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**WORKING PAPER**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Youth Working Party
Subject:	First outcomes of the EU Youth Conference (EUYC), an online event hosted from Berlin on 2-5 October 2020. - Presidency paper

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In view of the upcoming videoconference of the Youth Working Party on 20 October 2020 (agenda item 2), delegations will find attached a Presidency paper regarding the first outcomes of the EU Youth Conference (EUYC), an online event hosted from Berlin on 2-5 October 2020.

The main topic of the 2020 EUYC was 'Europe for YOUTH - YOUTH for Europe: Space for democracy and Participation', and the participants explored how the European Youth Goal #9 (Space and Participation for All) could be realised, in particular at European level.

## First Outcomes of the EU Youth Conference

From 2 to 5 October 2020, the EU Youth Conference under the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union took place as digital event. Under the title 'Europe for YOUth - YOUth for Europe: Space for democracy and Participation' the participants explored how the European Youth Goal #9 (Space and Participation for All) could be realised, in particular at European level.



After intense days of discussions, the participants decided to concentrate on **seven political demands as essential result of the conference**. Each of the demands focuses on one of the seven targets of Youth Goal #9:

### **Target 1: Influence Decision-Making Processes**

*Ensure young people can adequately influence all areas of society and all parts of the decision-making processes, from agenda setting to implementation, monitoring and evaluation through youth-friendly and accessible mechanisms and structures, ensuring that policies respond to the needs of young people.*

**We demand co-decision-making processes on all levels with young people and youth organisations implemented through a rights-based approach.**

### **Target 2: Equal Access**

*Ensure equal access to everyday decision-making for all young people from different backgrounds.*

**Decision-makers should encourage and invest in dedicated processes which amplify young minority voices and ensures their direct engagement.**

### **Target 3: Representation**

*Increase youth participation and thus equal representation in the electoral process as well as in elected bodies and other decision-making organs at all levels of society.*

**Ensure young people's access to formal decision-making by lowering the age of voting and political candidacy to 16 in all elections, while ensuring all youth have the opportunity to gain sufficient skills and motivation to participate actively and passively in elections, as well as removing all barriers to voting.**

### **Target 4: Youth Spaces**

*Provide youth-led physical facilities and infrastructures called youth spaces defined by being autonomous, open and safe, accessible to all, offering professional support for development and ensuring opportunities for youth participation.*

**We demand a new EU Fund to set up and sustain youth spaces.**

### **Target 5: Virtual Youth Spaces**

*Ensure safe virtual youth spaces are accessible to every young person which provide access to information and services as well as ensure opportunities for youth participation.*

**We request that the European Commission puts the creation of safe digital spaces for young people, along with the support and funding of developing digital literacy activities as one of the top priorities in all programs along prioritizing it horizontally at European level.**

### **Target 6: Youth Organisations**

*Ensure sustainable funding, common recognition and development of quality youth work in order to strengthen youth organisations and their role in inclusion, participation and non-formal education.*

**We demand funds available for permanent structures of participation.**

### **Target 7: Youth-Friendly Information**

*Provide youth-friendly, relevant, comprehensive information, also developed by and with young people, in order to enable youth participation.*

**We demand critical thinking to become a part of the obligatory private and public school curriculum for at least 1 hour a week from the ages 10-16 in order to fight fake news and disinformation with media and information literacy and to foster youth participation/motivation to be a part of the debate.**

A report summarising all outcomes of the EU Youth Conference is currently being prepared.

More information (in English): <https://www.dbjr.de/en/topics/eu-jugendkonferenz>

#### **Credits:**

Element of Youth Goals logo: Mireille van Bremen

Using an element of the Youth Goals logo in an adapted way for the visual identity of the EU Youth Conference in Germany has been exceptionally permitted by its originator.