**The Conference on the Future of Europe and the Autonomous Communities[[1]](#footnote-1)**

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**Abstract:**

The Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) was an innovative process which established a bottom-up exercise through which citizens could have their say on what they expect from the European Union. The innovative and the participatory elements as well as citizens’ enthusiasm for taking part have been underlined. Other observers have been less enthusiastic about the agenda and procedures of the CoFoE, especially since the final report presented in May 2022 included only one reference to the idea of multi-level government and no reference was made to the role of subnational actors in the EU policy making. The CoFoE was not a significant event for the Autonomous Communities (ACs) since it did not offer a framework for promoting subnational institutional, cultural or political objectives, and the outcomes were far removed from long standing demands of the ACs. Nevertheless, this text will analyse the ACs’ preferences and how the ACs could, and did, represent their interests at the domestic and supranational level within the context of the CoFoE.

1. The text was elaborated within the research project: Institutional Reforms in Multilevel Systems: Paradigms, Constraints, Processes and Outcomes (PID2020-116659GB-I00). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)