

NEWS YEPPER

YEPP'S TRIUMPH AFTER 2024 EU ELECTIONS - LÍDIA PEREIRA 03

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Editorials

YEPP's Triumph: Shaping Europe's Future in the 2024 EU Elections

The moment you realise that all the time you spent working on a project and fighting for your beliefs achieved the result you wished for is the most rewarding. Then, you look back at those challenges that seemed so tough to overcome and bless every drop of sweat you spent to face them. The job is never finished, but it gives us the motivation to keep moving forward. According to some, the 2024 EU elections were projected to be a shuffle in European politics, bringing danger and uncertainties from the ballots on the 9th of June. Despite some concerns about the growth of extreme-right forces, mostly in France and Germany, the reaffirmation of the EPP as the strongest political force in the European Parliament is just the first outcome of many for which YEPP has spent energy and soul.

At the EPP Congress in Bucharest, in the corridors of the European and National Parliaments,



in the local councils, and in National and International youth organizations, we have never stopped working to fulfill our missions: to empower the youth, to make young people the protagonists on the political stage, and to be the main actors in shaping the future we want.

During the campaign, we pledged our commitment in the streets of Innsbruck, Split, Munich, Frankfurt, Stockholm, Helsinki, Porto, and many other cities to support fresh names and perspectives. #yepptour promoted our candidates for Members of the European Parliament across Europe, supported Ursula von der Leyen in her journey for a second mandate at the head of the European Commission, and Roberta Metsola for a new term leading the European Parliament.

We fought for a Europe that gives a strong voice to young people. We campaigned every day to make it reality. And we came back to Brussels with new EPP young MEPs. We began the new mandate with the confirmation of Ursula, our president, and her promise to represent the youth in the EU agenda. At last,

after the election of the new presidency of the EPP Group, YEPP now has a historic chance of shaping EU policies. As a Vice President of the EPP Group, my efforts will be limitless to boost transatlantic relations and exchange programmes, grant young people fair representation in EU policies, and invest in innovation to promote clean technologies while tackling climate change. On top of that, it is paramount to ensure economic growth policies that provide better lives for people, mostly for the youth, securing the European way of life among generations. To conclude, in the months ahead our support to Ukraine will be unwavering, even more so after the ruthless Russian attack on a children's hospital last Monday. Violence and authoritarianism do not have a place in Europe!

From the uncertainty of the ballot, we answered with our rooted values. We answered with our commitment to shape a Europe of security, prosperity, and rule of law. Looking at what we achieved is relieving. Now, we are ready to fight to pursue new milestones and shape a better future. Together.

Lídia Pereira
YEPP President

Editorials

Letter from a new MEP

By Sophia Kircher

Dear YEPP Friends,

I'm excited to share that I've been elected as a Member of the European Parliament! The campaign was intense and challenging, but it was all worth it. Now, as I start this new journey in Brussels, I'm full of gratitude and excitement for what's ahead.

It's been amazing to see so many familiar faces from the Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP) here in Brussels. It really feels like coming home, being surrounded by friends and colleagues who share our vision. A big shoutout to Lidia for being elected Vice President of our EPP group — huge congrats to her!

In my new role, I'm focusing on transport. I want to make it easier for people to choose trains over cars, promoting more sustainable and efficient travel options. Making public transport more attractive and convenient is key, both for the environment and for our daily lives.

I also believe it's crucial to make the benefits of the European Union clearer and more tangible for young people. They are

the future of Europe, and it's up to us to ensure they see the value in unity and cooperation within the EU.

Another area I'm passionate about is building stronger relationships with our neighbors. Integrating the Western Balkans and fostering cooperation with nearby regions are vital for a more connected and prosperous Europe. Strengthening these ties will boost stability, security, and economic growth across the continent.

I'm committed to working hard for our community and for Europe as a whole. I look forward to all of us working together to shape a brighter future. Feel free to reach out if you have any suggestions or ideas—I'd love to hear from you!

Best,

Sophia



Past Events

Council Meeting: The Hague

YEPP gathered for its Council Meeting from the 11th to the 14th of April, for the first time in the Benelux in the last 15 years, to discuss the role of Europe in building a common defence, implementing effective energy policies, and understanding the role of the centre-right against extremist parties. The event was organised by CDJA, the youth of the CDA (EPP), with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS).

Dutch Deputy PM Karien van Gennip delivered a keynote speech to open the conference. She stressed the importance of giving equal opportunities to everyone and the centrality of Europe's continuous support for Ukraine, recalling that "the best way to avoid war is to prepare for war."

A Europe of Regions: Multi-level Governance in Practice

To kick off the event, delegates discussed the importance of subsidiarity across Europe with Ingeborg ter Laak, the

Alderman of the city of Zoetermeer (South Holland). Despite highlighting the importance of Europe in addressing citizens' issues, including vaccine supply during the COVID-19 pandemic, the panel presented concrete examples of how implementing policies at a local level enriches the lives of people. Ingeborg ter Laak provided concrete proof of the potential of the local level when she initiated a project to tackle loneliness and mental health disorders, partnering with around a hundred actors from all sectors.

In a second panel, delegates delved into energy policies in Europe and their future perspectives. According to the speakers, China is flooding our market with cheap cars and solar panels. Solutions are needed to fight our dependency on China, which has a stronger supply of raw materials to produce panels and batteries.

KAS Workshop - Future of Christian Democracy in the 21st Century

Participants attended interventions on the current political scenario, where populists and far-right parties are finding consensus. According to the speakers, the EPP should stay away from that rhetoric and not forget its basic values while negotiating in politics. A focus was brought to the AfD far-right party in Germany and the role of the PVV in the formation of the Dutch government after the election of November 2023.

Panel: Defence in Depth

On Saturday morning, delegates participated in a panel discussion on defence in Europe. Speakers and participants interacted on the state of military capacity in Europe, as well as the cultural and material deficiencies that hinder the ability to respond to an armed conflict. Improving cooperation can enforce support for defence. The willingness to fight for our own country is also low, and Europe could face shortages in military personnel without reforming military service.

The Council Meeting: 6 Resolutions Approved

The core of the event came at the Council Meeting on Saturday when participants discussed and finally approved six different resolutions. "Strengthening European Cooperation in Managing Migration" deals with the need to cooperate at the European level to prevent illegal migration and to support Member States in managing migration crises. Other resolutions stressed YEPP's support for Armenia over the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, called for a spotlight on Yemen's humanitarian crisis, for improving the EU's policies towards the Arctic, and for driving Bosnia and Herzegovina closer to EU integration. Finally, YEPP approved a resolution to push for further sanctions on third countries that still trade with Russia.



Past Events

Navigating Campaigns in the Era of AI

In light of upcoming pivotal elections across Europe and the United States, political campaigns are grappling with a rapidly evolving technological landscape. The intersection of AI advancements, cybersecurity threats, and the proliferation of deceptive content poses unprecedented challenges and opportunities for safeguarding democratic processes.

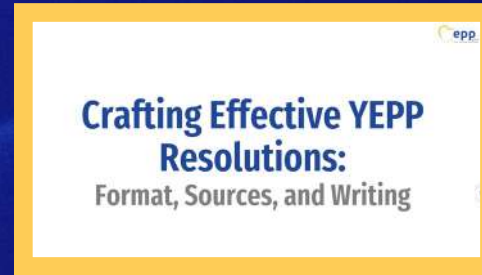
Recently, YEPP collaborated with Microsoft to host a workshop titled “Navigating Campaigns in the Era of AI.” This initiative aimed to equip political leaders with essential knowledge on leveraging AI responsibly while fortifying their organisations against cyber threats. Key topics included genera-

tive AI applications in political campaigns, risk management strategies, and cybersecurity best practices.

The workshop commenced with an exploration of AI fundamentals, emphasizing its transformative role in data analysis, content creation, and campaign management. Experts underscored the importance of ethical AI usage and highlighted initiatives like the Standard C2PA, designed to combat deceptive content by marking AI-generated images.

Participants also gained practical insights into Microsoft AI tools such as Copilot, demonstrating its utility in automating campaign tasks like scheduling, fundraising, and social media management.

As campaigns continue to adapt to technological advancements, initiatives like these are crucial in promoting responsible AI adoption and enhancing cybersecurity resilience. By equipping political entities with the necessary tools and knowledge, we strive to safeguard democratic integrity and ensure fair and transparent electoral processes.



Workshop “How to Write a Resolution”

Writing resolutions is more than gathering ideas and political statements. It requires technical skills and advanced knowledge of specific topics. On April 30th, our organisation hosted an insightful workshop titled “How to Write a Resolution,” aimed at enhancing participants’ skills in drafting effective political resolutions. The session was led by Alfredo Sousa De Jesus, Head of the Home Affairs Unit at the EPP Group in the European Parliament. His expertise provided invaluable guidance on structuring resolutions, highlighting key features, and clarifying their purposes.

Sousa emphasised the importance of maintaining a logical order in acknowledging points and crafting paragraphs. He advised that resolution titles should be simple and direct, avoiding unnecessary adjectives to ensure clarity and focus. The structure of a resolution, he explained, should include three main sections: an informative part, an argumentative part, and a concluding section that encapsulates the overall message.

The informative part should draw from various sources, including political statements, official publications, and position papers. Sousa stressed the importance of working on writing skills, providing solid evidence, and confidently managing the topic at hand. He also highlighted common pitfalls to avoid, such as using unreliable sources, employing non-inclusive language, and including irrelevant information.

A key concept from the workshop was the significance of making resolutions appear cohesive, as if authored by a single individual, rather than a collection of disparate thoughts. This coherence is crucial for facilitating discussions and negotiations with other groups. Additionally, Sousa underscored the necessity of outreach, stressing that resolutions are meant to be shared and debated, not kept in isolation.

Overall, the workshop provided participants with essential tools to draft impactful resolutions, reinforcing the importance of clarity, coherence, and credible evidence in political writing.



Past Events

Yepp meets Ursula von der Leyen

On May 29th, YEPP hosted a significant event in Brussels, bringing together young candidates and EPP family members for a special occasion with Ursula von der Leyen, the lead candidate of the European People's Party for the 2024 European Elections. President of YEPP Lidia Pereira and a group of enthusiast Board Members welcomed the Spitzenkandidat and engaged with her.

Discussions at the event explored key themes, emphasizing the crucial role of youth in shaping Europe's future trajectory. Von der Leyen passionately articulated the importance of their voices in policy formulation and strategic decision-making. Central to the dialogue was a focus on strengthening democratic principles and enhancing voter engagement continent-wide. Participants brainstormed innovative strategies to boost electoral participation and civic involvement, fighting for rule of law and defending Ukrainian borders from the Russian aggression.

Beyond formal discussions, the event provided fertile ground for young EPP members to connect, exchange insights, and discuss about the upcoming elections. As Europe looks to the future, such events inspire and mobilise young people to actively shape the continent's trajectory, serving as catalysts for meaningful progress.





The Right-Wing Resurgence:

Europe's New Political Landscape

By Tea Jerković

The 2024 European Parliament elections, a festival of democracy happening every 5 years, are officially over. Around 360 million people from 27 member States had the right to cast their vote from 6-9 June (and around 22,5 million for the first time!), hoping their political option will get elected as one of 720 Members of the European Parliament, leaving someone with sweet and someone with bitter taste in their mouth.

And like in every competition, there are winners and there are losers, but the will of voters always has to be respected.

These elections have marked a significant shift to the right, with a notable increase in support from younger voters. The polls were mostly correct in their predictions – people voted with a consistent preference for far-right wing parties, whether for conservative ECR or for right-wing and populist ID parties such as *Rassemblement National* (RN), *Fratelli d'Italia* (FdI), *Prawo i Sprawiedliwość* (PiS) or *Alternative für Deutschland* (AfD), making them significantly move from the very margins of the political spectrum and political importance to the middle of it, pushing their way into

the mainstream. This trend is exemplified by Marine Le Pen's *Rassemblement National* which achieved a historic success - 31.37% and 30 seats in the European Parliament for ID, shocking the greens and liberals who have experienced a complete deluge and loss.

Victory of RN was the trigger for President Emmanuel Macron (whose liberal party *Renaissance* won only 13 seats) to call early elections. He had already done it once, in July 2022, after the controversial pension law was passed and that bold move paid off (liberals convincingly won). This time, the same bold move didn't bring the same expected results, but despair. The second round of national elections in France was held on July 7, 2024, and resulted in a left-wing coalition unexpectedly taking first place ahead of the far-right. Despite that, no one gain an absolute majority - 289 seats. *L'Assemblée Nationale* is now divided into three large groups that don't share any political views and don't have any tradition of working together: the left-wing alliance of *Nouveau Front Populaire* (NFP) won 182 seats, Macron's coalition *Ensemble* won 168 seats and Le Pen's *Rassemblement National* and allies won 143 seats.

The turnout was satisfying, with estimations suggesting it would be the highest in the last 40 years. Although this seems positive from the perspective of a maturing democracy, it is necessary to clearly emphasise what prompted the high turnout. The systematic neglect of certain policies and the enforcement of certain left-wing and centrist ones mobilised right-wing voters. Populists took advantage of the opportunity, embracing certain narratives to win over centrists and centre-right voters under the auspices of the hard right. The same reaction occurred not only in France but throughout the European Union. Migrant policy has been cited as the most problematic for years. With the ongoing Russian aggression on Ukraine and new narratives coming from the Far East, across the Atlantic Ocean and the rising role of the Global South, there is a challenge for Europe to stay a relevant global player.

On the other hand, the extreme left-populist coalition successfully mobilized voters opposed to the RN. As a result, France is experiencing a downward spiral in which stability, the rule of law, democratic values, and the sense of security are being undermined. Instability is a high price to pay.

In such dramatic and vibrant geopolitical environment, the European People's Party is the only political option that offers concrete and realistic solutions, putting citizens and their needs at the centre of all policies. EPP has proven to show leadership and crisis resolution skills, bravely standing behind its people, leaving no one behind.

Built on the foundations of Christian democracy and solidarity, the EPP uncompromisingly supports its citizens, offering quality solutions that strengthen Europe and make it a competitive global player.

But still... Why a shift to the right then?

The shift is driven by economic insecurities, concerns over immigration, and a growing disillusionment with traditional centrist parties. These developments reflect a broader European trend where nationalist and conservative ideologies are gaining traction.

The fact that young people in this cycle of European elections voted for more right-wing options is indisputable. The next important test for Europeans will be the 2025 federal elections in Germany. After a positive result of CDU/CSU in Germany in the European Parliament elections, traditional centre-right parties could regain power. Achieving a convincing 30% of the votes, they put Germany back on track to return to a leading position in the European Union after 4 years of so called the "Traffic light coalition" ("*Ampelkoalition*").

In a nutshell, these trends highlight the changing political landscape of Europe, resulting in citizens looking for answers in programmes and promises of parties that were usual marginal, suggesting a future where the European Union may face significant policy and governance challenges due to the rising influence of nationalist and conservative ideologies.



Election Results for Political Groups:

• **European People's Party (EPP):** The winner of 2024 European elections, at the first place in Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovenia and Spain, additionally securing 6 seats in the Netherlands. EPP maintains a strong presence with significant representation by 188 seats, which is 6 more in comparison with 2019.

• **Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D):** Experienced notable declines as voters shift towards more conservative and nationalist alternatives. S&D won 136 seats, which is 18 less in comparison with 2019.

• **The Greens (Greens/EFA):** Experienced a significant loss in the most recent election, securing only 54 seats compared to the 74 seats they held in 2019.

• **Renew Europe (RE):** Experienced huge loss with 75 seats, in comparison to 108 seats in 2019.

• **The Left (GUE/NGL):** The Left group in the European Parliament, despite losing 2 mandates compared to 2019, remains relatively stable.

• **Identity and Democracy (ID):** Saw a significant decrease in seats, bolstered by parties like RN, FPO and PVV. ID won 58 seats, in comparison to 73 in 2019.

• **European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR):** Also experienced huge growth, reflecting the broader rightward trend. ECR won 83 seats, which is increase of 21 seats in comparison to 2019.

• **Patriots for Europe:** new far-right group formed in late June with 84 MEPs from 12 countries, chaired by RN president Jordan Bardella. The group consists of MEPs from aforementioned Rassemblement National (National Rally, France), Fidesz (Hungary), Lega per Salvini Premier (Italy), Vox (Spain), Chega! (Portugal), Akce nespokojených občanů – ANO 2011 (Action of Dissatisfied Citizens, Czech Republic), Přísaha and Motorists (Oath and Motorists, Czech Republic), Kereszténydemokrata Néppárt - KDNP (Christian Democratic People's Party, Hungary), Freiheitliche Partei Österreich - FPÖ (Freedom Party, Austria), Partij voor de Vrijheid - PVV (Party for Freedom, Netherlands), Vlaams Belang - VB (Flemish interest, Belgium), Dansk Folkeparti – DF (Danish People's Party, Denmark), Voice of Reason (Greece), and Latvija pirmajā vietā - LPV (Latvia First, Latvia).

Key Points:

1. Le Pen's Unprecedented Success: Marine Le Pen's *Rassemblement National* has seen a remarkable rise in parliamentary seats - from just 6 seats in 2017 to over 250 in 2024 underscores the party's growing influence. This surge is largely attributed to widespread dissatisfaction with President Macron's policies, which many voters feel have failed to address critical economic and social issues. Le Pen's platform, focusing on nationalism, economic protectionism, and stricter immigration controls, openly addressing real, evident problems that exist in society, resulted with a broad base of voters seeking change.

2. Youth Support for Right-Wing Parties: Economic uncertainties, job insecurities, and dissatisfaction with the political establishment are driving younger voters towards right-wing parties. The younger demographic, facing high unemployment rates and precarious job markets, finds appeal in the right's promises of economic stability and national prioritization. Additionally, the perceived failure of left-wing parties to effectively address immigration and integration issues has led to a loss of confidence among young voters. The same goes with the lack of affordable housing, topic for which right-wing populist parties proposed appealing, but unrealistic solutions. This shift represents a significant change in political engagement, with the youth now playing a pivotal role in the rightward swing. Furthermore, the rise of social media, where young people are very active, has given a platform to right-wing

voices and movements that might not have had as much visibility in traditional media to quickly spread their ideas and make tempting promises to young people, especially first-time voters.

3. Broader European Trends: Across Europe, nationalist and conservative parties are gaining momentum as voters seek alternatives to traditional centrist policies. This trend reflects a growing sentiment against globalization, with many citizens feeling left behind by the benefits it purportedly brings. Also, there can be a backlash against what some (young) people perceive as left-wing excessive political correctness and identity politics that are being forcefully imposed on them through the aggressive narrative. Progressive social policies and green agenda that they are promoting overburden the citizens, disregard their real needs and don't valorise fair work and contribution to society. We should also remember the security factor, which is closely linked to migration policies which were outdated and were not adequate to fit the new situation. This reaction and disappointment in policies that didn't deliver can drive voters towards right-wing alternatives that are moderate in tone, promise safety, a return to traditional values and economic policies with a "common sense" prefix. This broader European trend suggests a significant realignment in the political landscape, challenging the future cohesion of the European Union.

YEPP on Tour:

Our Campaign Across Europe

In 2024, the Youth of the European People's Party launched an innovative initiative, "YEPP on Tour," designed to closely follow the campaign journeys of our young candidates during the European elections. Our mission was clear: to amplify the voices of emerging leaders, sharing their stories, visions, and priorities with a wider audience to ensure their concerns shape the future of Europe. **Check out all the countries we visited and the people we met!**



YEPP on Tour:

Luxembourg

Our journey began in Luxembourg, where we visited Schengen and met Martine Kemp and Metty Steinmetz from the CSV. Martine passionately advocated for the abolition of geo-blocking, while Metty supported mental health initiatives, emphasizing their crucial role in societal well-being.



Croatia

In Split, we engaged with Ursula von der Leyen, Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic and Croatian Democratic Union leaders, witnessing their commitment to fostering innovation and inclusivity. This event highlighted efforts to equip young people with the tools needed to drive progress in Croatia and across Europe.

Germany

Next, in Frankfurt and Munich, alongside Junge Union and CDU/CSU leaders, we discussed the importance of a digital Europe that empowers education and economic prosperity. These discussions underscored the transformative potential of digital technologies in shaping a connected European society.



Austria

In Innsbruck, alongside Sophia Kircher of Tiroler Volkspartei, we participated in a parliamentary conference and a radio debate, supporting her advocacy for youth issues and international cooperation. Not even the rain stopped her from recording with us. Her success in the EU elections makes us proud of our journey together!



YEPP on Tour:

Portugal 🇵🇹

In Porto, we joined young candidates from Aliança Democrática in discussing economic resilience and European values. We heard from our president Lidia Pereira and Jose Limao, campaigning for a Europe of opportunities and prosperity. Their fresh perspectives underscored Portugal's vibrant political landscape and readiness to tackle global challenges.



Czech Republic 🇨🇪

Our visit to Prague with the Spolu coalition highlighted their goals of promoting transparency, combating foreign influence, and advocating for student mobility and LGBT rights. With Adela Silar (Mladí Lidovci) and Miloš Ulrych (Top Tým), YEPP contributed to outreach efforts in their grassroots campaign in one academic district of the city. Their discussions reaffirmed our shared values of international collaboration.



Finland 🇫🇮

In Helsinki, we joined Ursula von der Leyen for a breakfast meeting with young people on KNL and KDN, followed by a rally with Petteri Orpo, Finland's Prime Minister. We also had the opportunity to visit, alongside our Secretary-General Heidi Hanhela, one of the checkpoints at Finland's Eastern Border. These checkpoints were recently closed by the country as a proactive measure to prevent Russian infiltrations, highlighting Finland's strategic security concerns and its steadfast commitment to safeguarding national integrity. This visit underscored the significance of Finland's security policies and their importance in maintaining regional stability.

Sweden 🇸🇪

Our journey culminated in Stockholm at Järvaveckan, a huge political event where we engaged with Moderata Ungdomsförbundet (MUF) on advocating their priorities. MUF is active in supporting Ukraine and advancing sustainable solutions to climate change. Swedish youth demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting their mother party and engaging in debates during the event.



“YEPP on Tour” was more than a journey. It was a testament to the power of youth in shaping Europe’s future. By amplifying diverse voices and advocating for inclusive policies, we reinforced our commitment to fostering the next generation of European leaders. Together, we strive towards a more inclusive, prosperous, and sustainable Europe for all.

News from EU Bubble

Highlights from past weeks

· **The Labour Party reports a landslide victory in the UK general elections.** Results from the 4th of July ballots awarded 411 seats (+209 compared to 2019) to Labour, 121 seats for the Conservative Party (-244 seats), and a strong advancement for the Liberal Democrats, with 72 seats assigned (+61). Sixty-one-year-old human rights lawyer Keir Starmer, leader of the Labour Party, is set to become the next Prime Minister.

· **Le Front Populaire wins Parliamentary elections in France:** After the success of the National Rally (NR), the far-right party led by Marine Le Pen, in the first round, the left-wing Popular Front (NFP – GUE/S&D, The Greens) came first in the second round last Sunday. President Emmanuel Macron's Ensemble (Renew) came second, and for NR, just a bronze medal. No coalition obtained an absolute majority.

· **Orbán, Kickl, and Babiš to launch the Patriots for Europe:** The new extreme-right group in the European Parliament reached the threshold to constitute a new group, including 30 MEPs from Marine Le Pen's National Rally (currently ID). The group would become the third largest in the Parliament and will feature parties from Portugal (Chega), Spain (Vox), and the Netherlands (PVV).

Legislative Pipeline

· **1st Strasbourg Session:** From July 16th to 19th, the European Parliament will gather in Strasbourg for its first plenary session under the new mandate. The President and Vice-Presidents of the Parliament will be elected, and decisions will be made regarding the composition of each parliamentary committee. Afterwards, attention will turn to the election of the President of the European Commission. Ursula von der Leyen, the candidate proposed by EU leaders, will deliver her statement in the Strasbourg Parliament. To secure approval from Parliament, the candidate must gather the support of more than half of all MEPs, plus one.

· **The European Commission has imposed provisional countervailing duties on Chinese battery electric vehicle (BEV) imports** to protect its domestic market. This action follows an investigation uncovering unfair subsidisation in China's BEV industry. Duties are now applied to sampled producers, effective July 5, 2024, aiming to support EU producers until a final decision within four months. Consultations with Chinese authorities are ongoing to seek a mutual resolution.

What's next?

· **The Hungarian Council presidency poses doubts** on diplomatic relations between the EU and Russia regarding the war in Ukraine. In the first days at the head of the Council of the European Union, Viktor Orbán's Hungary is leaning toward proposing a ceasefire in Ukraine and mediating peace talks between Moscow and Kyiv. Orbán's pro-Putin attitude in the past years disappoints other EU leaders. Orbán is the only head of State in the Union that maintains close ties with Russia even after the start of the war.

· **Will Democrats still bet on Biden?** Concerns are spreading among liberals about the fitness of their candidate Joe Biden for the next presidential election in the United States. The names of potential replacements such as Vice President Kamala Harris and Governor of California Gavin Newsom are on everyone's lips. According to the New York Times, big donors of the Democratic Party are threatening to withdraw funds if Biden does not give up on running.

· **What if the Israeli internal front shrinks?** According to international newspapers, Israeli generals would be in favour of a ceasefire in Gaza. Reports suggest that anonymous sources in the IDF (Israel Defence Forces) claim that after nine months of war, the army is running out of spare parts, ammunition, motivation, and even soldiers. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu categorically excluded this possibility.

Get to Know: Junge Union Deutschlands!

Junge Union (JU) is the joint youth organisation of the two conservative German political parties, CDU and CSU. CDU/CSU is not only Germany's but also Europe's biggest people's party. The current chairman of Junge Union, elected in 2022, is Johannes Winkel.

Junge Union was originally founded in 1947, only two years after the mother-parties. In 1950 Junge Union decided on its first political program which stood for a unified Germany and European integration. Over the years Junge Union has always shown its commitment to the European Union and NATO.

Our mission is to continuously influence CDU/CSU regarding personal and political positions, and to represent the interests of the younger generation within the CDU/CSU. We are a conservative, yet liberal and progressive organisation. We are committed to democracy and the social market economy.

Our fundamental principles are based on a Christian and humanistic conception of man. Our conviction of the inviolability of human dignity and our respect for individual freedom in responsibility for the individual and his

community originate there. We shape our policies for and with the young generation. We fight in favor of skating grounds at the local level as passionately as we forward our proposals in youth, education and economic policies on the federal level.

Junge Union is present in all of Germany: in almost every community there are local and city associations. Junge Union is organized in one federal, 18 regional and 480 district associations throughout Germany. Membership is possible from the age of 14 to the age of 35 and is independent from membership in CDU or CSU. The influence of Junge Union comes from us having around 90.000 members all over Germany of whom 3000 are active as local politicians. Right now, 197 members of German parliament are members of CDU/CSU and many of them have a strong background in Junge Union. Junge Union is also influential in Germany and contributes to societal debates due to its ideational impact and the steady media attention, especially around our annual congress.

The annual congress Deutschlandtag of Junge Union takes place every year where political priorities are set, and the federal board is elected. With around 1000 participants including delegates and international guests it is the biggest political youth event in Germany. Over the course

of the year Junge Union also organises three Deutschlandrat, which is the second highest organ and ensures political debate and agenda setting. Furthermore, Junge Union has 14 topic oriented federal commissions to postulate political positions of Junge Union. The highest executive organ of Junge Union is the Federal board with elected members from most states. It is composed of the Federal Chairman, four deputies, the Secretary General, the Federal Treasurer and thirteen associate members.

Currently the political priorities of Junge Union are the pledge to the intergenerational contract, to ensure pensions and financial stability for the next generations, the reestablishment of compulsory military service and our commitment to Israel and Ukraine. With Johannes as our chairman, a pragmatic leader and strong believer in our values, we are confident when looking at next year's federal elections and a thriving future for Junge Union!

By Severin Hirmer

JU JUNGE UNION
DEUTSCHLANDS

YEPP Tips:

5 Political TV Series

(and Where to Find Them)

Fauda

The show follows the chain of events that involve a top Israeli agent chasing a Palestinian fighter. Fauda displays military and intelligence operations and has engaged a vast audience since its release in 2015. One of the main actors, Idan Amedi, who plays Sagi Tzur, volunteered in the fight against Hamas in Gaza after October 7, 2023, and was badly wounded in January this year, undergoing surgery at the Sheba Tel Hashomer Medical Center near Tel Aviv.



The Loudest Voice

This 2019 miniseries tells the story of Fox News' birth in the United States and its impact on American public opinion. The main character is Roger Ailes (Russell Crowe), the former Republican strategist hired by Rupert Murdoch in 1995 to craft the popular news channel. The 7-episode show reflects on ethics, power, media, and consensus.



YEPP Tips:

5 Political TV Series

(and Where to Find Them)



Borgen - Power & Glory

The Netflix series delves into significant contemporary political issues, including the relevance of the Danish Realm in today's world, the tensions for control over the Arctic, and the climate crisis. The central theme revolves around power struggles and their impact on individuals, both professionally and personally. Characters like Birgitte Nyborg, the newly appointed foreign affairs minister, face an international power struggle triggered by an oil discovery in Greenland, where Denmark's role is overshadowed by global actors.



The Man in the High Castle

This series, spanning 4 seasons, is a dystopia inspired by the homonymous novel by Philip K. Dick (1962). It imagines an alternative reality where the Axis powers emerged victorious in World War II, dividing the United States into two occupied regions. On the East Coast, life is shaped by the Nazis, with Times Square adorned by a massive swastika banner. Meanwhile, the West Coast is under Japanese occupation. Rebellion, power, and resistance are the core topics in this Amazon Prime show.



Parlement

This series in three seasons (the fourth is on the way) follows the adventures of Samy Kantor, a young and inexperienced parliamentary assistant in Brussels. Working for a frequently absent and indifferent French MEP, Samy handles an amendment on fining, the practice of cutting off sharks' fins. The series uses irony and satire to depict the functioning of the European Parliament, breaking free from usual stereotypes.

Social Media Highlights

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about the war
in Ukraine?**

6,5 million

Refugees fled Ukraine
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Number of
Days of War

868

Total Cost of
Reconstruction
and Recovery

486 bln



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