

Zagreb, 28 October 2021

**Subject:** Invitation to the round table "Economic recovery and political cohesion for the future of the EU"

Dear Madam/Sir,

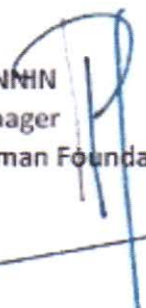
As part of the Conference on the Future of Europe and with the forthcoming French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Robert Schuman Foundation -Paris and the Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO)-Zagreb are organizing a round table "*Economic recovery and political cohesion for the future of the EU*". This event will be held on **Friday 12 November 2021 from 14:30 to 16:00 hours in the Journalists' House, Perkovčeva 2** in Zagreb, while participation will also be possible online. The aim of this gathering is to stimulate a debate that will contribute to defining European viewpoints and enrich political debates during the French Presidency of the EU Council and the Conference on the Future of Europe.

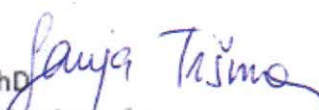
The first half of 2022 should provide an opportunity to analyse the results of the measures introduced at European level in response to the crisis associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. Joint efforts to implement the European Recovery Plan have been unprecedented and have protected and supported Member States' economies. However, no economic measure can immediately create political cohesion. In the context of the forthcoming French Presidency of the Council of the EU and the Conference on the Future of Europe, the question arises as to how the Union can use the economic recovery as a means to strengthen a sense of belonging to the EU? How can the Union increase its democratic legitimacy and secure the support of its citizens? And what are the Croatian and French views on the Union's economic recovery and European identity?

Attached is the conference programme in which experts from the Robert Schuman Foundation and the Institute for Development and International Relations will exchange their views on current economic and political issues. The focus of the presentations will be on the European Recovery Plan and the issue of European identity. After the presentations there will be a time for discussion with the participants. Please confirm your participation by email to [dragana@irmo.hr](mailto:dragana@irmo.hr) no later than Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Please also indicate whether you will participate live or in the online format. The working languages of the conference are Croatian and French with simultaneous translation.

Yours faithfully

Pascale JOANNIN  
General Manager  
Robert Schuman Foundation



Sanja Tišma, PhD   
Director of the Institute for  
Development and International Relations