



Results

EU FUTURE TALKS SALZBURG

DEMANDS/PROPOSALS/RESULTS

On the occasion of the European Year of Youth and the Conference on the Future of Europe, EUROPE DIRECT Land Salzburg initiated EU Future Talks at the Chiemseehof in Salzburg with about 50 young people from Austria and its six neighbouring EU Member States participating. The conference, which was organised together with akzente Salzburg, aimed to formulate the demands of the youth regarding the future of Europe. The final discussion with Members of the European Parliament can be watched on a Livestream www.salzburg.gv.at/europedirect. The proposals of the adolescents aged 17-22 years - list of names stated below - resulted in the enclosed paper and were worked out over the preceding days in four parallel workshops, namely "Climate protection and environment", "Migration and refugees", "European fundamental values and rights", "Decision making level: Who decides? Who is responsible?". It is in their best interest and a top priority that their proposals will be brought into the ongoing discussions and taken into account.

REICHLING, Leonie (AUT)
HERBST, Ella (AUT)
AINZ, Katharina (AUT)
ORTWEIN, Theresa (AUT)
SCHAFFER, Theresa (AUT)
ROSNER, Benjamin (AUT)
TAXER, Maximilian (AUT)
HOFER, Simon (AUT)
MASTNAK, Anna (AUT)
MITTENDORFER, Anatol (AUT)
KETTL, Alexander (AUT)
KOTEC, Verena (AUT)
FRENNER, Paul (AUT)
WIESMÜLLER, Jacob (AUT)
MUELLER, Niklas (AUT)
NITSCH, Alexander (AUT)

PLANK, Fabian (AUT)
ANIAGYEY, Zadok (AUT)
BARSKE, Tom (AUT)
KOCK, Dave (AUT)
PETRŮ, Simona (CZE)
MALINA, Václav (CZE)
VANICKÁ, Patricia (CZE)
DENGLER, Lucas (DE)
WÖRNLE, Johannes (DE)
SCHWANECKE, Leonie (DE)
ENGEL, Julia (DE)
GEISTANGER, Anna (DE)
ZEISLER, Sarah (DE)
HARASZTI, Kincső (HUN)
KIRALY, Panka (HUN)
KÖVESDI, Lilla (HUN)

SZITTYAI, Bálint (HUN)
BAKKAY, Richard Levente (HUN)
HOFER, Emily (HUN)
KOMÓDI, Lili (HUN)
SZITTYAI, Gergő (HUN)
VARGETTO, Giuliana (IT)
ROMAGNOLI, Maria (IT)
ALFANO, Beatrice (IT)
CIGLARIC, Ziga (SI)
LUPINC KOROSK, Hana (SI)
KELAVIC, Tea (SI)
JEROVCNIK-DOPOLNJEN, (SI)
STUHEC, Meta (SI)
LEDNICKÁ, Lenka (SK)
URBAN, Martin (SK)
ROMAN, David (SK)



DEMANDS AND RESULTS FROM THE “CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ENVIRONMENT” GROUP

PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY

The participants of the EU Future Talks ask for help in promoting the positive effects of preserving biodiversity, in limiting deforestation and in reducing extreme agriculture by:

- including it in secondary school curriculum
- starting negative campaign of products that cause overfishing and over-harvesting
- granting support to pupils and students that are involved in these fields or organising events such as EU Future Talks

ENERGY

The participants of the EU Future Talks ask for a limitation of EU dependence on foreign energy sources. More renewable energy sources should be introduced.

Since there are specific goals to be reached by 2030 and 2050 a focus should be laid on particular research. Furthermore, the time is too short to rely on solar panels or combined energy. Sooner or later there will be a resource shortage on silicon. Therefore, new sources of energy such as hydrogen should be applied as soon as possible.

As motivation to speed up the shift from fossil fuels to green energy the participants recommend a tax adjustment for the time period where the change is happening.

TRADE

The participants of the EU Future Talks demand a focus on negative campaigning of products that are causing climate change and for modifying the trade agreements with countries that are the biggest global pollution causers. As example special contract clauses can be included focused on more green agriculture. Regarding trade regulations, the participants of the EU Future Talks want to ensure the availability of sustainable products on the market to the citizens providing at the same time socio-economic justice.

Furthermore, firms should be required to present an annual report on their own environmental impact using shared parameters. The participants encourage first, the introduction of an Eco-score labelling system as showcase for the sustainability of a product and second, the implementation of incentives for consumption and production on a local scale.



DEMANDS AND RESULTS FROM THE “MIGRATION AND REFUGEES” GROUP

EU ASYLUM REGULATIONS

No two-class system of refugees

The participants of the EU Future Talks ask the EU to immediately stop a two-class system of refugees! Everyone fleeing war needs protection and must be treated equally. No two-class system of refugees should be established where refugee communities have to compete for resources.

The participants of the EU Future Talks urge the EU to be a Union of Equality for all asylum seekers no matter where they come from and to guarantee human rights to them all.

Fast-track procedures and equal treatment

The participants of the EU Future Talks demand fast track procedures for refugees to ensure them fast entry to the labour market. Asylum seekers should have access to basic medical insurance as fast as possible - regardless of their status.

The participants of the EU Future Talks like to see equal treatment for everyone so that refugees can find faster acceptance in society and the opportunity to start a new life. Best practice should be exchanged among Member States.

Special assistance to vulnerable groups

The participants of the EU Future Talks ask for special assistance and support to vulnerable groups like children, but also to LGBTIQ+ refugees: policies should be established in order to provide secure places for them and meet their needs.

MORE OPENNESS AND TOLERANCE TOWARDS IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The participants of the EU Future Talks want to live in a society which shows tolerance and acceptance, openness and understanding and less racism.

Governments and European institutions should actively support and fund initiatives which:

- raise awareness for migration topics
- foster mutual understanding through hobbies and joint activities
- integrate intercultural topics and projects in schools and education
- encourage Member States to inform and teach how migrants live
- fight racism and stereotypes
- integrate migrant/refugee children in Kindergartens and schools as fast as possible



CLIMATE JUSTICE

The participants of the EU Future Talks ask for climate justice and call upon the EU to help countries to cope with climate change. All Member States should stick to the SDGs and make them more tangible, for example by setting small goals at a regional level or by investing in companies supporting the SDGs. In case of natural catastrophes, the EU should help to relocate people and offer them a safe place.

EU ACTING IN THE CONFLICT BETWEEN RUSSIA & UKRAINE

The ongoing war between Russia and the Ukraine is not only a humanitarian catastrophe for Ukrainians who have to flee but is also a very difficult situation for Russian people living in the EU. Especially Russian artists, students and performers might face discrimination.

The participants of the EU Future Talks ask the European Parliament to protect those from unfair treatment who are living peacefully among us - no matter which nationality they have.

DEMANDS AND RESULTS FROM THE "FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND VALUES" GROUP

ACCESS TO, AND UNDERSTANDABILITY OF INFORMATION

The participants of the EU Future Talks ask for ease of access to, and understandability of information. According to Eurostat data from 2016, about 80 million citizens in Europe are functionally illiterate or unable to grasp complex phrases. It is difficult for them to have access to high quality information that they can understand.

For posting articles and comments online, the authors should be registered and their profile should be accessible to the public.

The EU should invest in AI and in developing programs for detecting fake news.

An extra platform should be established and funded that is only accessible to well-regarded experts for the posting of reliable articles in different fields, such as health, politics etc.

FACT-CHECKING AND DISSEMINATION OF RELIABLE SOURCES

The participants of the EU Future Talks demand transparent fact-checking and dissemination of reliable sources. In each secondary education institution, workshops about fake news and the mental mechanisms that make them so easy to believe, should be held. Citizens can't be free if they are not able to distinguish truth from doubtful information.

The participants urge for a well-structured civic education curriculum throughout Europe! A more relevant role must be given to fact-checking: journalists should be trained in it and initiatives such as the European Digital Media Observatory or other fact-checking realities should be promoted and funded.



MEDIA GUIDELINES AND INDEPENDENCE OF PUBLIC/STATE MEDIA

The participants of the EU Future Talks ask for media guidelines to ensure independence of public/state media.

The participants believe that state media is influenced by leading political parties. Therefore, a state media should be funded that receives annual funds out of a newly established European organisation for media. The EU would therefore gain more influence in supervising the independence of the media. If a state media did not meet the requirements and standards, a reduction of the fundings would follow in a subsequent year.

The structure of supervisory boards of state media should be organised in a similar way to a state parliament. The percentage of members of a supervisory board should follow the percentage of party members elected to a parliament.

PROTECTION OF THE PRESS/JOURNALISTS

The participants of the EU Future Talks wish to protect the press/journalists from censorship, hate speech and threats. All journalists must be able to do their jobs without political or institutional pressure. There should be education in primary and secondary schools about hate speech and expressing opinions appropriately.

DEMANDS AND RESULTS FROM THE “DECISION-MAKING” GROUP

EU-WIDE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

The participants of the EU Future Talks ask for the introduction of a new EU-wide diploma, which would make it easier for graduates to study abroad. This is very important due to the fact that universities often have problems comparing diplomas from different countries. Therefore, some form of standardised EU-wide high school diploma should be introduced to guarantee equal treatment on basis of the specific educational level.



SUPRANATIONAL LISTS FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

European borders become less visible and issues more intergovernmental and less national. The participants ask for making all the seats supranational for European Parliamentary elections and at the same time for implementing a general regulation ensuring the representation of each Member State. Let voters decide based on their ideology and not on their nationality!

LEVELS OF GREEN ENERGY TO MEMBER STATES

The participants of the EU Future Talks are worried about the climate situation. The EU should mandate levels of green energy to their Member States. The idea is that the EU should establish a board of specialists with reliable background in environmental fields and these specialists would then propose to the European Parliament levels of green energy for each Member State depending on their geography.

The European Union should increase its budget to finance new power plants as well as to fund more research into more renewable energies. This would mean a certain nationalisation of the private sector and the EU has to reflect whether the private sector can be trusted as regards green energy.

COMMON EUROPEAN TAX SYSTEM

The participants of the EU Future Talks urge for a harmonization of corporation tax which would be collected by a (new) EU institution.

If the harmonised corporate tax proves to be practical further steps towards harmonising most or all taxes should be taken.