

# European *youth* event

## Programme

Elections: One year out  
Strasbourg  
1-2 June 2018

**#EYE2018**

# Programme

Themes:

Young and old

KEEPING UP WITH THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

Rich and poor

CALLING FOR A FAIR SHARE

Apart and together

WORKING OUT FOR A STRONGER EUROPE

Safe and dangerous

STAYING ALIVE IN TURBULENT TIMES

Local and global

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

*"The plan is to fan this spark into a flame."*

- Hamilton, My Shot

## **High stakes for Europe: A new generation comes into play in 2019**

One year out from the 2019 European elections, which will help define the kind of Europe we choose in these turbulent times, young people speak out and discuss the future of the EU with European leaders. What is the best way forward to make Europe work for all, protect its citizens and defend our common values? Who will decide?

### **Opening plenary session**

# I. Young and old KEEPING UP WITH THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

*"May you have a strong foundation  
when the winds of changes shift,  
may you stay forever young."*

- Bob Dylan ("Forever young")

## **1. Forever young: Survive me if you can**

What happens if we live to a hundred years? A longer, healthier life is slowing down the process of aging while the digital revolution is accelerating the rhythm of our lives. Time to think about new options and policy choices: How to adapt the three stages of life – education, work, retirement – to the new reality? How to survive in the age of automation, improving work-life balance and healthcare? How to create fairness between the generations including opportunities for the young and pension rights for the old?

### ***Ideas check***

## **2. European elections 2019: Count on me, I'll be there!**

The first time things can turn magical, funny or serious. First-time voters usually abstain more than older voters, delegating their future to the older generation. Elections are a vital part of democracy. Discover what it's like to vote for the first time in the upcoming European elections. What are your ideas for a high mobilisation among your peers online and in real life? Can we close the "turnout gap" between young and old voters?

### ***Presentations and discussion***

## **3. Robots and Artificial Intelligence: The new force awakens**

Robots and us: will they become our new assistants making our lives easier – or rivals taking our jobs away? Will they help or replace us? The new force of machine learning and automation will not automatically move in the right direction. We need to make hard political choices: What are your ideas to avoid unemployment and to turn higher productivity into benefits for all? Where will artificial intelligence and machine learning take us? Do we need to update data protection to the reality of an emerging robot economy? Would you trust a self-driving car? What safety rules should Europe roll out for robots on the roads?

### ***Discussion***

## **4. I am Dr Robot! What can I do for you?**

Medical robots are changing healthcare around the world. Machine learning and computers able to learn from data will be essential to decoding diseases and performing precise surgery in the 21st century. Dr Robot versus Dr Human: Should the European Union promote or stop this technological advance? Europe's humanist values: in the hands of a doctor or in the algorithm of a robot? Will "machine healing" bring the cold efficiency of the machine age to sick and vulnerable people - or will it complement human touch, experience and empathy?

### ***Hearing***

## 5. Schools of tomorrow: Learning for ever-changing times

What's next in education? What set of skills and knowledge will be most useful in the digital era? How can education become a ticket to employment? More vocational learning and practical experience? Can learning be more creative? Which are the top performing countries in the international PISA test – and what can policy-makers all over Europe learn from the “cleverlands”? What do you propose to boost lifelong learning on-line or in schools and universities?

*Ideas lab*

## 6. A cross-generational issue: Does social media integrate or isolate?

Overcoming loneliness is part of life's most fundamental domains: A sense of belonging, love and attachment. For friendship and social contacts there is no firm line between the real and online worlds in the smartphone era. Can social media and online apps

- overexpose teenagers to constant online feedback and idealised images at the expense of real-life friendships,
- reduce loneliness and improve healthcare for older people,
- create innovative ways of mutual support and exchange between generations and start a new intergenerational game of give-and-take?

*Debate*

## 7. Youth unemployment: The race to zero

The journey from education to employment – a never ending search for the first job. Youth unemployment remains the most stubborn form of injustice. How can the European Union and the member states

- scale up programmes to get all young people in all regions of Europe into work,
- multiply investments to boost jobs for the young,
- work for a Europe free of youth unemployment?

*Discussion*

## 8. What? Europe! The profile of Europe's young generation

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) launched the trans-media project “Generation What Europe”, creating the first ever profile of young people all across Europe. Nearly 1 million 18-34 year- olds contributed to this unique portrait. What's next: Will TV and radio stations remain relevant media formats for young audiences in the age of internet and social media?

*Presentation and discussion*

## 9. Quantum leaps: This time it's Europe!

Albert Einstein and Max Planck would be thrilled: A new generation of scientists takes things further from the quantum theory to a new mind-bending quantum technology. Quantum computers and internet will unlock an amazing world of incredible possibilities. Light and matter for the next transformation of global industries and markets! Can Europe become the world leader in research this time? Can we do it better and faster than Silicon Valley? What are the political choices for safety, privacy and data protection?

*Hearing*

## 10. Battle of ideas: Man versus machine

Poetry in the digital era: Pleasures and tribulations of keeping up with smart machines and artificial intelligence.

*Poetry slam*

## II. Rich and poor CALLING FOR A FAIR SHARE

*“Whatever happened to the values of humanity,  
whatever happened to the fairness and equality,  
instead of spreading love, we are spreading animosity,  
leading us away from unity.”*

- Black Eyed Peas (“Where is the love”)

### 1. What ever happened to equality: A fair share in the age of globalisation

The key social question of our time: Do globalisation and automation just benefit the “happy few” or work for all? What are your new ideas and democratic choices to ensure social justice and a fair share of the benefits:

- What is a fair pay for management and for all other employees?
- How could companies share profits from globalisation with workers?
- Which taxes could help to narrow the gap between rich and poor?
- How would you adjust social safety nets to globalisation and automation?
- Where would you invest in jobs and education to reduce youth unemployment?

*Ideas check*

### 2. Trade for all: “Please fasten your seat belt ...

... we are flying through some turbulence.” A new approach to future trade agreements with partners all over the world: Promise of prosperity – or just new trouble ahead? Should we wave the flag for “free trade” – or for “fair trade”? A different bargain for rich and poor countries? How can the European Union:

- build up bargaining power in times of economic power play and improve the art of the trade deal?
- shape globalisation and make it work for all?
- enforce fair trade across the international supply chains? Are voluntary labels sufficient for ethical consumer choices or should we introduce binding legislation for all companies?
- roll out rules to guarantee the respect of human rights and workers’ rights everywhere?

*Talk and discussion*

### 3. Globalisation: In the twilight zone

In this discussion we shed light on the twilight zone of globalisation. It’s a secret universe of hidden wealth, clean beaches and dirty money. Secrecy-havens facilitate tax evasion, money-laundering and other criminal activities – and widen the gulf between rich and poor. At the same time some multinational companies avoid paying a fair share of taxes, slipping through legal loopholes in Europe. What should be done now to trace the money and to overcome the twilight economy? Who can take effective action: the European Union or each member state?

*Discussion*

### 4. Sharing economy: Say, you want a revolution?

Sharing instead of owning: A new generation of Europeans values experience over status, access over ownership and sharing over self-interest. The sharing economy is growing rapidly as the digital revolution meets social innovation. The tornado of creative disruption twists all sectors: cars, music, house and garden, crowd-funding. How can Europe support a culture of start-up businesses with social impact?

*Talk and discussion*

## **5. Equal opportunities: Forever poor or born to be free?**

The gap between rich and poor can be a fact of life, but is unacceptable as a starting point. The equal opportunity to build a better, more educated and prosperous life is at the heart of the European way of life. What can the European Union and the member states do to build a "ladder of equal opportunities" for all? How would you give children from all social backgrounds a fair chance to move up from the bottom to the top in education? More opportunities for girls by attracting them towards subjects related to the digital era? A new focus on vocational training and social mobility?

*Ideas lab*

## **6. Basic income: Return of Robin Hood?**

People love the Robin Hood story, because he took from the rich to give to the poor. Do you consider the idea of a basic income without conditions for all ...

... as an adequate answer to the effects that globalisation will have on the workforce and on the concentration of wealth in the coming years,

... or as an invitation to abuse social benefits, to fool around and have a ball.

*Debate*

## **7. World happiness index: Where the happy people are**

Rankings of happiness and well-being capture our imagination – and deliver a message for public policy. What makes for better lives? What are the key indicators of well-being? Where are Europe's happiest countries – and what can we learn from them to improve politics and laws? What can the EU contribute to shrink the "happiness gap" between its member states?

*Presentation and discussion*

## **8. Urban-rural divide: Blame it all on my roots...**

...when I show up in 4-wheel drive and rubber boots! Big cities play an ever-greater role in the globalised world. They attract young people leaving behind small towns and rural areas. A new approach to jobs, investment and rural development: How can Europe take country people on board for a journey into a connected world? What do you propose to improve life in villages and in rural areas? How would you spend EU money for agriculture and rural areas?

*Discussion*

## **9. Start-ups: The power of home-grown innovation**

Start-ups and innovative enterprises play a vital role in gaining prosperity and creating jobs. How can we develop a culture of curiosity and exploration, fostering an entrepreneurial spirit? How can the European Union support young people in starting their own business? How can the European Investment Bank (EIB) contribute to funding or crowd-funding initiatives? Can we create a culture that tolerates failure and gives young entrepreneurs a second chance to succeed?

*Talk and networking session*

## **10. Battle of ideas: Love versus money**

What's behind our decisions, what drives our actions: Money or love, competition or solidarity, prosperity or equality? Young people debate controversial topics.

*Speed debate*

# III. Apart and together

## WORKING OUT FOR A STRONGER EUROPE

*"Find out what we are made of  
when we are called to help our friends in need.  
You can count on me like one, two, three,  
I'll be there."*

- Bruno Mars ("Count on me")

### 1. Future of Europe: Comeback of the champion

The European Union – long-term champion of peace and prosperity – has been out of form and punching below its weight for some years. Will it crack under pressure? Or can we make Europe stronger, ready for a comeback, up to the challenges of our time? Where do we really need each other? Where are common solutions most urgent? What should the young generation place at the top of the agenda and push forward? Just muddling through the daily crisis or time for a new level of ambition?

*Ideas check*

### 2. Active citizens: What a time to be alive...

... and to be active – alone and together! Time to take a fresh look at things, time to push for new approaches and long-term solutions. The young generation can start to shake things up, knowing that democracy is not a "one dance" around the polling station – it's a way of life. How can the European Union and civil society...

... encourage young citizens to make their choices in elections?

... promote pro-social engagement and voluntary work?

... empower young people to take things into their own hands and to participate in social and democratic life?

*Talk and discussion*

### 3. Brexit: Take a sad song and make it better

Britain leaves the stage – the curtains are closed and many questions open: What is the new relationship status of Brits with Europe: single, complicated, in a relationship? Will Brexit trigger domino effects in other countries and regions – or reforms to revitalise the European Union? Will the older generation pass on to the young a solid "House of Europe" or a shaky "House of Cards"? Does the well-being of the kids matter after the political divorce? What should be in a "Brexit survival kit" – Erasmus, free movement for young people, more essentials?

*Discussion*

### 4. Open versus closed: Europe and the philosopher's stone

Europeans at a crossroads to the future of the open society, sitting on a philosopher's stone. Which way to go:

- Build a "Fortress Europe" – or remain open to the world?
- Draw up the bridge – or welcome migrants as new citizens?
- Defend our own social and green standards – or promote liberal world trade?
- Ensure property rights - or advocate for a free and open internet?
- Take back control – or risk journeys into the unknown?

*Discussion*

## **5. Free speech in the digital era: Love me Tinder, hate me Facebook**

Messages of love and hate, “likes” and hoax. Does the reality on social media match the profile of democracy and human rights or threaten our free society? Should Europe boost free speech – or ban hate speech? Should we insist on the freedom of press and expression or roll out rules against fake news, insults and bots?

*Ideas lab*

## **6. Dress code debate: Ban on burqa and burkini?**

Should Europe tolerate or ban the burqa and other face-coverings? Is the full veil an expression of religious freedom or a sign of isolation and refused integration? Bikini versus burkini: a clash of values or two different statements of fashion in an open society?

*Debate*

## **7. Added value for all: An optimist’s guide to our common future**

The European journey to an “ever-closer Union” of states and citizens: A threat to the wealth of nations and a waste of money – or a treasure chest for a better life in the future? How should we turn the key to unlock added value and new opportunities for all?

*Talk and discussion*

## **8. EU-Turkey relations : A bazaar of deals, delights and disappointments**

With a failed military coup in 2016 the EU-Turkey relationship reached a turning point: from accession talks back to the bazaar. What are the best bargains for both sides? What line to take with autocrats: flagging up human rights and a free press or striking pragmatic deals? Full membership or freezing accession for good? What is best for the young generation in Turkey and in the European Union?

*Talk and discussion*

## **9. New citizens: Finding a place in this world**

Walking in the wind, one direction, just trying to find a new home in Europe: In our cities, towns and villages many people of different national and religious backgrounds live side-by-side. How can we find new ways to make the most out of diversity? What is the best way to integrate young migrants into our communities - schools, sport clubs and workplaces? What are successful practises of integration - how to play a new game of “give-and-take”?

*Presentations and discussion*

## **10. Battle of ideas: Facts versus fake**

Humour without borders in the smartphone era: More connected than ever – or trapped in our own filter bubble? Blurry lines between facts and fake – new stuff for funny situations, stereotypes and comedy.

*Political comedy*

## IV. Safe and dangerous

# STAYING ALIVE IN TURBULENT TIMES

*"I don't want a never-ending life,  
I just want to be alive  
While I'm here."*

- The Strumbellas ("Spirits")

### 1. Cross-border crime scene: Making Europe a better place

Words of war written on a wall: "I fought against the law – and I won". Transnational organised crime tries to creep into every country and every region all over Europe. The global spiral of violence threatens citizens and our European way of life. How can we make Europe a safer place?

- How to enhance European cooperation and law enforcement against transnational criminal networks, dealing with drugs and weapons, trafficking humans and toxic waste?
- How to crack down on criminals smuggling migrants and causing the death of thousands in the Mediterranean Sea?
- How to stop money laundering related to organised crime, corrupt dictators, warlords and their European facilitators?
- How to protect public spaces against organised criminals?
- How to reduce street gang violence and provide exit opportunities for young gang members?

*Ideas check*

### 2. Sakharov prize: Voices of humanity

The Sakharov prize – Europe's top human rights award – honours individuals and groups who have courageously dedicated their lives to the defence of human rights. Laureates tell their story and share their experience.

*Talk*

### 3. Europe's fight against terror: Die another day

Counterstrike of democratic countries: What is the best way to stop terrorists, counter violent attacks and hateful impulses, aimed at our free and tolerant way of life? What are the chances and the limits of our open society fighting its enemies and keeping citizens safe? How can European countries improve cooperation and take joint action? What are the best preventive actions to break the fatal attraction of jihad and extremist ideology?

*Discussion*

### 4. Corruption index: Why countries fail or prosper

The tentacles of corruption creep into cities and countries across Europe and the globe. Corruption creates massive opportunities in public office for self-enrichment while locking millions of men, women and children into poverty. The level of corruption is not just about money – it's a key indicator why states fail or prosper. What does corruption look like and how can we measure it? The corruption index ranks countries from very clean to highly corrupt. What can we learn from the cleanest countries to get things in order? What should the European Union contribute to tackle corruption?

*Presentation and discussion*

## **5. Sport without corruption: Give me freedom, give me fire...**

... give me reason, take me higher! We love waving the flag for the Olympics, football world cups and international sporting events, but we cannot always trust what we see before our eyes. We feel betrayed when games are not determined by fair competition on the field of play but by doping or corruption. Can we get the ball rolling to clean up sport in favour of fans and athletes worldwide? What do you propose? Would you demand greater transparency? Should autocrats with dodgy human rights records be allowed to host the world's most prestigious sporting events?

*Idea lab*

## **6. Marijuana: Smells like teen spirit – or escape from reality?**

The weed chases my blues away – and I'll be okay? High time to debate drug laws in Europe. How harmful is the use of cannabis, including high-potency skunk, for the user and for society? Should it remain illegal or be tolerated as part of the European way of life? Should we rely on criminal law – or just issue public health warnings for cannabis, cigarettes and alcohol alike? Legal or illegal use: What works better to fight organised crime?

*Debate*

## **7. The DNA revolution: We better talk this over!**

The DNA revolution gives scientists the power of rewriting the genetic code in humans, animals and plants. The new technology enables humans to change the code of life. Darwin only observed the course of evolution – we can change it now. The question is: Should we use the power to hack and edit DNA? No discovery of the 21st century holds more promise – or raises more troubling ethical questions. Should we put such ground-breaking science into practice?

*Hearing*

## **8. Cyber-attacks: Not just a phantom menace**

Cybercrime has moved from science fiction to reality. The danger crosses from cyber into the real world. Hackers attack our open society to weaken key infrastructure, disrupt communications and spread disinformation. In a worst case scenario this could trigger armed conflicts in the future. What does it take to make vulnerable infrastructure resilient and to protect private data of individuals and companies? Do we need new legislation and international agreements to ensure peace in the digital era?

*Discussion*

## **9. European security: Shelter from the storm**

Turbulent times ahead: Who will give us shelter from the storm? America on one side and Russia on the other side are following their own agenda and interests. A growing case for a common peace and security policy in Europe? Should Europe play a stronger role in the world and speak with one voice? What should be our purpose: act like a selfish giant – or reach out to people in need? Democrats versus autocrats: soft power – or hard sanctions?

*Discussion*

## **10. Battle of ideas: Legal versus illegal**

Staying alive in turbulent times: Walking on the wild side of life – without red tape between legal and illegal, respectful and dissing, peaceful and violent. The question is just: How far will this go?

*Rap battle*

## V. Local and global PROTECTING OUR PLANET

*“Imagine holding Planet Earth  
in the palm of your hand.  
50 years from now – what will they say about us here?  
Did we care for the water and the fragile atmosphere?  
- Prince (“ Planet Earth”)*

### 1. The burning question: Should Europe take the lead on climate action?

We only have one planet, and we need to work together to protect it. Scientific evidence gives us a strong sense of urgency to fight against global warming. Ignoring the voice of scientists would only push the risk of climate collapse to the next generation. Should Europe become a clean-energy superpower?

- How to cut greenhouse gas emissions and shift from dirty fossil fuels to clean energy sources?
- How to create more green jobs and a new climate for doing green business to foster renewable power, energy-saving technologies and the circular economy?
- How to speed up electric cars, bicycles and low-carbon mobility on the road to a greener future?
- How to transform mining areas for a post-coal future?
- How to protect rainforests and eco-systems?

*Ideas check*

### 2. A spacewalker’s life: Zero gravity and a hundred new horizons

My mission to the International Space Station. A European astronaut talks about one of humanity’s greatest exploration adventures and shares his experience with young people.

*Talk*

*Organised in cooperation with the European Space Agency (ESA)*

### 3. Race to planet Mars: A place to see before you die?

Europe 2020: Time for a new mission to Mars, our nearest planetary neighbour. The EXO MARS rover – Europe’s famous next-generation space robot – will travel across the surface of the red planet to search for signs of life. What could it find and bring home to Earth: new evidence of life in the universe or even habitable stars?

*Presentations and discussion*

*Organised in cooperation with the European Space Agency (ESA)*

### 4. Biodiversity and wildlife crime: On safari to extinction

Wildlife crime and habitat loss have pushed many rare animals to the brink of extinction. Crime syndicates are behind the trade in endangered species, operating across continents, without mercy for elephants, rhinos, tigers or gorillas. What can the European Union and the member states contribute to stop criminals and to protect threatened animals? Support park rangers and local communities against poachers? A worldwide ban on ivory trade without loopholes? Serious punishment and sanctions? Sustainable tourism without licence to kill?

*Discussion*

## 5. Sustainable city: Global picture, local colour

Protecting the planet: The United Nations outline the big picture in the “sustainable development goals”. Cities add local colours. That’s where the action is to improve life for future generations. Cities play an even more important role in the era of globalisation, offering local solutions to global challenges. What is your model for a sustainable city?

- Better ways to move around the city: New mobility solutions leading to less emissions and cleaner air?
- Better ways to live together: What are your proposals for the well-being of young people and families - cohesion between all generations, affordable housing, safe public spaces, and fitness areas?
- Better ways to work: How would you attract green jobs and foster start-ups with an environmental impact, save resources and avoid waste?

*Ideas lab*

## 6. Farm of the future: Do you think cows like robotic milking?

In an ideal world: Sustainable farms produce a wide variety of healthy food, provide a good living for farmers and their families, respect animals and plants and maintain the surrounding nature for future generations. In real life: Current food production is not within the boundaries of the planet. Industrial agriculture as we know it is unsustainable, a dead end. The European Union needs fresh ideas and better solutions. Which is your preferred model for the farm of the future?

- Technological approach: Precise technology including computer controlled watering and fertilising crops. Robots milking the cows and assisting the farmer. A green business, resource-efficient and highly productive.
- Ecological approach: Organic farming, minimising human pressure on animals and plants, including protection of biodiversity around the farm. Animal welfare and animal rights, significantly higher standards for the well-being of farm animals.

*Debate*

## 7. Water for all: Born to run...

... out of water? Clean, freshwater is critical for human survival, short in supply and at the source of sustainable development. Who protects the planet’s most vital resource in times of climate change? What action should the European Union take...

... at the global level to support access of all poor people to clean and safe water,

... at the European level to follow up on the successful citizens’ initiative “Right 2 water”,

... at the local level to improve water management as part of a healthy eco-system?

*Discussion*

## 8. Ocean protection: Hooked on heavenly habitat

The ocean – covering 70 percent of our blue planet – sustains all life on Earth and regulates the climate. Fishing provides jobs for millions and food for billions worldwide. We love to dive into the blue, magnificent habitats for health, recreation, sports and exploration. Our oceans are in trouble – so are we. How can Europe stop ocean exploitation, degradation and overfishing? How can we ensure a sustainable marine life in the future? How to remove plastic waste from the ocean or keep it out of water in the first place?

*Talk and discussion*

## **9. Changing Africa: New perspectives in the smartphone era**

Africa's young generation has the potential to climb out of poverty and to emerge from the bottom to the mainstream of the global economy. Equipped with smartphones and Internet access a growing number of young people will find new ways to crack the continent's long-standing problems. On their rough ride to the future they need our help to succeed. What are your ideas to build new and better connections with Africa? A European investment plan? Investment with social or sustainable impact? Supporting start-ups? Rewriting trade rules? Empowering girls in education? Transferring green technologies? Supporting sustainable tourism and biodiversity?

*Talk and discussion*

## **10. Battle of ideas: Man versus nature**

Will we manage to organise our life in the future within the boundaries of our planet? Young scientists present their research and come quickly to the point. All talks are easy to follow, engaging and entertaining.

*Science slam*



