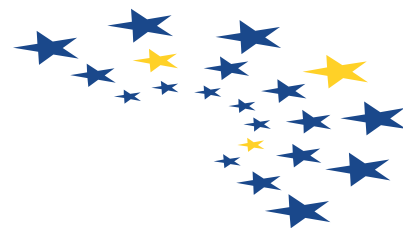


# European Youth Parliament International Forum

Leipzig

09. - 14. October 2011



EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT  
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN DES JEUNES  
DEUTSCHLAND GERMANY



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 organized by high school and university students who are active in an **honorary capacity**. The European Youth Parliament reaches out to about 1.500 students in Germany and about 20.000 students in the whole of Europe. 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**.

## International Forum in Leipzig

From the 9th until the 14th of October 60 young adults at the age of 16 to 20 from all over Europe will meet in Leipzig, in order to discuss European politics and create visions for their future in a common Europe. The session takes place in cooperation with the Second International Conference for Democracy, which is organized by the city of Leipzig. The delegates will be accommodated at a youth hostel in Leipzig. The highlight of the session, the General Assembly, will be held in the 'Alte Handelsbörse', the oldest assembly hall of the merchants in Leipzig. The delegates will be debating their resolutions, guided by the rules of the European Parliament, and practice the objective discussion allowing other opinions and angles.

## Youth and Democracy

The results of the session will be presented and discussed in the General Assembly. On the basis of these documents the discussion will continue at the Conference for Democracy. The task will be to develop continuative ideas and visions. The delegates will have the opportunity to directly open up a dialogue with politicians and other important protagonists of science and media.

Leipzig is an excellent platform considering the topic. In autumn 1989 mass demonstrations of the citizens of Leipzig lead to a peaceful revolution, which represented an important impulse for the German reunion. Even today Leipzig is one of the most dynamic cities in Europe, where tradition and progress can be easily perceived.



*"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...*



## The Programme of the Session

As all of our sessions, the International Forum in Leipzig consists of three phases: Teambuilding, Committee Work and the General Assembly

Mutual trust, motivation and the acknowledgment of strong and weak points are the basis for a team to work successfully. That is the reason to open the session with a teambuilding. It consists of tasks to solve problems in order for the young people to get to know each other, lay down fears and conquer language barriers.

In the following committee work the participants discuss today's political issues of Europe and gather the results in a resolution. The main focus of these documents, which are composed in English, is the development of own ideas and visions designed to change structures.

## Committee Work

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



At the end, the General Assembly reunites all participants of the session, to consider the results of committee work. Each committee will then present and defend their motion for resolution. The resolutions which are approved by the General Assembly are handed out to important politicians and in this special case discussed further on with experts at the Conference for Democracy in Leipzig. During the last years we could present the resolutions of the delegates to the former president of the European Parliament, Hans-Gert Pöttering and the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Wolfgang Schäuble.

## 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 Europe. **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.**

## General Assembly

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



## Contact

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## The session at a glance

- 60 students from all over Europe in Leipzig
- Discussions about youth and democracy
- 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