Ms. Laetitia SAINT-PAUL, Vice-President of the National Assembly in charge of coordinating the parliamentary dimension of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union
Mr. Jean-François LONGEOT, Chair of the Senate Committee on Sustainable Development
Ms. Laurence MAILLART-MÉHAIGNERIE, Chairwoman of the National Assembly Committee on Sustainable Development
Mr. Roland LESCURE, Chairman of the National Assembly Committee on Economic Affairs
Ms. Sophie PRIMAS, Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Economic Affairs

Paris, 21 February 2022

Ladies and Gentlemen Committee Chairpersons,

Dear colleagues,

At the heart of the projects undertaken by the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union is the environmental ambition, which makes Europe a pioneer and, we hope, a model for putting an end to the increasingly worrying deterioration of our planet's climate.

We are convinced that the climate transition, which involves so many changes, can only succeed if it is understood, accepted, and even appropriated by all our fellow citizens. The challenges are so high that they will never be met if imposed from above.

Therefore, we wanted to organize a thematic conference that could meet the concerns, the difficulties, and the hopes of our fellow citizens, by examining the major issues brought about by the Green Pact from concrete consequences on the ground, in our territories.

To this end we have the honor of inviting you to a **decentralized conference of committee chairpersons in the beautiful Val de Loire Region**, where each of the topics discussed has a concrete and daily echo. Our debates will take place in the Grange de Meslay, one of the oldest fortified farms in the world, and a dinner the night before in the Château du Clos Lucé, the former home of Leonardo da Vinci in Amboise, places to which we will provide transportation, through a one-hour journey by train, to and from Paris.

A first debate, on the morning of 21 March, will focus on the **CAP and the improvement of the quality of food for European citizens**, which crystallizes the difficulties but also the tremendous opportunities brought by the new environmental requirements, in such a way that every day more and more consumers and producers, in an approach of excellence, are exploring the paths of a future CAFP, Common Agricultural and Food Policy. This debate will demonstrate the fundamental role of labels, which guarantee the quality of products to consumers and offer producers indispensable legal protection. It will highlight the interest of organic farming.

The second debate will emphasize the **decisive role that regional funds must play in making the energy transition a reality in the territories**. We will discuss the right place of this concern in the criteria used for the allocation and the evaluation of European funds, particularly in the transport, renewable energy, and industry sectors. The necessary synergy with other financial instruments, such as EIB loans or the future Just Transition Fund, will also be discussed.

The last debate, in the afternoon, will highlight the subject of **sustainable tourism**, too often neglected by the media. As the world's leading tourist destination, the Union must encourage a significant economic activity while facing the environmental challenges that it is increasingly posing (transport emissions, particularly air transport, waste, site, and air pollution, etc.), with tourism accounting for up to 8% of its greenhouse gas emissions. The EU has a decisive role to play in bringing together the numerous but scattered national sustainable tourism initiatives, in promoting them, in better targeting its support to communities faced with large influxes of tourists, and in developing an ambitious labeling policy.

In accordance with established practice, each parliament may delegate up to four committee chairpersons, or their representatives, to the conference.

We look forward to welcoming you and wish to express to you, Ladies and Gentlemen Committee Chairpersons, our highest consideration.

Mr. Jean-François LONGEOT
Chair of the Senate Committee on Sustainable Development

Ms. Laurence MAILLART-MÉHAIGNERIE Chairwoman of the National Assembly Committee on Sustainable Development

Mr. Roland LESCURE
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