



# Charter for the YOUTH COUNCIL FOR THE FUTURE

## Chapter I: Purposes and Principles

### Article 1

The purposes of the Youth Council for the Future (YCF) are:

- To act on behalf of all young European people and advocate their interests in the public sphere;
- To further the understanding of the aims, functions and policies of the European Union among young European people;
- To act as a forum to inform on and debate current problems related to overarching challenges of the European Union as well as specific issues faced by young European people;
- To actively shape political debates on local, regional, national and international level promoting policy in favour of young European people.

### Article 2

The members of the YCF shall act in accordance with the following principles:

- All members enjoy equal rights and opportunities within the YCF regardless of ethnicity, nationality, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, gender, or any other personal or social trait.
- All members shall fulfill the requirements and obligations related to membership in the YCF in order to ensure proper functioning of the organization at all times.
- All members shall be given the opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions, and shall respect the opinions of other members.
- All members shall be obliged to discuss issues in a respectful and constructive manner and to refrain from the usage of offensive language at all times.
- All members shall act and speak in accordance with the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and therefore not voice opinions that infringe on fundamental human rights.

## **Chapter II: Membership**

### Article 3

Members of the YCF shall be all winners of the national writing competitions following the national workshops, limited to a maximum of 5 members per country. Additional “My Europe members” can be appointed at the discretion of the “My Europe” Initiative and/or members and can participate at any “My Europe Project”.

### Article 4

Members shall be appointed for a term of 4 years, starting with the next General Assembly after their nomination. The membership will become effective after inauguration at the General Assembly and will end automatically at the end of the term. All members shall hold the right to withdraw from membership at any given time.

### Article 5

Members shall only be allowed to participate for one term. Participation in an additional workshop shall not qualify for a second term. All members who concluded their term shall automatically receive the status of Senior Members, enabling them to act as advisors to the incumbent YCF.

### Article 6

A member who violates the principles set out in Article 2 may be expelled from the YCF through one of the following procedures:

- Via an official written request by another member of the YCF, approved by a two-thirds majority of all other members of the YCF in a secret ballot and the “My Europe” Initiative;
- At the discretion of the “My Europe” Initiative, providing that a written justification is issued to all members of the YCF and that a right of appeal is granted to any member of the YCF.

## **Chapter III: Organs**

### Article 7

The YCF shall at all times have ten Working Groups, covering issues that are determined most important for the future of Europe by the members for a two-year term. Individual Working Groups may cooperate to meet their responsibilities.

## Article 8

The YCF shall be allowed to create any other organ in accordance with the present Charter and with the approval of the “My Europe” Initiative.

## **Chapter IV: Working Groups**

### Article 9

Each Working Group shall continuously debate current trends in their respective fields and shall issue resolutions and articles for various publications of the “My Europe” Initiative and the YCF.

### Article 10

Participation in each Working Group shall be voluntary and subject to approval by the “My Europe” Initiative. Each member of a working group shall be allowed to withdraw from their participation at any given time.

## **Chapter V: Get2Gather**

### Article 11

Every two years the “My Europe” Initiative shall organize a meeting of all members of the YCF (“Get2Gather”). The place and exact date of the meeting shall be decided and announced by the “My Europe” Initiative at its own discretion.

### Article 12

At the “Get2Gather” a General Assembly shall be held. The General Assembly shall serve as a platform to discuss organizational matters, conduct elections, inaugurate new members and change regulations.

## **Chapter VI: European Youth Manifesto**

### Article 13

At every biannual “Get2Gather” the YCF shall present a new edition of its European Youth Manifesto. It shall summarize the most relevant and pressing subjects and offer policy recommendations relevant for the future of Europe. The addressed issues shall be selected by the “My Europe” fellows through a vote and the Working Groups shall be formed accordingly.

## Article 14

The drafting of the different sections of the European Youth Manifesto shall be the responsibility of each Working Group for all assigned subjects. The “My Europe” Initiative reserves the right to reject contributions that violate Article 2 of the Charter.

## Article 15

The “My Europe” Initiative shall be responsible for the publication and distribution of the European Youth Manifesto. Members of the YCF shall be issued additional copies for distribution in their schools and institutions.

## **Chapter VII: Offices**

### Article 16

The members of the YCF shall elect the following offices:

- Chairperson;
- Deputy Chairperson;
- Secretary;
- Social Media Representative.

### Article 17

The YCF shall be allowed to create any other office deemed necessary in accordance with the present Charter, subject to the approval of the “My Europe” Initiative.

### Article 18

The “My Europe” Initiative shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of any member to run for and assume any office.

### Article 19

All offices shall be filled according to the election procedure set out in Chapter XI of the Charter. All officers shall be elected for a term of two years.

## **Chapter VIII: Chairperson & Deputy Chairperson**

### Article 20

The Chairperson shall be the official representative of the Youth Council for the Future throughout Europe. S/he shall be the main representative of the YCF and the first point of contact for media.

## Article 21

During meetings the Chairperson shall:

- Chair all Youth Council meetings;
- Encourage an open debate and foster participation;
- Listen effectively and respect the opinions of others;
- Keep the meetings on track.

## Article 22

The Deputy Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson in all of her/his tasks. Should the Chairperson be unavailable to perform a task, the Deputy Chairperson shall assume responsibility.

## **Chapter IX: Secretary**

### Article 23

The Secretary shall be responsible for the drafting of agendas and the writing of minutes during meetings. S/he shall share the minutes after every meeting with the “My Europe” Initiative to be distributed among all members of the YCF.

## **Chapter X: Social Media Representative**

### Article 24

The Social Media Representative shall assist the “My Europe” Initiative in designing and implementing the social media strategy. S/he shall represent the interests of the YCF and actively contribute to the thematic focus of the social media presence of the “My Europe” Initiative.

### Article 25

All members of YCF shall feel encouraged to approach the Social Media Representative to put forward ideas. The Social Media Representative shall represent all ideas in an equal and balanced fashion.

## **Chapter XI: Elections**

### Article 26

All elections shall be held during the General Assembly on a biannual basis. Candidacy for any office shall be announced the latest one day prior to the election.

## Article 27

All candidates shall be given the opportunity to present themselves and their ideas to all members of the YCF before the election.

## Article 28

The elections shall be held in a secret ballot.

## Article 29

Should any officially elected officer retire during her/his term, a new officer shall be elected within 30 days. For that purpose a secret online ballot shall be held. The “My Europe” Initiative shall provide information about all candidates to the members of YCF prior to the election.

## **Chapter XII: Meetings**

### Article 30

An online meeting shall be held every three months. The meetings shall be announced not later than two weeks prior. Attendance for all meetings is mandatory.

### Article 31

Should a member of YCF be unable to attend a meeting, s/he shall give written notice to the Chairperson and the “My Europe” Initiative at the latest one week prior to the meeting. Every member shall attend at least 50 % of all meetings in a calendar year.

### Article 32

Every member shall have the right to add topics to the agenda prior and during the meeting. The Chairperson shall be responsible to allocate time to suggested topics at her/his own discretion, based on the provisions stipulated in Article 2 of the Charter.

### Article 33

Each Working Group shall hold physical or online meetings at their own discretion. Members shall ensure that a sufficient number of meetings are held to meet their responsibilities.

## **Chapter XIII: Rights and Responsibilities**

### Article 34

Members of the YCF shall hold the following rights:

- To attend and actively participate in all official activities of the YCF;
- To be eligible for office and hold the right to vote;
- To raise any subject and voice their opinions at any given time.

### Article 35

Members of the YCF shall have the following responsibilities:

- To develop and revise concepts for the future of Europe;
- To act and speak on behalf of young European people and their concerns;
- To promote the work of the YCF and the “My Europe” Initiative on a local, regional, national and international level;
- To encourage participation of young European people in shaping the future of Europe in schools/institutions and beyond.

## **Chapter XIV: Amendments**

### Article 36

Amendments to the Charter shall be possible through any of the following procedures:

- Via a resolution of the YCF, subject to approval by the “My Europe” Initiative;
- Via the “My Europe” Initiative at its own discretion.

### Article 37

The YCF and all its individual members shall hold the right to suggest amendments to the Charter at any meeting. In order to have a quorum, at least two-thirds of all members shall be present during the meeting. Suggestions for amendments shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority in a secret ballot.