Civil Society Europe

The coordination of civil society organisations at EU level.

High-level debate on Defence funding in the EU

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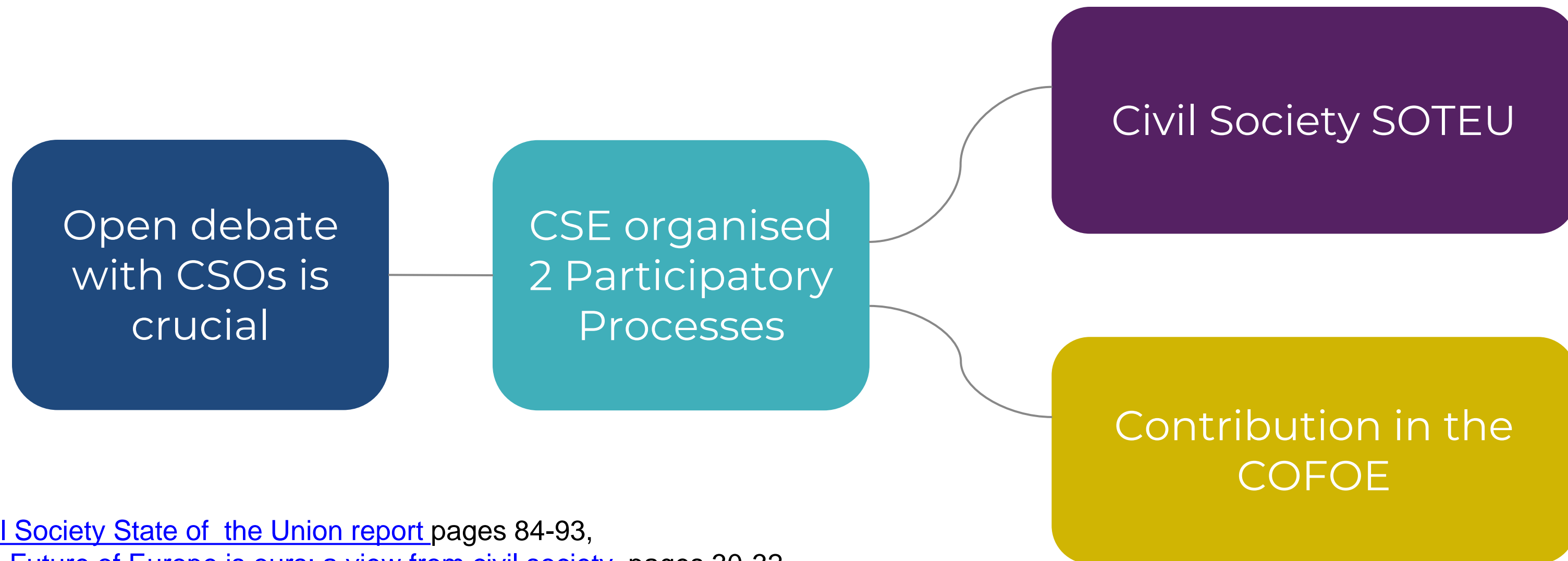civilsocietyeurope.eu

CIVIL SOCIETY EUROPE

The role of CSE

CSE bridges the views of civil society on issues that concern non-profit organisations, including:

- Dialogue with institutions
- Existence of an enabling civic space:
  - Freedom of association
  - Peaceful assembly
  - Expression through legislative, administrative and budgetary measures

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The importance of involving Civil Society

Open debate with CSOs is crucial

CSE organised 2 Participatory Processes

Civil Society SOTEU

Contribution in the COFOE

Civil Society State of the Union report pages 84-93,
The Future of Europe is ours: a view from civil society, pages 30-32

Security and Defence Policies

- Security and defence funding should not be reduced to militarisation
- Human Centred Defence policies and funding
- Defence funding should not replace funding for other societal areas
- Defence policies need to engage in empowering European societies by supporting an independent and plural civil society
- It is critical to **reinforce, reshape and connect** EU defence with conflict prevention, crisis management, but also peace building, and development policies.

The role of Civil Society

- CSOs involvement must be comprehensive and systematic
- It is key to defend and empower CSOs and their actions in front of attacks, smear campaigns or censorship.
- The inclusion of civil society in response and prevention strategies from their conception is very limited, even though organised civil society is at the forefront of dealing with natural and human made disasters.
- CSOs play a key role in enhancing digital skills and in contributing to an effective legal framework on cyber security and they need to be further protected from attacks

Health, Cyber security and the fight against terrorism

- Develop health security policies and counter attacks on health digital infrastructure or the spread of humanly induced diseases and pandemics

- Need for value based cyber security policies fostering an inclusive and democratic European digital space.

- The fight against terrorism should enable CSOs to continue to intervene in challenging environments, contribute to reducing hate speech and polarisation, supporting human rights defenders and civil society in authoritarian countries at war with Europe, as well as humanitarian work.

Thank you!

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