the publication of the annual Rule of Law Report (the Commission's mechanism for monitoring compliance with the rule of law by the Member States). Member States should be obligated to send socially

diverse national delegations to the conference that include both citizens and civil servants”.

This conference would foster dialogue among EU citizens on rule of law issues as well as dialogue between citizens and experts drafting the annual Rule of Law Reports. We believe that in an atmosphere of mutual appreciation and sharing the participants can take best practices and ideas back to their home countries. Furthermore, the conference would bring awareness and understanding to the principle of the rule of law and to the findings and process behind the annual Rule of Law Report. It would also capture the attention of the media, as well as allow citizens to share their experiences and compare them against the findings in the Report.

Substream 2.2 Protecting and strengthening democracy / Substream 2.4 Media and disinformation

12. “We recommend that the EU enforces its competition rules in the media sector more strictly to ensure that media pluralism is protected in all Member States. The EU should prevent large media monopolies and political appointment processes for media outlet boards. We also recommend that the upcoming EU Media Freedom act entails rules on preventing politicians from owning media outlets or having a strong influence on their content”.

We recommend this because enforcing EU competition rules fosters a pluralist media landscape where citizens have a choice. Since the Commission is currently developing a law (Media Freedom Act) for the integrity of the EU media market, this law should also reflect that media outlets should not be owned or influenced by politicians.

Substream 2.3 Security

13. “We recommend the EU institutions to play a stronger role with all the tools at their disposal, including national centers for cybersecurity and the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA), to protect individuals, organizations and institutions against new threats coming from cybersecurity breaches and the use of Artificial intelligence for criminal purposes. We further recommend that the directives coming from Europe and its agencies are correctly implemented and disseminated in all Member States”.

We recommend this because citizens feel helpless and are not aware of what is

done by the European Union to combat these threats. We recommend this because these threats are a serious national and European security concern. We recommend this because Europe should be a true innovator in this field.

14. "We recommend that, in its relationship with external countries, the European Union should firstly strengthen common democratic values in its borders. We recommend that only after achieving this, the European Union can be an ambassador of our democratic model in the countries that are ready and willing to implement it, through diplomacy and dialogue".

We recommend this because we have to look inwards before looking outwards. Because Europe can and should support Member States to strengthen their democracies. Because it is also by leading by example and supporting external countries' efforts towards democracy that we protect ourselves.

Stream 3: Reforming the EU

Substream 3.1 Institutional reform

15. "We recommend changing the names of EU institutions to clarify their functions. For example, the Council of the European Union could be called the Senate of the European Union. The European Commission could be called the Executive Commission of the European Union".

We recommend this because it is currently hard for citizens to understand the roles and functions of each institution of the European Union. Their names do not reflect their functions. Citizens cannot be expected to distinguish the Council of the European Union, the European Council and the Council of Europe. It is important to avoid overlap.

16. "We recommend adopting an election law for the European Parliament that harmonizes electoral conditions (voting age, election date, requirements for electoral districts, candidates, political parties and their financing). European citizens should have the right to vote for different European Union level parties that each consist of candidates from multiple Member States. During a sufficient transition period, citizens could still vote for both national and transnational parties".

We recommend this because the European Union needs to build a sense of unity, which could be achieved by a truly unified election of the European Parliament. This common election will hold accountable the Members of the European Parliament and to focus the election campaign on shared European topics.

Substream 3.2 Decision-making

17. "We recommend to create an online platform where citizens can find and request fact-checked information. The platform should be clearly associated with EU institutions, should be structured by topics and should be easily accessible (e.g., including a telephone hotline). Citizens should be able to ask critical questions to experts (e.g., academics, journalists) and get factual answers with sources".

Free access to factual information is of highest value for our society, so as citizens are well informed and protected against fake news and disinformation. We need a credible and independent source of information that is not influenced by political, economic and national interests. Moreover, the platform can establish a bridge (i.e., a direct relationship) between citizens and the EU.

18. "We recommend that there should be an EU-wide referendum in exceptional cases on extremely important matters to all European citizens. The referendum should be triggered by the European Parliament and should be legally binding".

There should be more direct influence of EU citizens on important decisions on EU-wide matters. However, referendums should only be held in exceptional circumstances because the costs are too high to hold them regularly. We are aware that this recommendation might require a treaty change and the adaptation of national constitutions.

19. "We recommend creating a multifunctional digital platform where citizens can vote in online elections and polls. Citizens should be able to give their reasoning behind their vote on important issues and legislative proposals coming from European institutions. The platform should be secure, widely accessible and highly visible to each and every citizen".

The objective of this platform is to increase participation in European politics and facilitate citizens' access to consultation and voting processes. Existing tools

and processes are not visible enough, and this is why we need a new integrated tool for these different functions. More participation leads to better decisions, more trust among European citizens, and to a better functioning of the European Union overall.

20. "We recommend that the voting systems in the EU institutions should be reassessed focusing on the issue of unanimous voting. Voting 'weight' should be calculated fairly, so that small countries' interests are protected".

Unanimous voting poses a significant challenge to decision making in the EU. The large number of member states makes it very difficult to reach agreement. If necessary, European treaties should change to address the issue of unanimity.

Substream 3.3 Closer integration

21. "We recommend the EU to make public investments which lead to the creation of appropriate jobs and to the improvement and harmonisation of quality of life across the EU, between Member States, and within Member States (i.e. at the regional level). There is a need to ensure supervision, transparency and effective communication towards citizens in the implementation of public investments and to allow citizens to track the entire process of investment. Investments into quality of life include education, health, housing, physical infrastructures, care for the elderly and people with disabilities, taking into account the needs of every Member State. Additional investments should strive to establish a good balance between appropriate work and personal life in order to allow a healthy lifestyle".

We recommend this because harmonising the level of life across the EU will improve economic progress across the EU, which will lead towards a unified EU. This is a fundamental indicator towards further integration of the EU. Although some of these mechanisms are already in place, we feel there is still room for further improvement.

22. "We recommend establishing a common basis, according to a set of economic indicators and indicators on quality of life, for all Member States, with the same opportunities and with everyone being at the same level to reach a common economic structure. It is important that the establishment of a common basis follows a clear and realistic timeline set by institutions at the recommendation of experts. Experts should also be consulted on how such a common economic structure should look like. It is also important that

indicators defining the common basis are further defined with help of experts".

We recommend this because if we have a just EU, we will have a more united Europe. To be just, we need to offer equal opportunities and a common basis to all of the EU. A common economic structure can only be reached once a common basis is established.

23. "We recommend taxing big corporations and income from big corporations to contribute to public investments, and to use the taxation to invest into education and development of each country (R&D, scholarships - Erasmus etc.). It is also important to focus on eliminating the existence of tax havens in the EU".

We recommend this because it will help to prevent tax evasion and creation of tax havens and to help with compliance of legislation.

Stream 4: Building European identity

Substream 4.1 Education on democracy

24. "We recommend that education on democracy in the European Union should strive to improve and achieve a minimum standard of knowledge across all Member States. This education should include, but not be confined to, democratic processes and general information on the EU which should be taught in all EU Member States. This education should be further enriched by a set of differing concepts teaching the democratic process, which should be engaging and age appropriate".

This recommendation and the reasons which justify it are important because, if implemented, it will lead towards a more harmonious and democratic life in the European Union. The justifications are as follows: young people would be educated on democratic processes; this education could limit populism and disinformation in public debate; lead to less discrimination; and finally educate and involve citizens in democracy beyond just their duty to vote.

25. "We recommend that existing and emerging translation technologies such as artificial intelligence are further developed, improved and made more accessible so as to reduce language barriers and strengthen common identity

and democracy in the European Union".

This recommendation and the reasons which justify it are important because, if implemented, it will help to build a common European identity by improving communication between citizens of all Member States.

26. "We recommend that verifiable information be made easily accessible, in understandable terms, to citizens via a mobile device application in order to improve transparency, public deliberation and democracy. This app could disseminate information regarding, for example, legislation, discussions within the EU, treaty changes etc".

This recommendation and the reasons which justify it are important because, if implemented, it will facilitate communication in terms of more informed deliberation between citizens of the respective Member States, via an app which could have many different functions. This app should be designed to be relevant to all, as well as to stimulate further curiosity and make technical information more accessible and engaging. The app should be understood as a supplementary source, which disseminates information officially verified directly by the EU to improve trust, transparency in public debate and to help to build a common European identity.

Substream 4.2 European values and identity

27. "We recommend that the EU creates a special fund for online and offline interactions (ie. exchanges programmes, panels, meetings) of both short and longer duration between EU citizens, in order to strengthen the European identity. The participants should be representative of the society from within EU that would include targeted groups based on various criteria, ie. demographic, socio-economic and occupation criteria. The goals of this fund need to be clearly specified in order to stimulate the European identity and the fund needs to be evaluated on a regular basis".

We recommend this because these kinds of interactions enable citizens to share ideas, and longer exchanges enable them to understand the different cultures and to share experiences, including professional practices. An EU fund is needed because it is important that everyone can participate, including those who generally do not participate.

28. "We recommend that the EU invests in countering disinformation swiftly,

by supporting existing organisations and initiatives, such as the Code of Practice on Disinformation and the European Digital Media Observatory, and similar initiatives in the Member States. The counter-measures could include fact-checking, creating awareness about disinformation, providing easily accessible statistics, appropriately sanctioning those who spread disinformation based on a legal framework, and tackling the sources of disinformation”.

This recommendation is important because misinformation and disinformation, coming from within and outside of the EU, create conflicts among EU citizens, polarise the society, put democracy at risk and damage the economy. Given the complexity of the topic, significant human and financial resources are needed.

29. “We recommend 1) to increase the frequency of online and offline interactions between the EU and its citizens (ie. by asking citizens directly about EU matters and by creating an user-friendly platform to ensure that every citizen can interact with EU institutions and EU officials), and 2) in order to ensure that citizens can participate in the EU policy-making process, to voice their opinions and to get feedbacks, we recommend to create a charter or a code of conduct or guidelines for EU officials. Different means of interactions should exist so that every citizen can participate”.

We recommend this because several means to reach EU institutions exist (online platforms, representatives bodies), but they are not known, not effective and not transparent. There are huge differences in accessibility between countries. More frequent and better quality interactions will lead to a sense of ownership of EU citizenship.

30. “We recommend that European identity and values (ie. rule of law, democracy and solidarity) should receive a special place within the migrants' integration process. Possible measures could include creating programmes or supporting already existing (local) programmes, to encourage social interactions between migrants and EU citizens or involving companies in the programmes supporting the integration of migrants. At the same time, similar programmes should be initiated in order to create awareness among EU citizens about migration-related issues”.

This recommendation is important because social interaction programmes can support migrants in their new life and enable non-migrants to have insight in

the daily life of migrants. If migrants live in ghettos, there is no possibility to integrate them into the society of the country and of the EU. A common policy is needed because once migrants enter EU territory, they can go to every country within the EU. Local initiatives should be supported because local governments will use the funds more effectively in comparison to national level.

Substream 4.3 Information about EU

31. "We recommend that the EU provides more information and news to European citizens. It should use any means that are necessary while respecting freedom and independence of the media. It should provide media outlets with resources as well as a broad and reliable information about EU activities and policies. The EU should guarantee that the information is broadcasted evenly across all Member States by National and European media and should ensure that Member States encourage public broadcasters and public news agencies to cover European affairs".

We recommend this because based on our personal experience and based on the data from Eurobarometer, the majority of European citizens are informed through the traditional media (press, radio and television) and the information currently offered in these channels about the EU is very scarce. The media, particularly the public, have a public service function, so reporting on EU issues that affect the European population is essential and indispensable to fulfill that function. We recommend that the information issued in the different Member States about the EU be the same in order to promote integration and avoid different information on different issues in each country. Using the already existing media channels is more feasible, and less expensive than creating a new channel and achieves the same outcome. The pre-existing channels also have the advantage that they are already known by citizens. No citizen should need to choose between different channels to be able to access different (national or european) content.

32. "We recommend the EU to create and advertise multilingual online forums and offline meetings where citizens can launch discussions with EU representatives, no matter the topic and no matter the geographical scope of the issue raised. Those online forums and offline meetings should have a defined short-term time limit in which responses to the questions are received. All the information about these spaces should be centralized in an integrated official website with different features; such as a frequently asked questions space, the possibility to share ideas, proposals or concerns with

other citizens and with a mechanism to identify the most supported ones. In any case, access to it should be easy and a non-bureaucratic language should be used".

We recommend this because it will create a direct channel between European citizens and European representatives to talk and engage together, giving the citizens an easy access to information about the EU and making them more aware of the existing information. It will create a more transparent and open EU and will help citizens to share their problems and thoughts, receive answers and policy solutions and allow them to engage and share perspectives and experiences with other citizens.

33. "We recommend the EU institutions and representatives to use a more accessible language *and avoid using bureaucratic terms in their communications while, at the same time, maintaining the quality and expertise of the given information.* The EU should also adapt the information it provides to citizens with different communication channels and audience profiles (e.g. newspapers, television, social media). The EU should make a special effort to adapt communication to digital media in order to increase its outreach capacity to young people".

We recommend this because having understandable information will allow the EU to reach more European citizens and not only the engaged ones. By having specific new and modern tools to target specific audiences, citizens will better understand EU activities and policies, particularly the young people who are not feeling close or attached to the EU.

Stream 5: Strengthening citizen participation

Substream 5.1 Citizen participation

34. "We recommend that independent citizen observers should be present during all EU decision making processes. There should be a forum or permanent body of citizens representatives in order to carry out the function of broadcasting relevant and important information to all EU citizens as defined EU citizens. Those citizens would engage with all other European citizens in the spirit of top-down / bottom-up connection, which would further develop the dialogue between citizens and the institutions of the EU".

Because it is obvious that citizens deserve to be kept informed about any and all issues, and to make sure that politicians cannot not hide certain issues from citizens that they would rather they did not know. This would bridge the divide between citizens and elected representatives by establishing new avenues of trust.

35. "We recommend that the EU reopens the discussion about the constitution of Europe with a view to creating a constitution informed by the citizens of the EU. Citizens should be able to vote in the creation of such a constitution. This constitution in order to avoid conflict with the member states should prioritize the inclusion of human rights and democracy values. The creation of such a constitution should consider previous efforts that never materialized to a constitution".

Because this constitution would engage young people with politics at the EU level and counteract increasing forces of nationalism. Because it would provide a common definition of what is meant by democracy in Europe, and make sure that this is implemented in an equal way amongst all member states. Because the EU has shared values regarding democracy and human rights. Because this would enable citizens to be included in the decision making process, and allow citizens to identify more as being from the EU - having participated in the process.

36. "We recommend that politicians are more responsible in representing the citizens that they are elected to represent. Young people in particular are specially alienated from politics and are not taken seriously whenever they are included. But alienation is a universal issue and people of all ages should be engaged more than what they currently are".

Because the definition of what democracy is needs to be refreshed. We need to remind ourselves what democracy really is. Democracy is about representing the people (EU citizens). Because young people are fed up and disillusioned with politicians who they view as elites who do not share their views. That is why people should be included more than they currently are in novel and engaging ways. The education system, then social media, and all other forms of media could carry out this role throughout the lifecycle and in all languages.

Substream 5.2 Citizen participation

37. "We recommend that the EU should be closer to citizens in a more assertive way, which means involving the Member States in the promotion of citizens' participation in the EU. The EU should promote the use of the mechanisms of citizens' participation, by developing marketing and publicity campaigns. The national and local governments should be obliged to be involved in this process. The EU should guarantee the effectiveness of participative democracy platforms".

We recommend this because the platform that already exists needs to be made stronger and efficient: there needs to be more feedback to the EU from the citizens and vice versa. There is not enough debate within the EU, both between the citizens and governments. Because the citizens do not engage in submitting petitions either because they do not know that the process exists or they do not believe in the success of such a petition.

38. "We recommend that the EU creates and implements programmes for schools about what is being done in the EU in terms of the existing mechanisms of participation. These programmes should be included in the school curricula about European citizenship and ethics with content adequate to the age. There should also be programmes for adults. There should be lifelong learning programmes available to citizens to further their knowledge about the possibilities of EU citizen participation".

We recommend this, because it is important for the future of our children. The citizens want to know how to express their voice. It is important that they know the exact mechanisms and how they can be used, so that their voice is heard by the EU. It is important for the equal inclusion of all European citizens. As European citizens, we need to know how to use our rights. By virtue of being European citizens, we are entitled to this knowledge.

Substream 5.3 Citizen participation

39. "We recommend that the European Union holds Citizen's Assemblies. We strongly recommend that they are developed through a legally binding and compulsory law or regulation. The citizens' assemblies should be held every 12-18 months. Participation of the citizens should not be mandatory but incentivised, while organised on the basis of limited mandates. Participants

must be selected randomly, with representativity criteria, also not representing any organisation of any kind, nor being called to participate because of their professional role when being assembly members. If needed, there will be support of experts so that assembly members have enough information for deliberation. Decision-making will be in the hands of citizens. The EU must ensure the commitment of politicians to citizens' decisions taken in Citizens' Assemblies. In case citizens' proposals are ignored or explicitly rejected, EU institutions must be accountable for it, justifying the reasons why this decision was made".

We recommend the implementation of Citizens' Assemblies because we want that citizens feel closer to EU institutions and that they contribute directly to decision-making hand to hand with politicians, increasing the feeling of belonging and direct efficacy. Furthermore, we want political parties and their electoral programs to be accountable to citizens.

Annex: OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WERE CONSIDERED BY THE PANEL AND NOT ADOPTED

Stream 1 Ensuring rights and non-discrimination

Substream 1.1 Non-discrimination / Substream 1.2 Gender equality

"We recommend the EU to actively include minorities in policy-making regarding key aspects of state institutions (e.g. police and NGOs). We recommend the EU should establish an advisory board, directly elected by minorities. The composition should be predominately by minority representatives with NGOs also present. It should have a formative role in training civil servants to care for the needs of minorities. This body should have a veto right on minority issues".

We recommend this because the voices of minorities are not heard enough. They should speak on their own behalf, self-determined and at a professional level which is why we combined representation by voting and expertise.

Stream 2: Protecting democracy and the rule of law

Substream 2.2 Protecting and strengthening democracy / Substream 2.4 Media and disinformation

"We recommend establishing an agency for monitoring audiovisual media, print and digital media at the European level. This agency should monitor that national media outlets follow an impartial and objective process in the production of their content. To prevent disinformation, the agency should provide a scoring system on the reliability of national media outlets. This scoring system should be easy to understand for citizens".

We recommend this because we need evaluation of the media and their reliability, but also media diversity in EU countries. An EU agency would be most objective in ensuring this. Moreover, a scoring system enables citizens to make informed choices and incentivises media outlets to provide reliable news. If the scoring system proves insufficient for ensuring the reliability of media outlets, the agency should also obtain the competence of imposing sanctions.

Stream 5: Strengthening citizen participation

Substream 5.1 Citizen participation

"We recommend that there should be a citizen's representative body created to discuss and inform decision-making in a significant way - whenever there is an issue being decided upon at EU level which is of major significance to European citizens (as decided by citizens - potentially via survey). This should be a diverse group of approximately 100 citizens from all EU countries with equal representation for each country. This should be a revolving group where members are periodically changed".

Because it is important to avoid issues such as corruption that may arise from a permanent representative body, and that it is vital such a body has equal representation from all countries to avoid unfair decision-making power. Because operating in this way would avoid challenges associated with constantly assembling or using technology from afar.