

# EUROPE DIRECT WEEKLY

*Monday morning news for the Europe Direct network*

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## Weekly message from DG COMM

by Alessandro Giordani

*Head of Unit, Networks in the Member States*

Dear European EDICs,

We resume our Newsletter after Easter for this last mile until the end (in the 3 weeks' time!) of a thriving EDIC generation. Many of you will be back on the 1st of May as "EUROPE DIRECT centres" and for those who will not, a huge word of gratitude will come before the end of the month. The past days have witnessed a lot of talk and comments about the visit of our President and of EUCO President Michel to **Ankara**. While not entering any polemics, what happens reveals the dual nature of our Union and makes it at times complex when it comes to projecting the EU identity in the international arena. You have a part to play in explaining to your audiences that this is a Union of both peoples and states: reflecting this may be difficult at times, but this is with no prejudice to the fundamental role the EU plays on global issues and notably under this pandemic. Think for example of the imminent **Global Health Summit** (Rome, 21st May) strongly wanted by our President von der Leyen. And the Commission has teeth also inside Europe: you probably read in the past few days about the formal letter addressed to AstraZeneca concerning the fulfilment of the latter's obligations.

Last but not least, the **CoFE** approaching: this will span over the transition from this to the next generation, so please keep a close look at the documents on the launch of the online platform (19th April) and of the CoFE itself as addressed by the latest meeting of the CoFE Executive Board. Have a nice week!

## The big picture

**In good health:** The backstory behind the Global Health Summit: The Commission has launched a new [website](#) about the upcoming Global Health Summit. The Summit, hosted by the Commission and the Italian Presidency of the G20, should take place on 21 May 2021 in Rome. It will be an opportunity for world leaders, heads of international and regional organisations, and representatives of global health bodies to share the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. They will also develop and endorse a 'Rome Declaration' of principles that should guide future cooperation in preventing and responding to global health crises.

**Kicking into high gear:** Fresh update on the Conference on the Future of Europe: The Executive Board has endorsed the multilingual digital platform that will allow citizens to contribute to the Conference. It also agreed on its working methods for the inaugural event on Europe Day (9 May). As from 19 April citizens from across Europe will have the possibility to provide their views on any topic that they consider important for the future of the EU. A feedback mechanism will aggregate and analyse key points raised, so that they can also be taken into account during the European Citizens' panels and Conference Plenaries. Citizens will be able to look up events in which they wish to participate thanks to an events map. [More](#).

## What's in it for you?

**Keep an eye on the launch of the CoFE digital platform** and **stay abreast** of all [developments](#) linked to the workings of the Conference, with specific focus on the inauguration event scheduled on 9 May.

**Check out the Europa page on fighting disinformation** on the coronavirus, where myths about the EU's green digital certificate are [debunked on the fighting disinformation Europa page](#).



## Question & Answer

**Question:** Some argue that the image of the EU and the Commission in particular has been weakened by the protocol mishap in Ankara. What would be the best response?

**Answer:** Shift the attention to the concrete results of the meeting with the Turkish President, with these being summed up in the [statement](#) by the Commission President.



### *Vaccination campaign news*



One year ago today, the Commission and the High Representative set out plans for a targeted EU response to support partner countries' efforts in tackling the Coronavirus pandemic combining resources from the EU, its Member States and European financial institutions. Over 130 partner countries around the world have been supported under the initiative. [More.](#)

Here is a [LinkedIn blog post](#) by Commissioner Breton on the EU's vaccination strategy.

Follow here the [EMA latest statement](#) on Astra Zeneca and blood clot events.

## Looking ahead

**15/04:** Frans Timmermans gives via videoconference online speech at the online [World Circular Economy Forum](#)

**15/04:** Music Europe Day