CIVEX COMMISSION, 16 FEB. 2021, THEMATIC DEBATE

Conference on the Future of Europe: prospects for strengthening the CoR in the EU institutional framework

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Research design
Survey among regional MPs

• Regional MPs from different EU member states

• Today: preliminary findings from survey in Germany (all 16 Landtage/regional parliaments; response rate 13-20%)

• Similar survey will be conducted in Austria, Spain, Poland

Workshops with regional MPs

• Workshops so far in AT, DE, ES, BE

• Topic: The future of Europe from a regional perspective

• Three issues: EU institutional architecture, division of competences, role of regions in MLG

• No representative group!
Satisfaction with democracy

Findings from workshops

- Deep concerns about the current functioning of the EU
- Concerns regard both democratic functioning & effectiveness
EU in 10 years: Likelihood of scenarios (n=297-98)

- **EU falls apart**
  - Very likely: 9%
  - Rather likely: 9%
  - Rather unlikely: 43%
  - Very unlikely: 45%

- **Further MS leave EU**
  - Very likely: 9%
  - Rather likely: 31%
  - Rather unlikely: 53%
  - Very unlikely: 7%

- **Similar to now**
  - Very likely: 7%
  - Rather likely: 58%
  - Rather unlikely: 31%
  - Very unlikely: 4%

- **Deeper coop among EU MS**
  - Very likely: 9%
  - Rather likely: 46%
  - Rather unlikely: 46%
  - Very unlikely: 5%

- **Stronger regional weight at EU level**
  - Very likely: 5%
  - Rather likely: 34%
  - Rather unlikely: 47%
  - Very unlikely: 14%
Regions should take the issue of Europe more seriously in their political work (n=315)
Frequency of regional MPs' contacts on EU affairs

- **Regional MPs have also more contact (compared to CoR) with unions, media, and CSOs**
- **Most contact with regional government**
Contacts on EU affairs with actors from different political levels (n=240-42)

- **Local/regional actors**: 32% mainly own party, 63% both, 5% mainly other parties
- **National actors**: 52% mainly own party, 45% both, 2% mainly other parties
- **European actors**: 63% mainly own party, 34% both, 3% mainly other parties
The Conference on the Future of Europe
Context of the Conference & lessons from previous research

• Political will by EU institutional actors?

• Policy-first approach?

• Direct citizens involvement: citizen input versus citizen empowerment (Warren 2009)

• Challenges of MLG for key democratic elements like transparency & accountability
Outlook: Conference & CoR

• Role for the CoR?
• Direct citizens involvement?
• Institutional reform & true participatory dimension at EU level: long-term objectives
Thank you for your attention!

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Sources: