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## **PORTUGAL TRIES TO OVERCOME 'CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE' DEADLOCK**

- 19.01.2021

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EurActiv (19 January 2021)

European institutions must find a rapid and pragmatic solution to overcome the deadlock which is preventing the Conference on the Future of Europe from being held, Portuguese State Secretary for European Affairs, Ana Paula Zacarias, told a press conference on Monday.

The three institutions – Council, Parliament and Commission – have yet to agree on a joint communication. We are discussing this issue at the highest level and we need to find a rapid and pragmatic solution to resolve the governance issue, the state secretary told a press conference after the General Affairs Council, which brings together all EU ministers and secretaries of state and this time, was held online.

Ana Paula Zacarias said the presence of Portuguese Prime Minister António Costa on Wednesday at the plenary session of the European Parliament – where he will present the priorities of the Portuguese EU Council Presidency – would also serve to meet European Parliament President David Sassoli and the leaders of the main European political families to discuss this issue.

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