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**Annual meeting of the presidents and secretaries-general   
of the Economic and Social Councils of the EU and the EESC**

**9 September 2020 (videoconference)**

**The challenges of contemporary participatory democracy in a Europe that is rebuilding itself: an initial contribution from the Economic and Social Councils and similar institutions   
to the Conference on the Future of Europe**

**Programme** (04/09/2020)

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| **Wednesday, 9 September 2020** | |
| 2.00 – 3.00pm | Connection tests – access to the INTERACTIO platform |
| 3.00 – 4.30pm | **Welcome adress: Patrick Bernasconi,** president of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council and **Luca Jahier**, president of the European Economic and Social Committee  **Panel discussion:** **«** **The contribution of the ESCs to the Member States' recovery plans»**  Moderated by **Carole Couvert**, vice-president of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council  Intervention by **Karl-Heinz Lambertz**, member of the European Committee of the Regions and **Brikena Xhomaqi**, co-chair of the EESC-Liaison Group |
| 4.30-4.45pm | **Adoption of a joint document** |
| 4.45 – 5.00pm | **Technical break** |
| 5.00 – 6.30pm | **Formal sitting:**  **«The Conference on the Future of Europe and the role of ESCs»**  **Opening address: Luca Jahier,** president of the European Economic and Social Committee  **Dubravka Šuica**, vice-president of the European Commission (video-message)  **Klára Dobrev**, vice-president of the European Parliament  **Clément Beaune,** secretary of State for European Affairs, government of the French Republic  **Enrico Letta,** dean of the Paris School of International Affairs at Sciences Po (Paris*)*    **Closing address: Patrick Bernasconi,** president of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council |

**Interpretation**: 2/2 from FR/EN into FR/EN