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Election **Manifesto**

YOUTH OF EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY | 2019

**we
must push
for change;
now, more
than ever
before.**

For young people, the future brings many opportunities but there are also challenges. Globalization and climate change, advances in technology, populism, discrimination and social exclusion; all have yet unknown effects on jobs, skills or the way our democracies work. We, as young people, need to take control of our lives and futures. When taking control, we experience several transitions in our personal life and environment, from education to work, living on our own, partnerships or starting a family life.

Young Europeans are the most enthusiastic about Europe. We are the #ErasmusGeneration.

We only know a borderless Europe, where we can travel, study, and work, freely and safely. Yet, our concerns are not prioritised in most of the European Union policies. This results in an increasing voting abstention rate and a rising mistrust in politics. Europe can no longer afford to have one of the most highly qualified and well-trained generation feeling that they are not listened to.

The European Union is often understood as a distant institution, an institution which makes decisions for us but our opinions do not seem to influence these decisions. We, the youth, want to have a say when it comes to shaping our future and actively contribute to our society. We want to see political processes becoming more transparent and open to the public. We want to see more young people placed in positions of greater responsibility.

We want politicians of greater accountability.

It is vital that YEPP provides a strong voice for all young Europeans; not just those who share our political views. As the European Elections approach we need to be vocal in our views and provide a real alternative to the solutions provided by populists.



1 Digital Europe

Digitalization is reshaping our society and economy, creating unprecedented challenges as well as opportunities. The free market economy promotes innovation and technological progress, enabling growth. Institutions ensure stability, protection for citizens and a good environment in which to prosper.

The further development of a digital Europe will affect the way in which our Society works and progresses. Digitalisation will have an impact on every single sector of our economy from Agriculture to Health and everything in between. We need to move forward with the challenges and benefits presented by digitalisation.

Education

We are witnessing a number of jobs being replaced by artificial intelligence, the implementation of changing models for work and work structure (e.g. independent work, the gig economy), as well as a significant stagnation of incomes in advanced economies.

We must call for social policies that harness the benefits of this creative destruction. Access to modern education that nurtures the skillsets for tomorrow's labour market is a YEPP priority. In the global race for innovation, Europe certainly does not lack talent but needs to further invest in educational infrastructure to foster the development of innovative and enterprising young people who are the bearers of the new development cycle in Europe. In order to further foster cooperation in education, vocational training, youth and sports, in addition to youth mobility, we will promote the raising of funding of ERASMUS+ programme of the European Union.

Job creation

Private enterprise acts as a driver of economic development, growth and innovation, offering citizens employment. The advance of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, computerisation and digitalisation, is based on cyber-physical systems. Most significantly, further automation, the Internet of Things and artificial intelligence, all threaten to challenge the basic function of the private sector as the principal generator of employment.

We are dedicated to build further the enabling business environment for the young entrepreneurs who create jobs and provide new added-value to the European Union's economy.

One of the valuable contributions of Digital Europe is the stimulating framework which it provides for the development of cultural and creative industries which offer new opportunities for artists and creative individuals.

2 Climate change

We are responsible for taking care of the environment and ensuring that our children can live in a healthy environment, as we did. We have to reduce climate change. To achieve this goal we need new sustainable solutions to decrease the use of fossil fuels and the use of coal. We at YEPP believe that the EU should be the driving force in the global arena in the fight against climate change. YEPP believes in the European Union and its citizens. By accommodating start-ups, the voluntary sector and businesses that pursue more environment-friendly solutions; we take a step towards a more sustainable future. It is essential that the EU increases investments in renewable energy sources and by doing so, creates more alternatives for the people. In our endeavour to save our oceans for the future generations, we need to move from waste economy towards a circular economy. It is our responsibility to encourage the private sector to make similar choices.

3 Social cohesion

Cohesion policy and enlargement, as one of the cornerstones of the European project, should be further developed to decrease economic, social and demographic imbalances across Europe. The negative demographic trends, amplified by the brain drain phenomenon, generate additional social inequalities between different European regions. Hence, it is vital to develop ways to expedite inclusion, stronger social cohesion mechanisms and to create more equal opportunities for young Europeans, both in urban and rural areas. These goals should be pursued during the negotiations of the next Multiannual Financial Framework, especially with regards to the provision of sufficient funding for the cohesion and agricultural policy of the EU.

Social cohesion and convergence are important for the reversal of demographic trends in member and candidate states that are experiencing large outflows of skilled labour. We are dedicated to the goal of demographic revitalization through the creation of quality and well-paid jobs, the availability of affordable housing for young people and young families as well as ensuring work-life balance.

Every young European should be able to have a quality education and job in his country of origin or freely decide to move to another Member State instead. Therefore, YEPP will advocate for youth mobility driven solely by choice and not by social or economic constraints. In this context, youth unemployment should be continuously tackled on European and national levels.

4 Sustainable Europe

Towards a Pillar of Social Rights

In this fast-moving world, the way in which we live and work is changing. Technological progress, globalization and shifting demographics, shape our future. It is time to design policies to ease this transition. The European Institutions, Member States and social partners must partake in a social dialogue with the aim of both developing a new social contract and preparing for the future of the European Social Market Economy. Social dialogue is crucial in order to balance competitiveness with fairness.

5 Future of Europe

Integration

We will certainly have to further integrate. But that doesn't mean we will have to create a superstate in Brussels. Subsidiarity is key. We will have to be "big on big issues and small on small ones". The EU has to be stronger on important common policies addressing security, for instance the fight against terrorism and organised crime, and defence policies and in securing external borders, as well as climate policy. Most areas should remain a national competence, for instance, family policy, education, healthcare, pensions, taxation and culture.

Institutional framework

We will have to create an institutional architecture that addresses current deficiencies and systemic challenges. The structure of the EU is now too heavy to function properly and provide solutions in a timely manner to address the increasing threats. The procedures must become more flexible to enable more efficient decision making. To ensure that the EU effectively delivers for its citizens, we must call on Member States to implement qualified majority voting (QMV) in the Council for Foreign and Security policy. To ensure solidarity, all Member States who voted against the implementation of QMV or abstained, should be allowed to opt-out from implementing the proposal.

A Union with efficient structures; accountable, transparent processes and targeted, bespoke policies increases its effectiveness, credibility and legitimacy. The Union's institutional and political dimension shall strive to remain relevant and impactful.

We will have to defend a sustainable future for our young citizens, and at the same time, empower them and inspire them to act, and in this way, inspire others and the rest of the world.

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