Roberta Metsola MEP
President of the European Parliament

Brussels, 21 January 2022

Dear President,

I am writing to you on behalf of Civil Society Europe, the network for EU level civil society organisations, to warmly congratulate you on your election. We also take this opportunity to share with you some key recommendations on civil dialogue for the elected Bureau of the European Parliament.

While Vice Presidents are allocated responsibilities for relations with trade unions and business associations, there is no Vice President in charge of relations with not for profit associations representing citizens, despite specific references in the EP rules of procedures.The midterm elections provide an opportunity to address this imbalance in the democratic participation of the Union. We are calling for the following to strengthen civil dialogue:

- **Appoint a Vice President in charge of structured dialogue with civil society organisations representing citizens** (and not just information to citizens).
- The Vice President in charge of civil dialogue should **establish an open working group to review current practices for engagement and consultation** of civil society across the work of the Parliament.
- **Host a structured dialogue with civil society organisations** at EU level in your role as President at least once a year.

During your time as an MEP, you have been a key supporter of civil dialogue so you know the role that civil society plays in the defense and promotion of the values enshrined in Article 2 of the EU Treaty. You know that the work of civil society organisations empowers people in all their diversity to speak up and participate in the democratic life of the Union. Yet civic space and civil dialogue are weak in our Union.

In order to strengthen civil dialogue, we hope that you will take on our recommendations and work with us during your Presidency. We would welcome a meeting to discuss further collaboration.

Your sincerely,

Jean Marc Roirant
President
Civil Society Europe

For further collaboration please contact: Carlotta Besozzi, CSE Coordinator, contact@civilsocietyeurope.eu.

