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Editorial

33 Years of Restored Ukrainian Independence and the Fight for Freedom

On August 24, 2024, Ukraine celebrated the 33rd anniversary of its restored independence. For Ukrainians, this is a restoration, as Ukrainian statehood has deep historical roots dating back to the times of ancient Kyivan Rus, a medieval state with the capital in Kyiv that included much of modern-day Ukraine, Belarus, and western parts of Russia. Ukraine has traveled a difficult and thorny path to independence, and the modern state is the heir to centuries-old state formations.

For centuries, Ukrainian lands were subjected to the rule of various empires and foreign powers. Despite these challenges, Ukrainians preserved their identity, language, culture, and traditions. The era of the Ukrainian Cossacks was particularly influential, instilling a strong sense of freedom and national pride that has endured through the ages. It was during this time that the first bricks were laid in the foundation of Ukrainian statehood, symbolised by the establishment of the Zaporizhzhian Sich and the first Ukrainian Constitution by Pylyp Orlyk, published in 1710.

The first significant attempt to establish an independent Ukrainian state occurred during 1917-1921 with the proclamation

of the Ukrainian People's Republic. On January 22, 1918, the Republic declared its independence, a day that is still celebrated as the Day of Unity of Ukraine and marks the true beginning of modern Ukrainian statehood. Although this effort was short-lived, it was a critical step in shaping Ukrainian national consciousness.

Following the fall of the Ukrainian People's Republic, Ukraine was absorbed into the Soviet Union, where it remained until 1991. During this period, Ukrainian culture, language, and traditions were systematically repressed. The most tragic chapter of this era was the Holodomor of 1932-1933, a man-made famine orchestrated by the Soviet regime that resulted in the deaths of millions of Ukrainians. Despite these horrors, the spirit of the Ukrainian people remained unbroken, and their aspiration for independence never waned.

Finally, on the eve of the USSR's collapse, on August 24, 1991, the Verkhovna Rada, the Parliament of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic, adopted the Act of Declaration of Independence of Ukraine. This momentous event marked the beginning of a new chapter in Ukrainian history, one that was overwhelmingly affirmed by the nationwide referendum on December 1, 1991, where 90.32% voted in favor of independence.

The history of Ukraine is a continuous struggle for its independence and sovereignty. Today, Ukraine continues this fight, defending its borders in a war against the aggressive Russian Federation, which has not abandoned its colonial ambitions. In fact, Ukraine is waging an anti-colonial war, similar to those fought by many other nations on their path to independence.

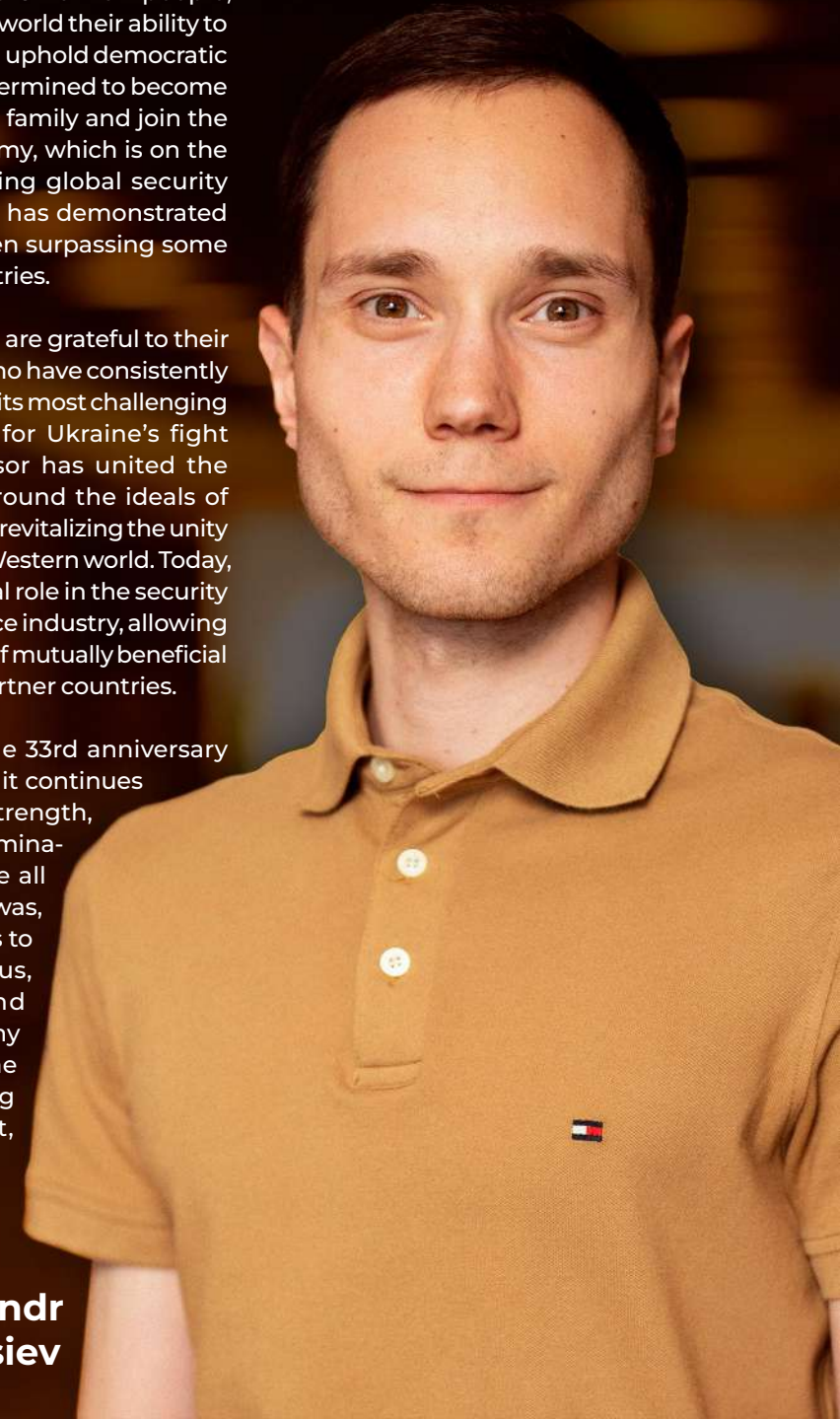
The current war is a test of the strength and resilience of the Ukrainian people, who have shown the world their ability to defend their land and uphold democratic values. Ukraine is determined to become part of the European family and join the EU. The Ukrainian army, which is on the front line of defending global security and the world order, has demonstrated its effectiveness, often surpassing some NATO member countries.

The Ukrainian people are grateful to their partners and allies who have consistently supported Ukraine in its most challenging times. The support for Ukraine's fight against the aggressor has united the democratic world around the ideals of justice and humanity, revitalizing the unity and cohesion of the Western world. Today, Ukraine plays a crucial role in the security sector and the defence industry, allowing for the development of mutually beneficial relationships with partner countries.

As Ukraine marks the 33rd anniversary of its independence, it continues to demonstrate its strength, resilience, and determination to thrive despite all difficulties. Ukraine was, is, and will be, thanks to its brave, courageous, and free sons and daughters. No enemy will conquer Ukraine and its people. As long as Ukrainians fight, Ukraine will stand!

Stand with Ukraine!

Oleksandr Afanasiev



Past Events

YEPP Board Meeting in Chania - Exploring Greece's geopolitical role

Between the 19th and 21st of July, Board members gathered for the first time since the end of the election campaign and the results of the European Parliamentary elections in Chania, Crete. The mission coincided with a day of remembrance for the Greek people, namely the anniversary of the Turkish invasion and occupation of Cyprus, which occurred on the 20th of July 1974.

The Greek geopolitical position in the Mediterranean and the role of Greece in European institutions were key discussions during this 2-day meeting with local politicians and internal discussions on the future events of YEPP. Board members first met with Tasos Chatzivasileiou, Member of the Greek Parliament and International Secretary of Nea Demokratia. With him, they learned more about the implications of the Turkish occupation of Cyprus and the role of Greece in the stability of the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Additionally, YEPP met with Sevi Voloudaki, Member of the Greek Parliament. Voloudaki spoke with Board members regarding the deep political identity of the city of Chania, the place of origin of many Greek center-right top politicians. The conversation spanned both local and European policies, offering valuable insights and perspectives.

The official Board meeting kicked off with an address by the president of ONNED,

the youth organization of Nea Demokratia, Orfeas Georgiou. On the 50th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, he underscored the significance of standing united in confronting this issue. During the meeting, the Board discussed the positive results of the European Elections, a favorable outcome for the EPP, which remains the first group in the European Parliament and benefited from the confirmation of Ursula von der Leyen as the head of the European Commission and Roberta Metsola as president of the Parliament. Members discussed the planning of the next YEPP events, confirming the dates of two upcoming Council Meetings: 10th to 13th of October in Turin, Italy; and 21st to 24th of November in Athens, Greece. The mission in Chania has been enriching with the opportunity to deepen our knowledge of Greek politics and strengthen our relations with some of its top politicians.



Past Events

YEPP Seminar: The Future of Europe-China Relations in an era of global challenges

On Thursday, 1 August, Eoin Scarlett, YEPP Vice-President and Chair of the Working Group on Foreign Relations, organised an online seminar titled "The Future of Europe-China Relations in an Era of Global Challenges."

This seminar aimed to foster a comprehensive understanding of the future trajectory of Europe-China relations by addressing current issues, potential opportunities, and the strategic responses necessary to navigate the complexities of this critical international dynamic.

Three speakers shared their expertise and insights: Iuliu Winkler, Romanian Member of the European Parliament, Raquel Vaz-Pinto, researcher at the Portuguese Institute of International Relations, and David Plasek, analyst in the cabinet of the Czech Minister of Labour and Assistant Professor at Charles University in Prague.

Eoin Scarlett welcomed the attendees and introduced the committee's focus. The working group is currently addressing European-China relations, aiming to

develop a policy document outlining YEPP's vision for the future.

In his intervention, Iuliu Winkler emphasised the importance of developing a realistic strategy for managing the European Union's relationship with China. He highlighted the need to balance economic interests with the promotion of universal values. Winkler called for a rules-based global order where the EU can assert its influence and maintain a balanced partnership with China. He also addressed the vulnerabilities and interdependencies between the EU and China that have become increasingly evident, particularly in relation to critical raw materials and technologies.

Raquel Vaz Pinto emphasised the critical importance of diversifying Europe's raw material sources to reduce dependency on China, especially in light of recent geopolitical shifts such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine. She highlighted issues with Chinese investments, including opacity and lack of reciprocity, and stressed the need for Europe to develop a strategic approach to sourcing critical materials like rare earths, lithium, and cobalt. Vaz Pinto supported the European Commission's recent focus on these issues and identified Australia and Indonesia as key partners in diversification efforts. She also underscored the importance of a cohesive EU foreign policy and endorsed Ursula von der Leyen's leadership in navigating these challenges.

David Plasek highlighted significant Chinese initiatives impacting European academic institutions. He outlined the

risks posed by China's Military-Civil Fusion strategy, which merges civilian and military research, complicating the identification of potentially hazardous collaborations. He also discussed Made in China 2025, China's goal to achieve self-sufficiency in key technologies by 2025, and China's leadership in science and technology by 2050, which aims to make China a global leader in innovation. Additionally, Plasek noted the seven 'Don'ts' policy that suppresses academic discussion on sensitive topics in China and influences Western institutions. To mitigate these risks, he recommended greater transparency in funding, increased awareness and training for academic staff, and the establishment of regulations to prevent sensitive collaborations.

The seminar concluded with a Q&A session where participants had the opportunity to address their questions to the panellists. The discussion covered several significant topics, including how Europe might prepare for potential military conflicts involving Taiwan amidst escalating US-China tensions, and whether Europe is sufficiently prepared to tackle this issue. Additionally, the panel addressed the European People's Party's stance on free trade agreements with ASEAN countries, explored what lessons Europe could learn from China's domestic initiatives, and examined concerns about Chinese corporations potentially undermining the European market. The session also considered whether Europe should reconsider its strategies in response to China's growing influence in Central Asia, particularly in light of Russia's diminishing power in the region.

Meet Young EPP MEPs



**Lídia Pereira, PSD
Portugal**

Lídia Pereira, born in 1991 in Coimbra, Portugal, graduated in Economics from the University of Coimbra and holds a Master's in European Economic Studies from the College of Europe. At 19, Lídia became politically active with JSD, rising to Vice President at the regional level and later becoming the International Secretary in May 2016. In November 2018, she was elected YEPP's 12th and first female President at the Congress in Athens. Reelected as YEPP President at the 14th Congress in Braga, Portugal, Lídia's leadership continued to make an impact. In April 2024, she was elected Vice-Chair of the EPP Group, the highest position held by a YEPP representative, and re-elected as a Member of the European Parliament for her second term. Lídia serves as Member of the **Committee of Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)**, and Substitute of the **Committees of International Trade (INTA)**, on the **Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)**, and on **Tax Matters (FISC)**.



**Sophia Kircher, ÖVP
Austria**

Born in 1994 in Austria, Sophia Kircher has made significant achievements in public service and international diplomacy. At the University of Innsbruck, she advocated for around 28,000 students and helped secure the first Tyrolean student ticket in 2015. Her academic and professional journey included studying at Brock University in Canada and internships at the Foreign Ministry in Vienna and the Foreign Trade Centre in London. After graduating in 2017, she worked in corporate communications before entering the Tyrolean State Parliament in 2018. She became the youngest Vice President of the Tyrolean State Parliament in 2021 and was re-elected as 1st Vice President in 2022. In 2024, Sophia was elected to the European Parliament, where she now serves as Vice-Chair of the **Transport and Tourism Committee (TRAN)** and as a Substitute on the **Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO)**. She is also an active member of the Young European People's Party (YEPP), having been appointed First Vice President at the 14th YEPP Congress in Braga, Portugal.

Zala Tomašič, SDS
Slovenia

Zala Tomašič, born in 1995, is one of the youngest Members of the European Parliament. She has contributed to YEPP since 2023 as the International Secretary for the Slovenian Democratic Youth, one of the EPP Youth organizations in Slovenia. In Iowa, US, she graduated with a degree in Political Science and Economics and was selected for an internship in the U.S. Senate with Senator Chuck Grassley (Republican from Iowa) in Washington, D.C.

After returning to Europe, she completed a traineeship at the Martens Centre, the research center of the European People's Party (EPP), and earned a Master's degree in International Relations from King's College London. In 2021, she worked at the Slovenian Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels, focusing on relations with the European Parliament. Since 2022, she has been working with the Slovenska Demokratska Stranka, Slovenia's center-right party. In the European Parliament, she is a member of the **Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)** and a substitute member of the **Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)** and the **Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)**.



Karlo Ressler, HDZ
Croatia

Karlo Ressler, born in 1989 in Zagreb, graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb in 2013 as one of the top students of his generation. He spent his final year of studies in Sheffield, UK, after which he enrolled in a doctoral program at the Max Planck Institute for International Criminal Law in Freiburg. He worked as an assistant at the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb and as an assistant to Member of the European Parliament Andrej Plenković. In 2016, he became an advisor to the Prime Minister, and in 2019, he led the HDZ list in the European elections, where he was elected as a Member of the European Parliament. During two terms, he served as Vice President of the Youth of the European People's Party. In the 2019-2024 term of the European Parliament, he served as the Parliament's chief negotiator for the European budget and as Vice President of the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence. In the 2024-2029 term, he is acting as Head of the Croatian EPP delegation, and he currently serves as the EPP coordinator in the **Committee on Budgets (BUDG)** and as a substitute member in the **Committees on Budgetary Control (CONT)** and **Civil Liberties, Justice, and Home Affairs (LIBE)**. His parliamentary work remains focused on migration issues, budgetary procedures, and the digital transition.





**András Tivadar Kulja, TISZA
Hungary**

András Tivadar Kulja, born in Hungary in 1989, is a surgeon, accomplished digital health expert, and politician of the Tisza Party, elected as member of the European Parliament in June 2024. His social media posts and videos on health education in several platforms, especially on TikTok, with over 100 million views, are aiming to improve healthcare literacy of Hungarian citizens. Former Lecturer of Health and Science Communication at Semmelweis University, András is now serving as the Vice-Chair of the **Committee of Environment, Health and Food Safety (ENVI)**, Vice-Coordinator of the **Public Health Subcommittee (SANT)**, and as a substitute member for the **Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)**.

**Ana Pedro Miguel,
CDS
Portugal**

Ana Miguel Pedro was born in Portugal in 1989. She was first elected Member of the European Parliament, and she now serves as a member on the **Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)** and as a substitute for the **Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)** and the **Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)**.



Photo by
Martin Lahousse

**Alexander Bernhuber, ÖVP
Austria**

Born in 1992, Alexander Bernhuber has been re-elected as a Member of the European Parliament for a second consecutive term. Having grown up in a farm in Austria, he developed a strong commitment to the future of rural regions and communities. This passion drives his work at the local, national, and European levels, where he aims to shape a brighter future for the next generations. His key interests include safeguarding rural livelihoods, enhancing regional food systems, simplifying administrative processes, making rural areas more attractive, and promoting innovation, especially within the framework of Austria's Green Deal. Alexander is now a member of the **Committees on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)** and on **Petitions (PETI)**, and a substitute of the **Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)**.



Niels Geuking,
Familien Partei Deutschlands
Germany

Born in 1992 in Germany, Niels Geuking first became a Member of the European Parliament in February 2024, succeeding his father. Following the European elections, he was elected and is currently a member of the **Committees on Development (DEVE)**, and on **Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)**.



Sebastião Bugalho, Independent
Portugal

Sebastião Bugalho was born in Portugal in 1995. In 2024, at the age of 28, he was first elected as a Member of the European Parliament. He currently serves on the **Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)** and is a substitute member of the **Committees on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)**, **Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)**, and **Human Rights (DROI)**.

Interview with MEP Zala Tomašič

Being a young politician means working hard and fighting stereotypes

"My advice to YEPP delegates is to take advantage of all the opportunities that YEPP has to offer. Keep networking, at a local level, in your own party or at YEPP Councils. Keep in contact with people. Because one day, they may be an MEP!"

Zala Tomašič, International Secretary of the Slovenian Democratic Youth (SDM) since 2023, was elected as a Member of the European Parliament in the June 9 elections this year. In her office at the 14th floor of the Parliament in Brussels, we discovered with her the professional experience that led her to become a deputy and discussed her ideas on addressing the current challenges facing young Europeans.

Zala, at 28 years old you are among the youngest MEPs. What was an important element that made your campaign successful?

I chose a positive approach, in contrast with the perception of some people to see centre-right as serious and "boring" politics. I tried to bring energy and a strong campaign with a mix of social media and concrete initiatives, that strongly appealed to young people. As we do not have Starbucks in Slovenia, I came up with the idea of building a mobile coffee shop that served free coffee, tea, and lemonade with different flavors. We travelled across Slovenia, giving a chance to anyone to sit for a drink and

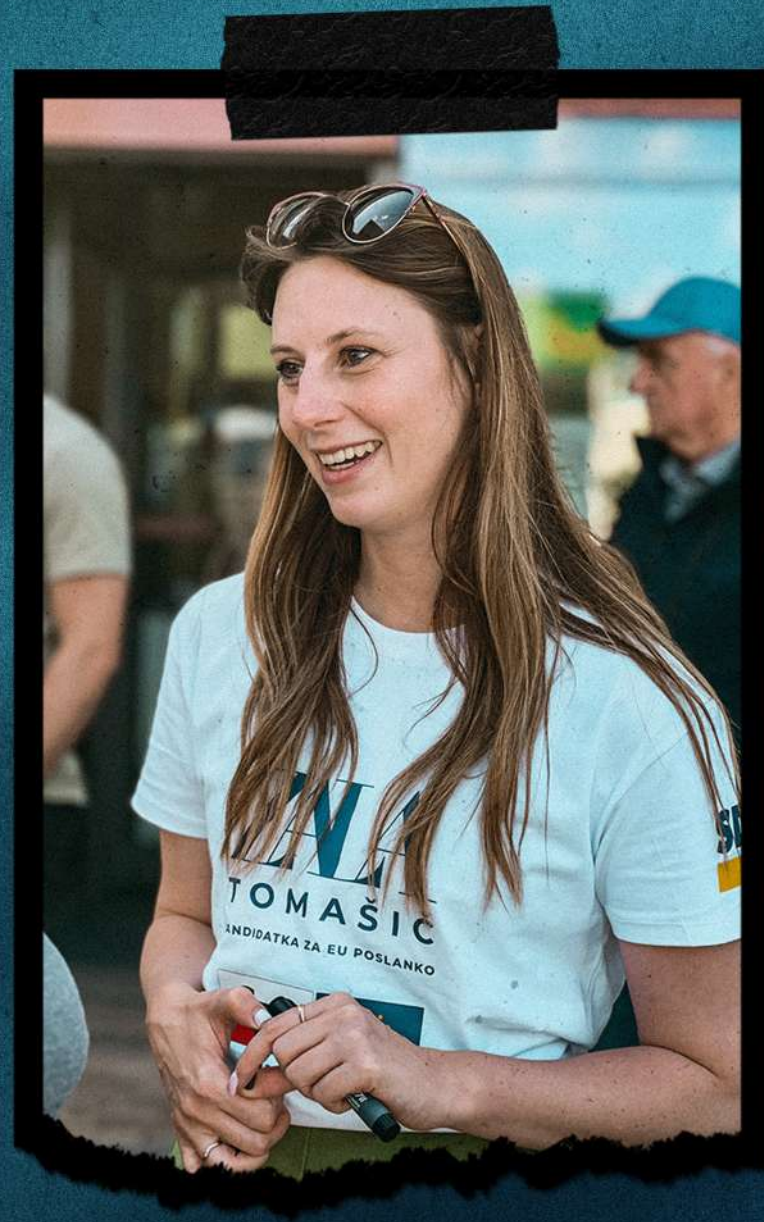
discuss politics with us. It became a very "Instagrammable" experience. The idea also had a very positive impact on older people and those who did not share our views.

Where did your political activism start?

My dad is very involved in politics, so it has always been part of my life since I was young. As I grew up, I decided to deepen my knowledge by studying political science and economics in the US. Seeing the American approach, where people have elections for everything, even for the sheriff, deepened my interest. In the meantime, I was selected for an internship with a Republican Senator, a great honour especially for a non-US citizen. In the last years, after working in diplomacy in the Slovenian representation in Brussels, I understood I wanted to come back to where legislation is produced, so I went back to Slovenia to work in the Parliamentary Group of SDS (EPP).

In June, YEPP travelled across Europe to support many young candidates, and you are among those who made it. Do you find it easy doing politics at high levels for a young person today?

I think it is still difficult. It is getting easier, and I managed to do it, so it is not an impossible task, but I do think that you have to fight stereo-





types, and you have to work harder to convince people that you are the right person to represent them. In a scenario where most of the European voters are older, you have to put effort in demonstrating your experience and qualifications. I see in different countries that, even at the local level, young people are usually on electoral lists, but not high enough to get elected.

Do you think on this point there is a difference with the US?

From my experience, Americans get independent earlier compared to the EU, because you leave your parents' house to move to College when you are 18. This means that when you are 22, you can already start working and by the time you are 28, you have a significant resume, often longer than a European one. Furthermore, in Europe internships come after a bachelor's or master's degree, while in the US they are attended during studies and are preparatory to a full-time job. This is something I would like to change in Europe. If you think of the bigger picture, in order to have a family or buy an apartment you need that job security. I found myself as well in the Brussels struggle of finding one internship after another, and currently, since I am recruiting a new person for the office, I am seeing all these young people with amazing preparation, who completed many traineeships, without receiving a proper job offer. It is difficult deciding to have a child in these circumstances.

Could you tell us one thing about Slovenia that most people underestimate?

When I was living in the US, they did not even know about its existence. Tourists are now starting to discover it more. It is a small country, but still, you get to swim in the Adriatic Sea, ski in the Alps, swim in the thermal waters, or visit

the caves, and all of that is one hour away from each other. It is like a crossroad of Europe where all its beauty meets.

In which European field, if any, Slovenia can play a key role?

We share some history with the Western Balkans, we understand their culture and our language is very close. Those are advantages for Slovenia. We are strong in cybersecurity as well. Unfortunately, these and other sectors did not grow as expected because the most part of our governments since the independence in 1991 have always been left-wing, and when centre-right had the chance to rule the country, we suffered from a lack of continuity, with new populist parties emerging in each election.

At the beginning of September, Slovenia hosted in Bled the strategic Forum International Conference, featuring among the others, Russian dissidents and top politicians from Europe and outside. Is Europe ready to face a future where geopolitical instabilities will require military preparation?

This is going to be a big question during this mandate. We should work on defence. I am very much in favour of being allies with the United States, with which we share the values of freedom and democracy, but I think we rely too much on them when it comes to military. Energetically we were (or are) relying on Russia and we are dependent on China for batteries and electrification processes. I think we need to think strategically to these challenges, because we now face international relations from a point of weakness. It is hard to be a serious negotiator if you are overly reliant on your counterpart. We need a clear defence strategy, not only military, but also in data protection and cybersecurity.

News from EU Bubble

Highlights from the past weeks

• **Flames and water set the alarm in Europe.** This week, more than 54 wildfires burnt in Portugal, mainly in the north of the country, with blazes close to towns south of Porto. This occurred just a few days after heavy rain caused floods in central and Eastern Europe, resulting in the death of 21 people across Romania, Poland, Czech Republic, and Austria.

• **On September 9th, Mario Draghi presented his report on the state of European competitiveness,** as requested by the President of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, in November 2023. In the report, Draghi calls for €800 billion investment to compete with China and US markets, warning that without a significant plan, Europe risks compromising its welfare, environment, and freedom.

• **German Chancellor Olaf Scholz spread criticism across Europe** after his decision to temporarily suspend the Schengen Treaty within German borders. The measure is allowed by European law for a limited time and for security reasons. Germany will maintain border controls for at least six months following a surge in fatal criminal incidents in the country.

Legislative pipeline

• **New European Commission unveiled: EPP leads with 14 members**

On September 17, President Ursula von der Leyen revealed the new European Commission's team. This new executive body will consist of 20 commissioners, six vice-presidents, and the president. Notably, 15 of these members are from the European People's Party, highlighting the significant role of the EPP in shaping EU legislation and governance.

• **Upcoming parliamentary hearings for new Commissioners**

The European Parliament is preparing for a thorough examination of the new Commissioners, set to begin around mid-October. The process will start with the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI), which will investigate any potential conflicts of interest. Subsequently, nominees will undergo questioning by the relevant committees to assess their qualifications for their respective roles.

What's next

• **EU Defense Commissioner: challenges ahead**

Andrius Kubilius has been appointed as the EU's first Defense Commissioner. Despite the importance of the role, he faces significant political challenges, particularly in persuading larger EU states to collaborate more closely on the matter. Within 100 days, the new Commissioner will need to report on the future of European defense, especially in response to the most severe military scenarios.

• **Harris strengthens lead after presidential debate**

Following the recent presidential debate, Kamala Harris has strengthened her lead over Donald Trump, with new polls showing a significant advantage. Notably, Harris's lead is supported by independent voters, with 47% indicating their intention to vote for her in the upcoming November election.

Young Fine Gael (YFG) is the youth wing of the Irish political party Fine Gael. Fine Gael is one of three major political parties in Ireland, alongside Fianna Fáil (Renew) and Sinn Féin (GUE/NGL). Fine Gael is a founding member of the EPP and YFG is a founding member of YEPP. YFG was formed in 1977 as part of a series of major reforms to Fine Gael's internal organisation introduced by then party leader Garrett FitzGerald. FitzGerald's reforms were intended to modernise the party's structure and organisation. He hoped that YFG would serve three key functions: increase the party's popularity and membership amongst students and young people; boost the number of campaigners on the ground for the party's candidates in elections; and be a voice for social liberalisation in what was at the time a deeply conservative, Catholic society. The first two roles continue to be at the heart of what YFG is and what it does.

In its early years in the 1980s and 1990s, YFG was at the forefront of campaigning for social liberalisation by supporting FitzGerald's so-called 'constitutional crusade.' The 'constitutional crusade' was an effort to reform Ireland's constitution and involved a series of referendums to remove the ban on divorce, to decriminalise homosexuality, to remove the special status of the Catholic Church in the constitution, and to provide for abortion in limited circumstances. The campaign had mixed results, with some referenda succeeding while others failed. However, by the 2000s all the failed referenda had been put to another vote and overwhelmingly passed by the Irish public. YFG is proud of its history in campaigning for such social liberalisation. However, after the success of this campaign, YFG has adapted its third key role to be what

Get to Know: Young Fine Gael (YFG)

our recent deputy party leader Simon Coveney called, "acting as the conscience of the senior Fine Gael party." We achieve this through our official status of autonomy from Fine Gael. This means that YFG is free to adopt policy and campaigning positions that differ from the senior Fine Gael party. We very much see our role, therefore, as being able to say the things Fine Gael politicians want to say but feel that they can't say, and putting pressure on Fine Gael when in government to stick to the party's core values and principles. For example, YFG openly supports Ireland becoming a NATO member state while Fine Gael does not, and YFG refused to support the bid of Ireland's current President Michael D Higgins for a second term in office while Fine Gael did support him.

However, despite such occasional disagreements with our senior party, YFG is committed to Fine Gael's core Christian-Democratic, centre-right principles. These are equality of opportunity, enterprise and reward, security, personal liberty, and a staunchly pro-European and trans-Atlanticist foreign policy. YFG is organised into constituency and university branches. We have a branch in all thirty-nine constituencies (electoral districts) for our national parliament, known as the Dáil. Our constituency branches are closely linked to their senior party branch in the same constituency, and each elect their own committee. YFG members are usually very involved in their senior party constituency branch,

primarily through campaigning for their local elected Fine Gael politicians. Additionally, YFG has a branch in every university in Ireland. Our university branches are very much the heart of our organisation and are by far the most active and largest of our branches. They tend to focus slightly less on campaigning for politicians and party candidates and more on policy discussion, social events, debating, seminars with invited guests, trips abroad, and joint events with other university societies and clubs. While YFG does have an active young professionals' network, students make up the bulk of our membership.

YFG is led by our National Executive of ten members who are elected at our National Conference held every 18-22 months. Additionally, there are also four regional councils led by one member of the National Executive in Dublin, Munster, Leinster, and the North-West. Our current president is Eoghan Gallagher who was elected at our last National Conference in Galway in March 2023. YFG also has a number of sub-committees, similar to YEPP's Working Groups, the members of which are selected by the National Executive. Our main sub-committees are the International Committee (the chair of which is our International Secretary), policy committee, campaigns committee, Young Professionals Network, and Women's Network. YFG is proud to count dozens of elected local councillors (municipal politicians), several national MPs, and one of Fine Gael's


four MEPs amongst its membership. YFG is an essential breeding ground for aspiring politicians within Fine Gael. We are especially proud that our party's last two prime ministers (Leo Varadkar and Enda Kenny), and our current prime minister Simon Harris, all began their political involvement in YFG. We are also proud that Leo Varadkar was a two-term YEPP Vice-President. YFG believes its most important role within YEPP is to ensure that YEPP remains the conscience of the EPP family.

**By Eoin Scarlett,
YEPP Vice-President**



Social Media Highlights

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Ursula is Reappointed President of the European Commission

♥ 🗨 📍

"The last five years have shown what we can do together. Let us do it again. Let us make the choice of strength."
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18 of July

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EMPOWERING THE YOUTH FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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In a decisive week for the top jobs in the European Commission, YEPP is prouder than ever to claim...
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UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE DAY
Yesterday. Today. Always.

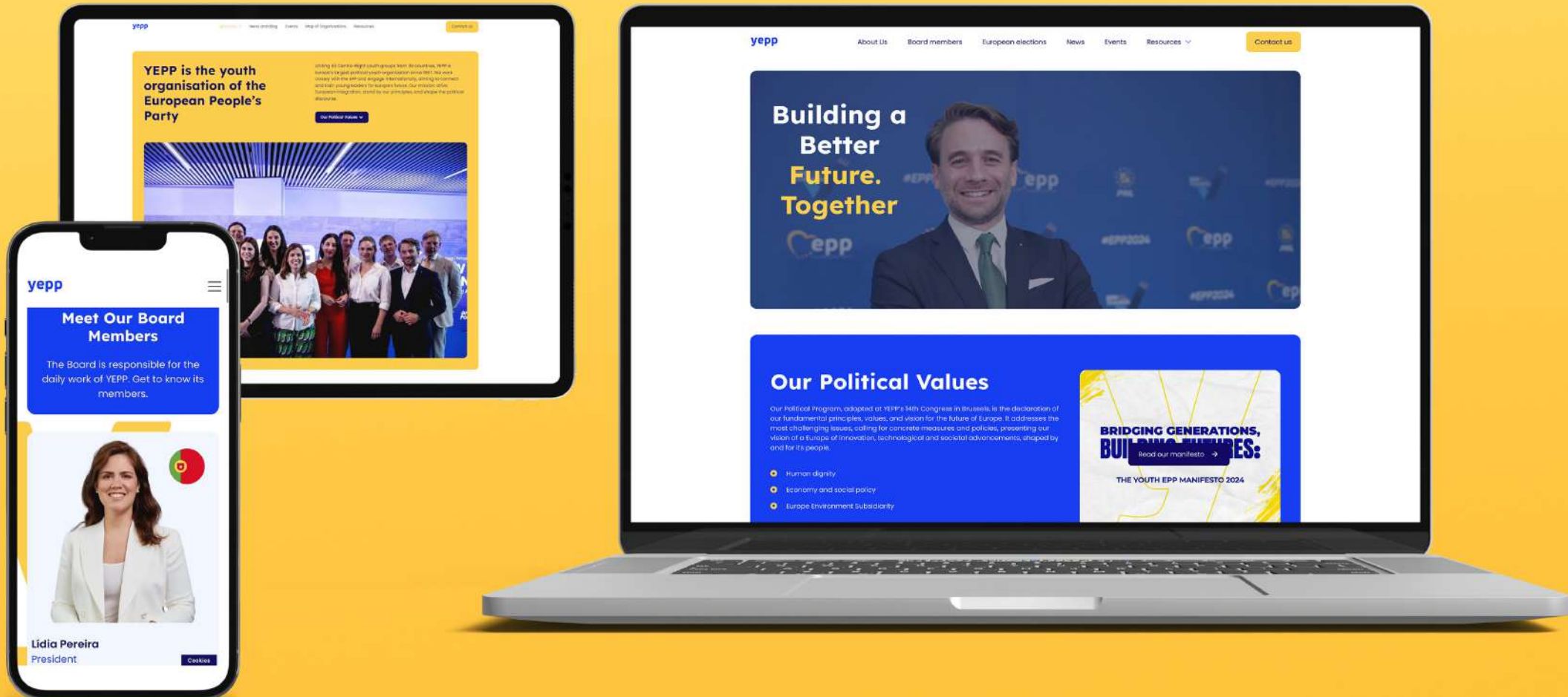
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history: Ukraine's Independence
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4 comments
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NEWS

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