

Programme

Youth Summit
for tomorrow's Europe

Rome
23-25 March 2007



Your Europe
Your Future

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To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Rome Treaty, a Youth Summit is being held in the Italian capital on 24th-25th of March 2007. More than 200 young delegates from all 27 EU Member States will attend this event, which runs in parallel with the summit of Heads of State and Government in Berlin.

For youth, too, the 50th anniversary is a symbolic and important moment. There is certainly reason to celebrate the anniversary of a project that brought peace, stability and prosperity to our continent. But, above all, there are many reasons to look forward and to debate the new challenges facing the European Union.

After all, in fifty years, the Community of six has grown into a Union of twenty-seven. This expansion and the closer integration have created opportunities that previous generations never enjoyed to the same extent. This has been to the benefit of young people today, especially in areas such as increased mobility.

However, at the same time, symptoms of disenchantment appear among the young generation and new challenges arise for its future. Young people are facing difficulties, notably in areas such as education, jobs and social rights. They are also worried by more general problems, such as the effects of globalisation and the worldwide threat to the environment. Young people have identified these themes as the ones they want to give a priority; they expect such threatening issues to be addressed by policy makers and want to be fully involved in these debates.

A debate on these topics was initiated in a preparatory meeting organised by the EU institutions in partnership with the European Youth Forum at the end of January in Brussels. Over three days, delegates from the National Youth Councils in the 27 EU Member States, as well as from international youth organisations debated on different aspects of the European project.

This preparatory meeting was followed by a wide bottom-up consultation, driven by the participants in the preparatory meeting. National debates were organised in all Member States, while a variety of international youth organisations held their own consultations. Opinions expressed in these debates are now being brought together at this Summit and are being formulated into messages addressed to national policy makers and EU institutions. The Youth Summit is an opportunity for the young generation to express its aspirations and to deliver its messages on the future of the EU. It should not be conceived as a conclusion, but rather as a fresh impulse in the process that allows for a constructive, effective and continuous contribution of youth to the future of Europe. It opens a new cycle of sustained dialogue about European integration, which will influence the discussion on the future EU Treaty and lead up to the European Parliament elections in spring 2009.



Technical meeting

Venue: Hotel Holiday Inn Rome West, Via Aurelia KM 8, 400

12.00

Registration

12:30 – 14:00

Buffet lunch

14:00 – 14:30

Welcome and ice-breaker
Preparation meeting for the young delegates

14:30 – 15:30

Presentation of results from the national debates by *Mr Ernest Urtasun*,
general rapporteur
Questions and answers

15:30 – 16:00

Exchange of views with *Mr Giacomo Filibeck*, chairperson of the
Presidium of the Youth Convention 2002

16:00 – 16:30

Coffee break

16:30 – 18:00

Statements by participants and debate

20:00

Gala dinner

Guest speaker: *Mr Cristian Carrara*, President of the Italian Youth Council

Welcome speeches by:

- *Mr Hans-Gert Pötering*, President of the European Parliament
- *Ms Margot Wallström*, Vice-President of the European Commission
- *Mr Ján Figel'*, European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth
- *Mr Michel Delebarre*, President of the Committee of the Regions
- *Ms Jillian Van Turnhout*, Vice-President of the European Economic and Social Committee





Opening of the Youth Summit

Venue: University Roma Tre, Faculty of Literature and Philosophy, Via Ostiense 234

08:30

Registration

09:00 – 10:00

Official opening of the Youth Summit

- Master of ceremony: **Ms Audinga Besusparyte**

Speakers:

- Opening speech: **Ms Margot Wallström**, Vice-President of the European Commission
- **Mr Romano Prodi**, Prime-Minister of Italy
- **Mr Alejo Vidal-Quadras**, Vice-President of the European Parliament
- **Ms Ursula von der Leyen**, German Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
- **Mr Ján Figel'**, European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth
- **Ms Bettina Schwarzmayer**, President of the European Youth Forum

10:00 – 10:30

Coffee break & Press point

10:30 – 11:30

Key note speeches by:

- **Ms Ágnes Heller**, Professor of Philosophy and Political Science, Budapest and New York Universities

Venue: University Roma Tre, Faculty of Political Science, Via Gabriello Chiabrera 199

12:00 – 13:00

Working Groups

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch

14:30 – 16:00

Working groups (continued)

- Rapporteurs report back

16:00 – 16:30

Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:00

Working Groups (continued)

- Finalisation of main messages

20:00

Buffet dinner

Welcome speeches by

Mr Ján Figel', European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth and **Ms Giovanna Melandri**, Italian Minister for Youth



Closure of the Youth Summit

Venue: Campidoglio, Protomoteca

08:30

Registration

08:45

Start of Web Streaming, address: europa.eu/50/index_en

09:00 – 09:15

Welcome speech by **Mr Jean Léonard Touadi**, delegate for youth affairs, municipality of Rome

- Master of ceremony: **Ms Juliane Bir**

09:15 – 10:15

Plenary debate and adoption of the Rome Youth Declaration and messages

10:15 – 10:45

Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:00

Keynote speech by **Mr Jeremy Rifkin**, author and economist

12:00 – 12:10

Handover of the Rome Youth Declaration to the European Institutions

12:10 – 13:25

Panel debate

Moderator: **Mr Pat Cox**, President of the European Movement

Panelists:

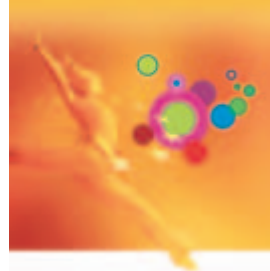
- **Mr Alejo Vidal-Quadras**, Vice-President of the European Parliament
- **Ms Margot Wallström**, Vice-President of European Commission
- **Mr Ján Figel'**, European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth
- **Ms Bettina Schwarzmayr**, President of European Youth Forum
- **Mr Ernest Urtasun**, general rapporteur of the Youth Summit

13:25 – 13:30

Closing of the Youth Summit by **Ms Bettina Schwarzmayr**, President of the European Youth Forum

13:30

Lunch





Speakers

Cristian Carrara



Cristian Carrara is President of the Italian Youth Council. He studied philosophy at the University of Padua and holds a degree in composition from the conservatory Jacopo Tomadini in Udine. He was national secretary of the youth organisation "Giovani delle Acli" and President of the Acli national association for the arts and theatre. He is very engaged in various cultural projects.

Pat Cox



Pat Cox is Managing Partner of European Integration Solutions, a Washington DC – Brussels based transatlantic consulting firm (patcox@eu-is.com) and is the President of the International European Movement, Brussels. He is the recently retired President of the European Parliament, an active campaigner for the successful enlargement of the European Union and was the European Parliament senior representative on the Inter-governmental Conference on the proposed Constitutional Treaty of the EU. He has worked as an economist and broadcaster. Earlier he was the founding Secretary General of the Progressive Democrats in Ireland and a Member of Dail Eireann (Irish Parliament) in the early nineties.

Michel Delebarre



Michel Delebarre is President of the Committee of the regions since February 2006. Born in 1946, he graduated in history and geography. Former Minister for labour, employment and training (1984-1986), for transport and maritime affairs (1988-1989), for amenities, housing, transport and maritime affairs (1989-1990), he was appointed as Minister of State (1990-1993) for urban affairs and urban planning, and then for the civil service and administrative reform. He chaired the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Regional Council from 1998 to 2001. He is Mayor of Dunkirk (since 1995), Chair of the National Social Housing Union (since 1999), socialist Member of the French Parliament (since 2002).

Ján Figel'



Ján Figel' is European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth. Born in 1960 in the Eastern part of Slovakia, he was trained as an engineer. In the 1990's, he dedicated his public engagement to the participation of his country to the European project and he became, in 1998, the Chief Negotiator of the Slovak Republic for the negotiations for the accession to the EU. He also represented his country in the Convention on the Future of Europe. He's now in charge of a portfolio which contributes every year – through programmes like Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci and Youth in Action – to the training and mobility of more than 300.000 Europeans, including many young people.

Ágnes Heller



Ágnes Heller born in 1929, survivor of the Holocaust, studied philosophy in Budapest, by Georg Lukacs. PhD in 1955. After several years of dissident activity, she left Hungary for Australia in 1977, where she worked as reader in Sociology at La Trobe University. She moved with her husband Ferenc Feher to New York in 1986, where she became Hannah Arendt Professor of Philosophy at the New School Graduate Faculty, where she is still teaching. Since 1990 she spends a part of her time in Hungary.

Her books are published in roughly 12 languages. Among them *Everyday Life*, *The Renaissance Man*, *General Ethics*, *Beyond Justice*, *Philosophy of History in Fragments*, *Philosophy of Morals*, *An Ethics of Personality*, *Theory of History*, *A Theory of Modernity*, *The Time is out of Joint*, *The Immortal Comedy*. Her Hungarian language publications include works on the Bible and on Jewish history. Together with Ferenc Feher she also published several books on political theory and on current political matters. She received the honorary degree from universities in Australia, Argentina, Peru and Italy, as also the Hannah Arendt Prize, the Lessing Prize, the Szechenyi Prize, the Sonning Prize, and the Hermann Cohen Medal. She is the member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Hans-Gert Pöttering



Hans-Gert Pöttering is President of the European Parliament since 2007. He is also one of six MEPs to have served continuously in the European Parliament since the first direct elections in 1979. From 1999-2007 he was the leader of the European People's Party (EPP) and held many other positions in the European Parliament as well as various political offices in his native Germany. In the European context, his main political interests have been enlargement, institutional development and the strengthening of the rights of the European Parliament. His political conviction is shaped by a Christian conception of man. Solidarity and subsidiarity figure amongst his most important principles in European politics.

Romano Prodi



Romano Prodi is Prime Minister of Italy since May 2006. He has held the same position from May 1996 until October 1998. In the interim, he was President of the European Commission in Brussels where he oversaw the introduction of the Euro and the enlargement of the EU to 25 members. Romano Prodi is the founder of the "Ulivo" - "Olive tree" – coalition. He has served as Minister of Industry and as Chairman of IRI, Italy's largest holding company at that time. He studied at the Catholic University of Milan, graduating with a dissertation on Protectionism in the Development of Italian Industry and worked as a professor at Bologna and Harvard universities.

Jeremy Rifkin



Jeremy Rifkin is the President of the Foundation on Economic Trends, which examines the economic, environmental, social and cultural impacts of new technologies introduced into the global economy. He is the author of seventeen books on the impact of scientific and technological changes on the economy, the workforce, society, and the environment. In Europe, he is best known for his bestseller "The European Dream". Rifkin's monthly column on global issues appears in many of the world's leading newspapers and magazines. He holds a degree in economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and a degree in international affairs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Bettina Schwarzmayr



Bettina Schwarzmayr is President of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) - a platform of 95 National Youth Council and international youth NGO Member Organisations, from across Europe. Elected in November 2006, Bettina heads the YFJ Bureau, and is responsible for organisational development and external communications. Bettina was YFJ Vice-President in 2005-06 and was previously on the Executive Committee of ESIB, working in cooperation with other regional student organisations. She is currently studying Social and Cultural Anthropology and Gender Studies at the University of Vienna.

Ernest Urtasun



Ernest Urtasun is Bureau Member of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) - a platform of 95 National Youth Council and international youth NGO Member Organisations, from across Europe. Ernest is responsible for the YFJ's work on the Future of Europe, Sustainable Development and Mobility, and is General Rapporteur for the Rome Youth Summit process. A former spokesperson for the Federation of Young European Greens, Ernest has closely followed youth policy at the European level, and worked on the last European Parliament Youth in Action report. He is an Economics graduate, and is currently assistant to an MEP from the Greens/EFA group.

Jillian Van Turnhout



Jillian Van Turnhout is Vice President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) since October 2006. She lives and works in Dublin as Chief Executive of the Children's Rights Alliance. In 1998 she was nominated by the Community and Voluntary Pillar on behalf of the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) to the EESC and was appointed by Government. She was reappointed in 2002. Her involvement in the EESC includes Social Affairs, External Relations and Communications. From 2001 to April 2007, she was a Chief Commissioner, The Irish Girl Guides (IGG) and from 1996 to 1999 was President of National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI). From 1998 to 2005 she represented World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts on the European Union Affairs Commission of the European Youth Forum.

Alejo Vidal-Quadras



Alejo Vidal-Quadras is Vice-President of the European Parliament since 1999, a member of the Parliament's Bureau and of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy. He has a PhD in Physics from the Autonomous University of Barcelona and has lectured in Barcelona, Strasbourg and Dublin universities. He has written various books and is a regular newspaper columnist. He has been active in various offices in the Spanish Partido Popular and was chairman of the Spanish Senate's Committee on Education and Culture.

Ursula von der Leyen



Ursula von der Leyen is German Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth since November 2005, studied national economics and medicine in Germany and the UK. After a 4 years' stay at Stanford, California, she worked in social medicine and health systems research at Hanover Medical School. In March 2003 she became Minister for Social Affairs, Women, Family Affairs and Health of Lower Saxony, before she moved to the Federal Government in November 2005. Ms von der Leyen is married and mother of 7 children.

Margot Wallström



Margot Wallström is Vice President of the European Commission in charge of institutional relations and communication strategy and she describes her job as being "a mission irresistible rather than a mission impossible". She was European Commissioner for Environment from 1999-2004. She became a member of the Swedish Parliament from 1979 until 1985 and served as Minister for Civil Affairs (1988-91), Culture (1994-96) and Social Affairs (1996-98). In parallel, she was CEO of the regional TV Värmland, and Executive Vice-President of Worldview Global Media in Sri Lanka.

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