

## **The Future of Europe – a call for dialogue as a key to just transition**

*Justice & Peace Europe Concerted Action 2021:*

*With the beginning of Lent, the Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions (Justice & Peace Europe) launches its annual Concerted Action 2021.*

The year 2021 is crucial for the Europe. It is the year one after Brexit and, thus, crucial for rebuilding positive connections between the United Kingdom and its neighbours. The European Union is invited to rethink its role in Europe and the world, its relations with European third countries and the other European organisations like the Council of Europe and the OSCE. The historical achievements of the European Union are beyond doubt but today expectations are high for a more social Europe, a Europe of Public Health, a Europe of one voice in support of democracy and human rights worldwide and a Europe of strong and united action for the climate and biodiversity. Above all there is an urgent need for political leadership across Europe to connect with people. Therefore, in its 2021 Concerted Action Justice and Peace Europe calls for dialogue as a key to just transition. In a basic document the Catholic network affirms: “*Real dialogue keeps leadership and listening, unity and diversity, in balance. It is the method that creates the trust necessary to handle crises, focusing on the common good rather than on the minimum common denominator.*”

One important opportunity for dialogue is the forthcoming Conference on the Future of Europe. Justice and Peace Europe and its national commissions will get actively involved in the planned citizens’ dialogues. It will also closely follow and support the EU Democracy Action Plan and reinforce its involvement with the European Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna.

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*The Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions (Justice & Peace Europe) is a European network of 32 national Justice & Peace Commissions, working for the promotion of justice, peace, respect for human dignity and the care of Creation. It contributes to raising awareness of the Catholic social doctrine in the European societies and the European institutions. Its President is Mgr. Noel Treanor, Bishop of Down & Connor in Northern Ireland.*

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