

Citizens' recommendations for the EU on foreign policy MEET Transnational Citizens' Agora

27 April 2022

This document reflects the outcome of the Transnational Meeting of the Moving Europe Together (MEET) Project. In this Meeting, which took place last month, citizen ambassadors from eight Member States gathered together to voice their opinions and jointly decide on proposals for what the European Union (EU) should do in the field of foreign policy. The topic was decided by the citizen ambassadors in a poll carried out before the event. The starting basis discussion were the recommendations formulated by the Greek Local Citizens' Agora (LCA) in November 2021, one of the total of 16 [LCAs conducted in the framework of the MEET project](#). The citizen ambassadors expanded on these proposals, reflecting also recent geopolitical developments linked to the war in Ukraine. Foreign policy experts were present at the meeting to help answer any citizens' questions in this area. The results are summarised below. Further details about the process that generated these recommendations and how the outcome relates to the Conference on the Future of Europe will follow in the MEET Final Report, to be issued in early June.

Final recommendations

1. The EU should invest more in forging a common political identity for its citizens as a prerequisite for closer cooperation in foreign policy and real solidarity. To this end, better communication with citizens and their education are essential, for example by creating a joint European history book to be used in schools across all Member States.
2. In view of the war in Ukraine, the EU should work towards greater self-sufficiency and do more to protect its principles and values in its relations with third countries, even where this conflicts with a more pragmatic approach. Prioritizing its European values and principles would help the EU to stand on firmer ground when tackling issues related to global migration flows, global trade regime, energy policy, global environmental governance, etc.
3. Qualified Majority Voting (QMV) should be immediately extended to the whole range of foreign and security issues.¹
4. The EU should have a collective trade and investment policy with third countries, instead of conducting trade and investment on a bilateral basis. This would lead to more consistency and greater impact. In this context, the EU should reinforce its efforts to develop a coherent and common trade and investment policy.
5. The EU should find more ways to consult with citizens on the future of Europe, including on foreign policy matters, also after the Conference on the Future of Europe has ended.

¹ No consensus could be reached on the way of introducing QMV. Whereas the large majority supported the immediate extension of QMV to all areas of foreign policy, a minority of citizens supported the idea of gradually phasing it in over time.