**Yearbook on federalism – French perspective on the Conference on the future of Europe**

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From an initial idea of President Emmanuel Macron that arose in a specific French national context, EU institutions created an unprecedented exercise – both in its scope and ambition – which contributed to create a new space of European democracy. Results of the Conference on the Future of Europe, both at national and EU level, reveal a strong proximity of citizens’ concerns with priorities that were already envisioned by the Institutions. The method adopted by the French government for its national panel reflects previous experience of deliberative democracy undertaken in the last years, but is very much complementary to the innovative format set at EU level. The Conference on the Future of Europe helped to overcome binary debates on the EU thanks to constructive discussions where citizens had the opportunity to grasp the complexity of Union policies and stated very clearly how they wanted to change it. While the observation of a *de facto* convergence in priorities amongst citizens, stakeholders and Institutions may lead to doubts about the overall usefulness and novelty of the exercise, we believe that the Conference made the concept of “*sense of belonging*” tangible and revealed a ‘*European political awareness*. This can help open a new chapter of European politics by giving the EU the opportunity to define an innovative political model at the crossroads of deliberative and representative democracy.