

Europäisches Jugendparlament European Youth Summit on Climate Change and Adaptation Strategies



EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN DES JEUNES
DEUTSCHLAND GERMANY

Friedrichshafen, August 14-19, 2011



Live Europe,
Think Europe,
Understand Europe,
Experience a Europe of diversity...

For more than twenty years the European Youth Parliament in Germany (EYP) has been offering young people a chance to reflect questions of societal importance, to develop visions for a future Europe and to discuss these with others.

Several awards have been given to the EYP and its work, such as "European Movement of the Year 2004" and the "Mérite Européen" in Bronze. The European Youth Parliament in Germany is politically independent and organised by high school and university students who are active in an **honorary capacity**. This exemplifies our aim to **encourage the youth's interest** in current political affairs and democratic processes. Through parliamentary simulations we make politics an active and real experience. Participants are encouraged to practice independent thinking and to take **personal initiative for their own and the European future**.



European Youth Summit on Climate Change and Adaptation Strategies

In light of the failed global climate negotiations at the United Nations Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen and Cancún, it is time for the European Youth to make its voice heard. Therefore, the EYP is hosting the **European Youth Summit on Climate Change and Adaptation Strategies** at Lake Constance, the border triangle between Germany, Austria and Switzerland - a region in the heart of Europe. From August 14 to 19, 2011 we will welcome about 100 young Europeans from all parts of the continent to discuss climate and environment issues from a European perspective and explore European diversity. The *European Youth Summit on Climate Change and Adaptation Strategies* will take place in **Friedrichshafen**, where its participants will work in different committees and ultimately come together to discuss their results during the summit's highlight – the General Assembly – on the premises of Zeppelin University. The young delegates will debate the proposals of their resolutions in accordance with the procedures of the European Parliament and will be able to exercise themselves in a critical assessment of the arguments and opinions brought forward during the General Assembly. They will illuminate the issue of climate change from their perspective and present their findings in the „**Lake Constance Accord**“. **EU-Commissioner Connie Hedegaard, Federal Minister Ronald Pofalla and Friedrichshafen's Lord Mayor Andreas Brand** have granted their patronage to the summit. Focus from an organisational viewpoint will be placed on an ecologically friendly summit programme.



Climate and society - how do Europeans cope with climate change?

While it is proclaimed objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to prevent a "dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system", parts of the world beyond industrialised countries have already fallen victim to the dangers of climate change. So far neither politics nor society or the economy have met the need for adaptation strategies sufficiently which becomes all the more important in this context. The summit will give its young participants a platform to scrutinize the positions of the different actors in the "climate arena", to reflect the EU's actions and attitude in the struggle against climate change and to reconsider the requirements for European climate policy.

„I have noted with interest the work of the European Youth Parliament to promote dialogue and sharpen democratic awareness among young Europeans.“

José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

Teambuilding

Discover similarities,
gain trust,
solve problems,
become a team...



Committee Work

Analyse politics,
discuss opinions,
come to a compromise,
find a solution...



General Assembly

Resist criticism,
defend own convictions,
improve foreign languages,
experience a parliamentary
debate...



Focal points in this process of reflection and discussion will be the future of the global climate regime and the EU's role within it, the interplay between society, economy, politics and climate and the protection of global and

European livelihoods. Benefitting from our established methods and input from experts and stakeholders, the youth will develop visions for the European scope of action – and **take an active role in shaping their own future.**

The programme of the summit

As all of our sessions, the European Youth Summit on Climate Change and Adaptation Strategies consists of three phases: **Teambuilding, Committee Work and the General Assembly.** The participants work in internationally mixed committees.

On the first day and a half of the session, the participants will get to know each other through a series of **group dynamic exercises and problem-solving tasks**, which will help them to form an **intercultural team**, set up their own rules and lay the foundation for a successful committee work. At the end of **Teambuilding** they will have overcome prejudice and developed a constructive discussion atmosphere. The participants are guided through this process by experienced alumni of the European Youth Parliament.

Well prepared to take the next step, the newly formed committees are facing the **challenge of writing a resolution about the different dimensions of climate change and adaptation strategies** during **Committee Work**. The young Europeans will have to find different, new and innovative solutions, trying to best employ their different cultural backgrounds and experiences made.

The results of our work

To the European Youth Parliament, Europe is not just an abstract, distant construct. It lives through young people who are excited about it. Intensive preparation for the session topics leads to broad expertise among the young delegates resulting in an extremely **high standard of the committees' discussion as well as of the resolutions.**

The participants get involved with new issues and ideas, which they discuss and reflect in their resolutions. In a remarkably effective manner, they acquire new knowledge, experience politics hands on and make new friends across Eu-

In particular, due to these different cultural and academic backgrounds, the participants will be confronted with entirely new ideas and opinions. One's own experiences and visions, ideas and conceptions are just as important as existing expert analyses and will become visible in the product of every committee's work – their motion for a resolution, which is written in English.

Highlight of the summit is the **General Assembly**, which reunites all participants of the session, to consider the results of committee work. During the open debates, held in both **English and French**, each committee will **present and defend their motion for a resolution** with the aim of their resolution chapters being adopted into the "**Lake Constance Accord.**" This accord will represent the result of the summit and will be made accessible to the public.

Another important element of the summit's programme is the "**World Café.**" At the height of Committee Work this innovative discussion event will give the participants the chance to discuss perspectives of the summit's theme with **experts from politics, business, science and civil society.** The youth will receive valuable impulses for their work from the **dialogue with stakeholders in the climate change arena.**

rope. This process helps **Europe to grow closer together.** The results of the European Youth Parliament's work are visible and sustainable:

Session evaluations show that more than **70% of our participants are willing to get involved in politics and civil society.** Close to 80 % of the youngsters claim to have acquired important skills for their personal future through their experience of active democratic decision-making. Moreover, more than 80 % of the delegates show higher interest for Europe after the Session: **We show the youth that it has a voice in Europe.**

Contact information

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The summit in Friedrichshafen at a glance

- 100 students from all over Europe, 6 days in the summer of 2011
- European Youth Summit on Climate Change and Adaptation Strategies - Climate, environmental and energy issues
- Enhanced simulation of the European parliamentary process
- Discussing resolutions, defending opinions, contracting friendships
- Experiencing European diversity, discovering common ground
- Europe by young people for young people
- Supporting the European decision makers of tomorrow
- More than 20 years of experience in the field of European political education