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40 UNDER 40

EUROPEAN
YOUNG
LEADERS

BRUSSELS SEMINAR 2014

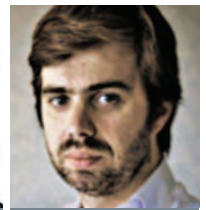
European Young Leaders



Jamila Aanzi



Alberto Alemanno



Joao Almeida



Jens Ole Bach Hansen



Julien Berjeaut



Danae Bezantakou



Max von Bismarck



Ghislain Boula de Mareuil



Malcolm Byrne



Jasmina Cibic



Tishani Doshi



Henrik Enderlein



Adriano Farano



Juan Fernandez Garcia



Josep-Maria Gascon



Pavla Gomba



Soulaïma Gourani



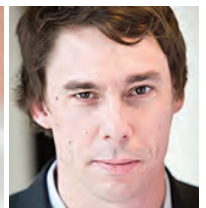
Ben Hammersley



Christel Heydemann



Juhan Lepasaar



Guillaume Liegey



Andrei Cosmin Luca



Antonia Meszaros



Blazej Moder



Daniela Ott



Ana Pastor



Nina Rawal



Ivana Sendekca



Michal Szczerba



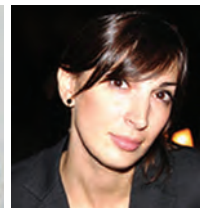
Irene Tinagli



Shahin Vallee



Wouter Verschelden



Maria Vlachou



Goran Vojnovic



Yuriy Vulkovsky



Julia Zimmermann



Florian Zinoecker

**2014
selection**



**BRUSSELS SEMINAR
2014**



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The 2014 European Parliament elections represent a unique window of opportunity to set the European process back on track and to provide inspirational leadership. The '40 UNDER 40'- European Young Leaders programme, led by EuropaNova and Friends of Europe, gathers 40 of Europe's accomplished citizens from across countries and sectors, all under the age of 40, in order to foster the creation of a common European vision and shared understanding among tomorrow's future leaders.

The first meeting of the 2014 European Young Leaders' selection was held in Brussels from 30 January to 1 February 2014. The European Young Leaders were given the opportunity to discuss the upcoming European elections, the future direction of the EU, and specific policy challenges, in order to develop a common understanding of the issues at stake in the EU.

"If a crisis goes on for too long, it becomes a transformation," indicated Guillaume Klossa, President of EuropaNova. "In order to confront this transformation, Europe needs an open-minded generation of young leaders and opinion shapers to lead it into the future."

In order to implement a more efficient system of leadership in the EU, it "needs more modern ways to interact with citizens and to develop and share a coherent narrative", stressed Geert Cami, Co-founder and Director of Friends of Europe.

Marking the beginning of the Italian Presidency of the European Union, the next seminar of the "40 UNDER 40" programme will take place in Rome from the 2nd to the 4th of July and will bring together for the 2nd time the 2014 selection of European Young Leaders.

The "40 UNDER 40"- European Young Leaders programme is supported by the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) and other public and private partners. EuropaNova and Friends of Europe are grateful for their continued support and contribution.

With the support of the Europe for Citizens programme of the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).



"40 UNDER 40" EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAMME

PRESENTATION

The «40 UNDER 40» - European Young Leaders, organised by EuropaNova and Friends of Europe, is a unique, inventive and multi-stakeholder programme that aims to promote a European identity by engaging 40 of the European Union's most promising individuals in initiatives that will shape Europe's future. The «40 UNDER 40» represent the future of European leadership, coming from all around the continent, with a wide array of backgrounds like politics, business, civil society, arts and culture, academia and the media. The programme was launched in 2011, with the support of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission. Seminars have already taken place in Paris, Brussels, Berlin and Athens.

EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS TO SHAPE EUROPE'S FUTURE

Mission

The aim is to develop a dynamic community of European leaders, sharing knowledge and good practice in order to foster cooperation between all Europeans.

Concept

- 40 dynamic, high-profile and talented participants, aged between 30 and 40, representing a wide array of backgrounds and achievements.
- Two 3-day seminars per year, taking place in European capitals. Seminars have already been organized in Paris, Brussels (twice), Berlin and Athens.
- A selection committee chaired every year by an inspiring leader.
- The working language of the seminars is English and they are composed of interactive discussions, informal chats, "out of the box" sessions and workshops with high-level decision-makers and experts, including EU and national policymakers, civil society representatives, corporate executives and journalists.

THE PROGRAMME

Each annual programme brings together a new selection of 40 talented, dynamic individuals for two 3-day seminars of roundtable discussions and brainstorming.

PARIS / 8-10 December 2011

The first selection of European Young Leaders met for the inaugural seminar in Paris in historic locations: the Maison Jean Monnet, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the European Commission Representation and the French Foreign Affairs Ministry.

BRUSSELS / 7-9 June 2012

The 2nd seminar examined ways of putting ideas into practice. Discussions were held at the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Royal Flemish Theatre. At the end of the Brussels seminar—and the programme's first full year—an alumni network was launched enabling the EYLs to remain involved in the project through other side events.

BERLIN / 6-8 December 2012

The start of the 2013 selection brought together a new wave of European Young Leaders to assess the way forward out of the crisis and to ask how to build a Europe people trust.

ATHENS / 13-15 June 2013

The 2nd meeting of the 2013 selection took place in Athens, a symbolic choice, highlighting the EYLs commitment toward presenting a new vision for Europe. The Greek case study served as a concrete illustration of the challenges Europe faces.

BRUSSELS / 30 January - 1 February 2014

The kick-off seminar of the 2014 selection gave them the opportunity to discuss the upcoming European elections, the future of the EU, and specific policy issues, in order to develop a common understanding.

BIOGRAPHIES

Brussels Participants

Brussels Participants



Jamila Aanzi

EYL2014

Member of the European
Elections Committee of
the Social Democratic Party
of the Netherlands

→ THE NETHERLANDS

Building on a business economics, marketing and communications background, Jamila has positioned herself as one of the leading innovators in the fields of youth involvement and social outreach in the Netherlands. She has participated in numerous programmes (Visie NL, Pioneer, TANS) aimed at encouraging cooperation between diverse backgrounds and envisioning a new social and political vision. Jamila was recently appointed as a member of the European Elections Programme Committee of the Social Democratic Party of the Netherlands (PvdA) and was a supportive candidate (*lijstduwer*) for the PvdA during the Dutch national elections in September 2012. As Vice President of FNV Young (2008-2011), the youth network of the Federation of Dutch Trade Unions, she was responsible for advocating and representing the interests of young students and employees with regards to education, employment and income.



Alberto Alemanno

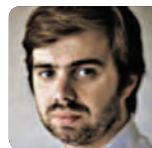
EYL2014

Jean Monnet Professor
of EU law at HEC and Global
Professor at NYU School of Law

→ ITALY

Alberto is a public interest lawyer, academic entrepreneur and one of the leading experts in the areas of EU law and policy, risk regulation and global health. He is Jean Monnet Professor of EU law at HEC Paris and Global Professor at New York University School of Law. He has

recently founded *eLabEurope*, a civic start-up, lobbying for the European public interest by filling the gap between academic thinking and reality. Previously, he clerked at the Court of Justice of the EU and qualified as attorney at law in New York. He is a Coursera instructor where he teaches a course aimed at popularizing the functioning of the EU. He is the founder of the *Summer Academy in Global Food Law & Policy*. Alberto received the prestigious *Chauncey Starr Award* from the Society for Risk Analysis for outstanding achievement by a young risk analyst in science and public policy. Alberto is a graduate of Harvard Law School and the College of Europe, and holds a PhD in International Law and Economics from Bocconi University.



Joao Almeida

EYL2014

Secretary of State of Internal
Administration

→ PORTUGAL

Joao is the recently appointed Secretary of State of Internal Administration of the Portuguese government. Previously, Joao was elected Member of Parliament in the constituency of Porto, serving on the Committees of Budget, Finance and Public administration. Joao was spokesperson for the CDS-PP political party, having previously served as Secretary General and President of the People's Part Youth division, of which he is still the Honorary President. Locally, he was member of the municipal assembly of Sao Joao da Madeira. With a sound legal background, Joao was a consultant at PROLEGAL – Moser & Lobo d'Avila and an attorney at Alves Mendes, Jardim Goncalves & Associates. He is also passionate about sports, being the Director and Chairman of the Board of the “os Belenenses” professional football team and sports club.

Biographies

BRUSSELS SEMINAR



Martijn Arets

EYL2013

Expedition leader, Crowd Expedition and Founder, Institute for the Collaborative Economy

→ THE NETHERLANDS

Martijn is Expedition Leader at Crowd Expedition and Brand Expedition, speaker, author and founder of the Institute for the Collaborative Economy. He is fascinated about finding new ways of collaborating, creating added value and coming up with new business models. He tries to go beyond what people have hitherto thought could be achieved, through partnerships and social media, with the help of other professionals, partner organizations and numerous spokespersons. At this moment Martijn is preparing his new project that will start in April 2014: Crowd Expedition, a two-year expedition research with over 60 international partners aimed at finding the real value and potential of the Collaborative Economy. In 2011, Martijn won the Dutch Entrepreneur of the Year Award and was nominated for ABN AMRO's Entrepreneurial Book of the Year Award.



Jens Ole Bach Hansen

EYL2014

Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations

→ DENMARK

Jens Ole is Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations in New York, in charge of Danish relations and strategic interventions with the UN Development System. Having worked and studied in the United States, France, Palestine, Israel, Denmark and Jordan, Jens Ole defines himself as "a dedicated internationalist and multi-lateralist". Following 10 years of experience in international relations, he is now focused on the changing international architecture and the role of the United Nations in addressing global challenges. Jens Ole is a

graduate in International affairs from the dual degree programme between Columbia University and Sciences Po, Paris and a BA in Public administration from Roskilde University.



Danae Bezantakou

EYL2014

Managing Director, Navigator Shipping LTD

→ GREECE

Danae is the Managing Director of Navigator Shipping Consultants LTD. One of her important achievements is the organisation of the Navigator Conference since 2001 which is considered to be one of the biggest shipping events in the world. She is also the founder of Greek Food Obsessions, a gourmet culinary company providing the Greek and international food market with high-quality Greek gourmet products. Danae represented Greece in International Visitor Leadership Program of the State Department "Women in Leadership" (2011) with 100 women from 92 countries. After her return she created iforu-Greek Mentoring Network, with another 8 women entrepreneurs, a network meant to empower women's entrepreneurship. Danae holds a Bachelor of Science in International Hospitality and Tourism Management from the University of Surrey.



Ghislain Boula de Mareuil

EYL2014

Counsel Corporate and M&A, De Pardieu Brocas Maffei

→ FRANCE

After passing the Paris Bar exam in 1998, Ghislain became Vice President of the Paris Young Lawyers Association. He then relocated to China where he spent over 8 years as an international business lawyer and helped bridge the gap between Chinese enterprise and European investment. During this time, he co-founded Shanghaivest, one of the first Sino-European

merger and acquisition advisory firms, advising European companies and governments on how to structure Europe-China projects and how to negotiate with Chinese partners. He has since returned to Paris and now divides his time between his law firm, Shanghaivest, and counselling activities for renowned European firms such as De Pardieu Brocas Maffei.



Malcolm Byrne

EYL2014

**Head of Communications,
Higher Education Authority**

→ IRELAND

Malcolm is Head of Communications with the Irish Higher Education Authority, the state agency that advises government on higher education and research and that funds the higher education institutions. He is also a councillor and former mayor for the centrist Fianna Fail party. A former Vice-President of the National Youth Council of Ireland, former Education Officer with the Union of Students in Ireland and a former Executive member of the European Students Union, he also previously worked as commercial manager of myhome.ie, Ireland's most successful property website and as chief executive of a national children's organisation. Malcolm is a graduate in law and in arbitration from University College Dublin. He has also completed 20 marathons.



Jasmina Cibic

EYL2014

Artist

→ SLOVENIA

Jasmina works across a range of media including photography, performance, installation and video. Most often characterised as a visual artist, her artwork is focused on the positioning and analysing of space vis-à-vis other societal categories. She is the author of numerous exhibitions which have been shown all over Europe,

as well as the recipient of prestigious Slovenian, European and international awards, including the *Bevilacqua la Masa* (Venice 2002 and 2005), the Slovenian Trend Award for Outstanding Achievements in Visual Art (2011), and the Catlin Commission Award (London, 2011). She represented Slovenia at the 55th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia. She studied at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Venice before receiving an MA in Fine Art from Goldsmiths College, London.



Balazs Denes

EYL2013

**Director, European Civil
Liberties Project, Open Society
Foundations**

→ HUNGARY

Balazs is a Hungarian lawyer and a human rights activist. In 1997 he joined the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU), the country's leading civil liberties watchdog organisation, and after holding various positions he served as the HCLU Executive Director from 2004 to 2012. Since early 2013, he is Director of the European Civil Liberties Project at the Open Society Foundations. He is a founding member of many Hungarian NGOs, and serves on the board of the Common Sense for Drug Policy Foundation and the Melymosoly Foundation. He focuses on civil liberties, human rights, communication and NGO management issues. Balazs received his law degree in 1998 from ELTE University Budapest and is a 2003-2004 Columbia University/Global Network for Public Interest Law (PILnet) Fellow.



Cedric Denis-Remis

EYL2012

**Dean of ParisTech-Shanghai
JiaoTong**

→ FRANCE

Cédric is French Dean of ParisTech-Shanghai Jiao Tong, an international engineering school located in Shanghai, based on the French model of

excellence. Prior to this, he was European Executive Director of China-EU “Institute for Clean and Renewable Energy” (ICARE), the third institute for higher education and research founded in the context of political agreements between the European Union and China. He was previously a researcher and teacher at Chinese universities (Tsinghua and Tongji) and has worked for major companies in both China and Europe (Sanofi, Saint-Gobain and Carrefour) as a consultant and trainer in the fields of management and sustainable development. He also spent four years as a research associate at the Ecole des Mines de Paris.



**Jorge Juan
Fernandez Garcia**
EYL2014
Director E-Health & Health 2.0,
Hospital Sant Joan de Déu

→ SPAIN

Jorge is Director of E-Health and Health 2.0 and Innovation Manager at Hospital Sant Joan de Déu, Barcelona, one of the largest children's hospitals in Europe. He has over 15 years of experience in life sciences and healthcare, working on projects throughout Europe, with a strong focus on technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. He regularly acts as advisor and mentor to various healthcare start-ups and entrepreneurial acceleration programs. Jorge is also Head of Academics at Moebio, where he leads the d-HEALTH Barcelona programme, an 8-month postgraduate fellowship based on the successful Stanford Biodesign programme. Jorge is a graduate in European Political Economy from LSE. He also holds a GMP from IESE Business School, Barcelona and a GSP from Singularity University, Silicon Valley.



Josep-Maria Gascon
EYL2014
Associate to General
Tax Counsel, Solvay
→ SPAIN

Josep-Maria is one of Solvay's leading tax lawyers with dual responsibility: he is International Tax Manager at the global chemical and plastics group's European headquarters in Belgium, as well as Head of Tax for Spain and Portugal. Josep-Maria is a frequent author and lecturer on tax issues, and was appointed as a Business Ambassador by the Government of Catalonia in recognition of a career that contributes to making the region known around the world. In September 2011, he received one of the legal publication Iberian Lawyer's "40 under Forty" awards, which recognises the achievements of a new generation of lawyers shaping the future of law in Spain and Portugal.



Pavla Gomba
EYL2014
Executive director, UNICEF
Czech Republic
→ CZECH REPUBLIC

Pavla is the Executive director of UNICEF in the Czech Republic. Under her leadership, the Czech UNICEF has become not only a strong advocate for children's rights, but also a leading fundraising organisation, with a contribution rate of 82% (the 3rd highest in the worldwide network), emerging from a recipient of international funding to the net donor to the international causes – an experience that is now viewed as an inspiration for the new business model of UNICEF in middle-income countries. Pavla has extensive experience of missions in developing countries, ranging from the areas hit by natural disasters and post-conflict countries to the countries struggling with high poverty rates and social inequalities. She is currently carrying out a PhD at the Technical University of Ostrava, focusing on international security and terrorism and she holds an MSc in Finance from the University of Economics, Prague.



Soulaima Gourani

EYL2014

**Keynote speaker, author
and advisor**

→ DENMARK

Soulaima is a speaker, consultant, author, blogger and an active board member in several public and private companies. It is her vision to change the world to a better more tolerant place through trade and business, and relations between countries and people. She spends part of her time and own money travelling around the world to do “impact journeys”. The past year she has been to Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Russia, UAE, India, Jordan, Myanmar, USA and China to work with local entrepreneurs, young global leaders, local schools, change makers and NGOs. Since 2007, she has worked as an advisor and speaker for more than 1000 clients. She has received several prestigious awards among others the Rising Star, the Talent 100 price 2004, Power Women, 20 Greatest Nordic Thinkers., Young Global Leader 2012, Soulaima holds an E-MBA from the Copenhagen Business School.



Juhan Lepassaar

EYL2014

**Member of Cabinet of Siim Kallas,
Commissioner for Transport,
European Commission**

→ ESTONIA

Juhan is Member of Cabinet of Vice-President Siim Kallas, European Commissioner for Transport since 2013. Currently, he is responsible for coordinating policy in the fields of rail and road transport and also covers non-portfolio issues such as energy policy, internal affairs, Economic and Monetary Union and the Eastern Partnership. Before he was Director for EU Affairs at the Government Office in Estonia. In this capacity he acted as the Prime Minister’s chief adviser for EU affairs and head of Estonia’s inter-ministerial coordination system of EU policy. Juhan holds an MA in Contemporary European Policy from the University of Sussex and a degree in Comparative

Politics from University of Tartu. He has also studied interior design at the Estonian Art Academy.



Guillaume Liegey

EYL2014

Co-founder, Liegey Muller Pons

→ FRANCE

Guillaume is an expert in electoral strategy. He began his career in Beijing before joining the consulting firm McKinsey & Co. for 4 years in France and in the United States. In 2012, he joined the French presidential campaign team of François Hollande, in which he oversaw the field campaign strategy to reach out to 5 million households, led the rollout of the campaign in 30 departments and coordinated the communication strategy. He then co-founded a political strategy firm Liegey Muller Pons to help other European political parties improve the way they run their election campaigns and engage with citizens before and after the polls. Guillaume is the co-author of *Porte-à-porte, Reconquérir la démocratie sur le terrain* (2013). He is also a lecturer at Sciences Po Paris, where he teaches a course on electoral campaigns. Guillaume is a graduate of HEC and Harvard, holding a Master in Public Administration and an MSc in Management.



Andrei Cosmin Luca

EYL2014

**Head of Political Section,
Embassy of Romania in Rome**

→ ROMANIA

Andrei is currently the head of the political section of the Romanian Embassy in Rome. He has previously served, for five years, as a deputy to the Romanian ambassador in Madrid. Before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2003, he has been a programme coordinator in the non-governmental sector (for the Black Sea University Foundation and the Centre for Political Analysis and Comparative Studies), where

he was involved in pioneer activities aimed at consolidating the newly born democratic and free-market institutions in Romania. Andrei holds an MA in International Relations from the University of Bucharest and an MA in European Public Administration from the University of Bologna.



Antonia Meszaros

EYL2014

Journalist

→ **HUNGARY**

Antonia is a Hungarian journalist, television presenter, author and documentary filmmaker. Antonia is a moderator of public events and professional workshops organised by the European Commission in Budapest. She hosted Hungary's main evening current affairs programme from 2007 to 2011, but was forced to leave the national public broadcaster MTV, along with thousands of colleagues after the new government "reorganised" public broadcasting and has been working at ATV, an independent news channel, ever since. Antonia has participated in charitable projects and literacy campaigns aimed at helping the Roma population. For the last few years she has also been asked to head a Hungarian foundation recognising and rewarding journalistic achievements and organising events and workshops for media professionals. She is an English Literature graduate from ELTE University in Budapest.



Blazej Moder

EYL2014

**Director, New Center
of Lodz Programme**

→ **POLAND**

Blazej is Director of the New Center of Lodz programme, which is one of the biggest urban, social, investment programmes currently realized in Central Europe. The programme contains over 50 different projects worth over 1 billion €. He is in charge of transforming the city of Lodz – the 3rd largest Polish city – into a modern and

knowledge-based metropolis focusing on the rebuilding of the old railway station and revitalizing the urban area around it (100 ha) to create a new multifunctional city center. Blazej is also Member of the Council at Civil Development Forum, a leading Polish free market think tank. He is an International and Political Studies graduate from the University of Lodz and a PhD student in Economics at the Warsaw School of Economics.



Daniela Ott

EYL2014

**COO, Kering Luxury Division
and CEO, Tomas Maier Brand**

→ **GERMANY**

Daniela is the recently appointed CEO of the Tomas Maier Brand, one brand within the Kering Luxury Brand, to which she has been COO since 2012. Daniela will continue her role as COO and is in charge of integrating new brands, developing synergies and in general supporting the expansion of the company's 17 luxury brands. Daniela has built a dual competency in brand management, strategy and finance on the one hand, and in merchandising and product knowledge on the other. Previously, she has worked as Director of Strategy of the Gucci Group in London and Paris and as Director of Strategy and Marketing at Balenciaga. Daniela holds an MSc and BSc in Management from the LSE. She teaches a class on Luxury Brand Management at ESSEC, Paris. In 2012, she was selected as one of the Deauville's Women's Forum "Rising Talents" and has previously received the LSE Research Award and the Economic & Social Research Council Award.



Nina Rawal

EYL2014

**Investment Manager,
Industrifonden**

→ **SWEDEN**

Nina is Investment Manager at the Swedish Industrial Development Fund (Industrifonden) where she is responsible for international investments

in life science companies. Previously, she was Vice President of Strategy and Ventures at Gambro, a medical technology company. Previous experience also includes work at The Boston Consulting Group in Stockholm and New York, and at Medecins Sans Frontieres. Her academic background is in biomedicine and molecular neurobiology, including a PhD from the Karolinska Institute. In 2012, she was selected as one of 20 “Rising Talents” worldwide by the Women’s Forum.



Lavinia Sandru

EYL2013

President, European Ecological Initiative

→ ROMANIA

Lavinia is President of the European Ecologist Initiative and television anchor on a Romanian political critique show. Formerly, she was Vice President of the National Union for the Progress of Romania (UNPR). Prior to this she was President of the National Initiative Party (PIN). Lavinia is an active supporter of ecology and was the Director of the “EcoFest Manifesto for Earth Health” Festival, the first European tour representing the Romanian ecologist movement. In 2007 Lavinia was a key figure in the “Romanian’s Guide in the European Union” promotion campaign. Lavinia holds a PhD in Political Sciences from the University of Bucharest.



Ivana Sendekca

EYL2014

Founder, Next Generation Leaders of Slovakia

→ SLOVANIA

Ivana founded in 2009 the NGO Next Generation Leaders of Slovakia (NGLS), which is a platform and movement dedicated to developing leadership skills, inspiring action and connecting influential Slovakian people. Ivana previously worked in Dubai, as a wealth management banker

and sales executive. Returning to Slovakia in 2007, she conducted management consulting for multinational banks and governments and developed a strong interest in the power of new social media platforms to transform the worlds of work and innovation. Over 4 years to date, the NGLS programme has reached some hundreds of young Slovaks. Her personal story was featured in two books. She has been a keynote speaker on several prestigious occasions and featured as an “opinion leader” in many articles. Ivana holds a Master in Strategic Management from the Comenius University in Bratislava.



Tomas Sedlacek

EYL2012

Chief Macroeconomic Strategist, CSOB and author

→ CZECH REPUBLIC

Tomas has shaken the study of economics as few ever have. Named one of the “five hot minds in economics” by the Yale Economic Review, he is Chief Macroeconomic Strategist at SOB, one of the largest Czech banks and serves on the National Economic Council in Prague. In his bestselling book, *Economy of Good and Evil*, Tomas breaks out of economic confines and explores myths, religion, theology, philosophy, psychology, literature, and film, ranging from the epic of Gilgamesh and the Old Testament to Matrix and the consumerism of Fight Club. The book was awarded the 2012 Frankfurt Book Fair’s prize and has been translated to 14 languages. He was an economic adviser to President Václav Havel and later served as an expert non-political adviser to the Finance Minister. Tomas holds a PhD in Theoretical economics from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University.



Irene Tinagli

EYL2014

Member of the Italian Parliament

→ ITALY

Irene is currently a Member of the Italian Parliament sitting on the Committee on Public and Private Employment and on the Committee on Infancy and Childhood. Irene also teaches Management and Organisation Design at the Carlos III University in Madrid. Prior to this, she worked as an expert for the EU Commission on creativity and innovation as an advisor to the Ministry of Education, research and innovation on smart cities and social innovation policies. She is Member of the Board of Italia Futura, an advocacy think tank, for which she coordinated campaigns and benchmarked several European countries and international policies. Irene holds a PhD in Public Policy and a MSPPM from Carnegie Mellon University.



Shahin Vallee

EYL2014

**Member of the Cabinet
of President Herman Van
Rompuyl, European Council**

→ FRANCE

Shahin was appointed to the Cabinet of European Council President Herman Van Rompuyl as an Economic Advisor in July 2012. From October 2010 to June 2012, he was a Visiting Fellow at Bruegel think tank, where his research interests focused on international macroeconomics, the international monetary system, European economic governance, and monetary and macroprudential policy. He has previously worked with BNP Paribas bank's research department in various roles and served as an advisor on European and economic issues to the Green Party's presidential campaign in France. He holds a master's degree from Columbia University and a Public Affairs degree from Sciences Po, Paris.



Wouter Verschelden

EYL2014

**Journalist, founder and publisher
at Newsmonkey.be**

→ BELGIUM

Wouter is a journalist and entrepreneur, who founded Newsmonkey.be, a social media tailor-made news website, partly funded by a successful crowd-funding action. In 2013, he made a documentary and book about the future of the news business: *Stop The Presses: the Golden Age of Journalism starts now*, partly based on his 2 year experience as editor-in-chief of *De Morgen*. Before that, he worked at *De Standaard*, as a political journalist, and won several Belfius-press prizes. During that period he acquired his passion for politics and the inner workings of the system, which resulted in a fiction series about Belgian politics that he co-wrote for television and that will air in Belgium. He holds an MA in Political Journalism from the Columbia School of Journalism in New York. He also has a Master in Business from the Vlerick Management School in Ghent and a Masters in Politics at Ghent University and Université de Bretagne Occidentale.



Maria Vlachou

EYL2014

CEO, Fereikos-Helix

→ GREECE

Maria is the CEO of Fereikos-Helix, a company that oversees the development of organic snail farming globally and CEO of Maria Vlachou LTD, specialising in the branding, packaging and export of Greek high quality agricultural products. Fereikos-Helix is among the National Champions of the 2013 European Business Awards and was the first company in Greece to participate in the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme. In 2011, Maria was awarded the Greek Entrepreneur of the Year prize and in 2013, she was included in the Fortune list of "40 under 40" in Greece. In addition, she is on the advisory board of

Hellenic Start-Up Association and mentor at several start-up initiatives, as well as an Endeavor Global Entrepreneur. Maria speaks 9 languages and has studied foreign languages and literature at Federico II University, Naples, and holds a PhD in Comparative philology from the University of Porto.



Yuriy Vulkovsky

EYL2014

Executive Director, Bulgarian Festivals Association

→ **BULGARIA**

Yuriy is the Executive Director of the Bulgarian Festivals Association, an organisation that brings together 20 of the most renowned festivals in Bulgaria. During the last 15 years he took part in more than 20 projects aimed at giving a voice to the citizens of Sofia and Bulgaria and fighting for government transparency and effectiveness. He teaches courses on cultural management and policy and management of non-profit organisations at Sofia University. He has extensive experience in grant management, organisation development and cooperation strategy, as well as a particular interest in the cultural sector in post-communist countries. He is a member of the Strategy Group of the European Initiative “A Soul for Europe”. Yuri holds an MA in Cultural studies from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridsky.”



Florian Zinoecker

EYL2014

Head of the corporate governance and internal policies division, European Stability Mechanism

→ **AUSTRIA**

Florian is Head of the corporate governance and internal policies division at the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), where he is responsible for the preparation of decisions and meetings of the Board of Governors (eurozone finance

ministers), Board of Directors and Board of Auditors. He has worked in economic and financial affairs in the areas of central banking and monetary policy in various capacities including at the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Central Bank (ECB). He has a Master in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, as well as a Master in Advanced European Studies from the University of Vienna.



Jon Worth

EYL2012

Founding partner, techPolitics LLP and blogger

→ **UNITED KINGDOM**

Jon is a founding partner of techPolitics LLP, a Berlin-based web campaigning and social media agency that has run online campaigns for well-known politicians such as Harriet Harman, Diane Abbott and Ken Livingstone, and works for government clients across Europe. He is best known in the UK for his role running the Atheist Bus Campaign, an online fundraising campaign that emblazoned the slogan “*There’s probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life*” on 800 buses across the UK in 2009. This action prompted follow up campaigns in 10 further countries. He is one of the founders of BloggingPortal.eu, an aggregator of blogs about the European Union, and is a prolific writer on EU affairs on his own blog (jonworth.eu) as well as Open Democracy and Comment is Free. He is a visiting lecturer at Maastricht University, and the Graduate Institute of International Affairs, Geneva.

Speakers



Jamila Aanzi

Member of the European Elections Programme Committee of the Dutch Social Democratic Party (PvdA)



Natalia Alonso

Head of EU advocacy Office, Oxfam international



Olivier Basille

Director, Reporters without Borders (RSF)



Malcolm Byrne

Head of Communications, Irish Higher Education Authority



Cédric Denis-Remis

French Dean of ParisTech Shanghai



Andrew Duff

MEP Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Spinelli group steering board member



Janis A. Emmanouilidis

Member of the reflection group on the *new Pact for Europe*



Monica Frassoni

Co-chair of the European Green Party, former MEP



Ana Gomes MEP

Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs



Ivano Kalfin

Member of the European Parliament, former Bulgaria Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister



Guillaume Liegey

Co-founder of the political strategy firm Liegey Muller Pons, co-author of *Porte-à-porte, Reconquérir la démocratie sur le terrain*



Marc MacGann

Senior Vice President, Head of Government Affairs & Public Advocacy, NYSE Euronext



Marley Morris

Researcher and Consultant on the Recapturing's Europe Reluctant Radicals project, Counterpoint



Adam Nyman

Director, *Debating Europe*



Paula Pinho

Member of Cabinet to EU Commissioner for Energy, Günther Oettinger, in charge of the shale gas portfolio



Kati Piri

Candidate Member of the European Parliament for the Dutch Labour Party (PvdA)



Lavinia Sandru

President of the Romanian organisation European Ecological Initiative



Ivana Sendecká

Founder, Next Generation Leaders of Slovakia



Thomas Sedlacek

Author of bestseller *Economy of Good and Evil*, former economic adviser to Václav Havel, Chief Macroeconomic Strategist at SOB



Philippe Von Parijs

Belgian philosopher



John Worth

European Blogger

Moderators



**Kirsten
Van Den Hul**
The Change Agent,
EYL 2013



**Jens Ole
Bach Hansen**
Councillor at
the Permanent
Mission of Denmark
to the United Nations



Denes Balasz
Director, European
Civil Liberties
Project at Open
Society Foundation
EYL 2013



**Joseph-Maria
Gascon**
Associate to
General Tax
Counsel, Solvay



**Antonia
Meszaros**
Journalist



DAY 1 - THURSDAY 30 JANUARY

Moderated by Kirsten van den Hul, The Change Agent, European Young Leader 2013

13.00-13.30 Registration and welcome

13.30-14.30 INTRODUCTION AND WARM-UP

Welcome by **Guillaume Klossa**, President of EuropaNova, and **Geert Cami**, Founder and Director of *Friends of Europe* followed by a “warm up” ice breaker with the Young Leaders.

14.30-16.00 SESSION I

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: BRACING FOR A “PERFECT STORM”

Despite the European Parliament's increasing importance and influence in EU policy-making, elections to the EU's only democratically-elected body generates little public interest. Voter turn-out – especially among young people and women – is expected to be low, reflecting public disenchantment with the EU. Those who do vote are widely expected to favour populist and extremist parties.

- **What could we do to inject more excitement into European election campaigns?**
- **Are European political parties developing new strategies to reach out to voters, especially young voters?**
- **How should the toxic anti-European and extremist narrative of populist parties be countered?**

Monica Frassoni, Co-chair of the European Green Party, former MEP.

Marley Morris, Researcher and consultant on the Recapturing Europe's Reluctant Radicals project, Counterpoint. Young Leader contribution by **Jamila Aanzi**, Member of the European Elections Programme Committee of the Dutch Social Democratic Party (PvdA)

16.00-16.30 Coffee break

16.30-18.00 SESSION II

EUROPE'S UPCOMING LEADERSHIP CHANGE

The EU's top institutions will be in new hands by the end of 2014 as the Presidents of the European Parliament, the European Council and the European Commission as well as all European Commissioners leave their posts.

- **Given Europe's growing economic, social and foreign policy and security challenges, what would be the ideal profile of the new EU leaders?**
- **With Brussels teeming with diplomats, parliamentarians, lobbyists, advocates and journalists, who wields real power in the complex EU decision-making machinery and how to improve accountability, transparency and efficiency?**
- **Having survived without a government for 589 days while assuming the Presidency of the European Union, should Belgium be considered a special case, a model or a counter-model for its 27 EU partners?**

Ivailo Kalfin MEP, Member of the European Parliament, former Bulgaria Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister

Tomas Sedlacek, Author of bestseller *Economy of Good and Evil*, former economic adviser to Václav Havel, Chief Macroeconomic Strategist at CSOB, European Young Leader 2012

Contribution by Young Leader **Ivana Sendecka**, Founder, Next Generation Leaders of Slovakia

18.00-18.30 Coffee break



18.30-20.00 SESSION III

EMPOWERING PEOPLE: THE GRASSROOTS PARADIGM

European citizens today have the capacity and the tools to organise themselves in order to trigger change. The power of those who previously pulled the strings of Europe – governments, EU institutions, corporate leaders, etc. – is being challenged. The role of the “usual suspects” may be shifting from decision-making to empowering people and entrepreneurs to bring about change and progress. Is the role of the “usual suspects” shifting from decision-making to empowering people and entrepreneurs to bring about change and progress?

- **Is the success of crowd-funding a measure of Europeans’ empowerment?**
- **What role for public-private partnerships to regenerate European growth?**

Adam Nyman, Director, Debating Europe

Natalia Alonso, Head of EU Advocacy Office, Oxfam International

Young Leader contributions by **Malcolm Byrne**, Head of Communications, Irish Higher Education Authority and **Guillaume Liegey**, Co-founder of the political strategy firm Liegey Muller Pons, co-author of *Porte-à-porte, Reconquérir la démocratie sur le terrain*

20.30-23.30 Dinner

DAY 2 - FRIDAY 31 JANUARY

09.30-11.30

HOT TOPICS: CRASH TESTS?

Given the compelling necessity to build a common European future, the “40 UNDER 40” will take part in 4 workshops to identify key questions and come up with original recommendations to be implemented on a European level.

Workshop n°1: European values: The Hungarian case study

Facilitated by Young Leader 2013 **Balasz Denes**, Director, European Civil Liberties Project at Open Society Foundations and **Antonia Meszaros**, Journalist

Workshop n°2: Ukraine, Turkey, Serbia: What is the future of countries on the fringes of the EU?

Facilitated by **Jens Ole Bach Hansen**, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations

Workshop n°3: Banking Union and the new financial framework: How serious are we?

Facilitated by **Josep-Maria Gascon**, Associate to General Tax Counsel, Solvay

11.30-12.00 Coffee break



12.00-13.00

WRAPPING UP THE WORKSHOPS' OUTCOMES

Plenary session to share the outcomes and recommendations of the workshops with the entire group. Moderators will summarise the outcomes and recommendations which will be presented in the following session.

13.00-14.30 *Lunch break*

14.30-16.00

SHARING OUTCOMES

Presentation of the workshop outcomes and open discussion with key stakeholders having backgrounds in the concerned topics (of the workshops).

Olivier Basille, Director, Reporters Without Borders (RSF)

Ana Gomes MEP, Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Mark MacGann, Senior Vice President, Head of Government Affairs & Public Advocacy, NYSE

Kati Piri, Candidate Member of the European Parliament for the Dutch Labour Party (PvdA)

16.00-16.30 *Coffee break*

16.30-18.00 **SESSION IV**

SHALE GAS IN EUROPE: A STRATEGIC OR A POLITICAL CHALLENGE?

The energy landscape outside Europe has been radically reshaped by the U.S. shale gas and oil boom, which has reduced the country's reliance on fossil fuel imports, driven down its energy prices, helped curb CO2 emissions, created hundreds of thousands of jobs and impacted their strategic role in the Middle East in particular.

- **Is such a U.S.-style shale gas revolution possible in Europe?**
- **Why is Europe so divided over shale gas? Can the economic benefits outweigh the environmental risks?**
- **How can Europe forge a common energy policy when EU member states pursue their national energy interests in an uncoordinated way?**

Paula Pinho, Member of Cabinet to EU Commissioner for Energy, Günther Oettinger, in charge of the shale gas portfolio.

Contributions by Young Leaders 2013 **Cédric Denis-Remis**, French Dean of ParisTech Shanghai and **Lavinia Sandru**, President of the Romanian organisation European Ecological Initiative.

18.30-19.30 *Private tour of the Magritte Museum*

20.00-23.00 *Dinner*

Programme

40 UNDER 40 / EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS

DAY 3 - SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY

10.30-12.30 SESSION V

A NEW PACT FOR EUROPE?

The euro crisis has prompted one of the most intense debates about the viability of the European project in its history, but many of the contributions to that debate have amounted to little more than immediate crisis management. Alongside deeper reflection processes like the inter-institutional European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS) or the EP's Spinelli Group, a consortium of 11 European foundations has launched a project to promote a Europe-wide reform debate, New Pact for Europe. Its goal is to develop realistic reform proposals to shore up an EU suffering from socio-economic and political turbulence and growing threat of global marginalisation, and feed these ideas to the new EU leadership that takes office in May 2014. The discussion will be centred on possible scenarios for European integration and their consequences.

Andrew Duff MEP, Member of the European Parliament Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Spinelli group steering board member

Janis A. Emmanouilidis, Member of the Reflection group on the New Pact for Europe

Philippe Van Parijs, Belgian Philosopher

Contribution by European Young Leader 2012 **Jon Worth**, European blogger

12.00-13.30 *Lunch*

13.30-15.30 CONCLUSIONS

40 AND...WHAT'S NEXT?

Informal discussion on what insights emerged from this programme and the next steps to take.

15.30-onward

Leisure time and activities



40 UNDER 40

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BRUSSELS SEMINAR 2014

Executive summary

Executive Summary

40 UNDER 40 / EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS



The renewal of the institutions of the European Union in 2014 is a possible wake-up call for a reinforced commitment to the European project. It must be the occasion to address issues, particularly in the area of citizen trust and the increasing socio-economic and political fragmentation across Europe.

The EU lacks a common narrative to gain and maintain public interest in its politics and policy. European decision makers are trapped in the 'EU bubble' and remain out of touch with the needs of the people that they are meant to represent. This common narrative needs to be built on individuals' positive experiences with the EU and championed by public figures outside of politics such as artists, athletes, and civil society leaders.

Public dissatisfaction with the EU has created an opportunity for populist and nationalist political parties in the run-up to May's European elections. As the potential rise of

nationalist policies threatens further EU integration, mainstream political parties are removed from their supporters.

To combat this rising populism and address public disinterest in European politics, mainstream political parties need to do more to engage with young people and other marginalised groups in European society by integrating online technologies and social media into a combination of representative and participative democracy.

New leadership in the EU needs to be dynamic, diverse, and dedicated. Rather than

national leaders being raised to the European level, new leaders who identify themselves as European are needed to symbolize the diversity of European society.

Concerned citizens also have a role to play in strengthening the EU through grassroots initiatives and by using the increasingly common online tools and platforms that exist to engage with politicians. In order to function, however, the use of these platforms must work both ways and it behoves politicians to adapt the uses of technology and social media to bring themselves closer to their constituents.

To increase voter turnout to the European elections, more efforts are required to reach out to voters through door-to-door campaigning coupled with online interaction, the young leaders agreed. In addition, politicians need to make more efforts to build long-term relationships with voters throughout the political cycle and not only in an election year.

Citizen disengagement with the EU can also be addressed beyond the elections, in the way that the European institutions protect and project European values at home and abroad. As political and social instability continues in certain member states, EU policy and the institutions that defend it need to strive to be more coherent.

The European Commission and Council's lacklustre response to Hungary's dismantling of EU values, particularly in terms of freedom of the press, needs to be quickly rectified and mechanisms created to ensure that the fundamental rights of EU citizenship be defended and that disciplinary action be deployed quickly and effectively.

Furthermore, the EU must get its house in order and present a unified stance to the world, especially in cases where stability and

normative coherence can have a positive effect on neighbouring countries such as Turkey and Ukraine that may benefit from closer association with the EU.

One important element of the EU's image on the global stage is further banking union, which, through the creation of the Single Resolution Mechanism, will strengthen the eurozone's economy. The speed and scope of the implementation of the new framework for the financial sector will insulate the EU from future economic crises.

Though a more stable financial framework will serve to protect the economy, Europe's future growth will remain dependent on cheap sources of energy for the foreseeable future. The debate on shale gas and the revolutionary effects of the same on the US' economy, however, adds another chapter to the argument in the EU about the balance between economic and ecological considerations.

While this hotly contested potential new source of affordable energy for the EU may contribute to economic growth and stability, the European Commission must tread carefully and factor in the environmental risks of exploiting shale gas.

Though finding solutions to specific policy issues remains paramount for the EU, the debate on reforming the EU rages. The Young Leaders explored the future direction of Europe as part of the process initiated by the Reflection Group on the New Pact for Europe.

Though many agree that the future of the EU depends on changing the more-or-less EU logic to redefine the underlying assumptions of the European project, it is also recognised that the EU needs to work within its existing structures to move forward towards more integration.





Introduction

40 UNDER 40 / EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS

Though it has become a cliché in recent years, the truth is that Europe lacks leadership, noted Geert Cami, Co-founder and Director of *Friends of Europe*. “The EU needs more modern ways to interact with citizens and to develop and share a coherent narrative,” he stressed. “We Europeans tend to forget why we have this project. What is its added value? What should it be? Too many of our current leaders shy away from these questions.”

As Europe reinvents itself, questions of leadership, identity, and vision become increasingly relevant, he continued. The European Young Leaders programme, seeks to create conditions for collective thought among the expanding group of “40 UNDER 40” in order to craft a common analysis of, and solutions to, the challenges facing the EU.

In recent years, the EU project has been fraught with doubt as economic instability risks to further divide the North from the South and increase socio-economic inequality. Future leaders will need to be able to relate to citizens and direct the EU discussion away from the current paradigm of Euro-sceptics vs. Europhiles and towards finding common solutions and compromise across the political spectrum on the EU level.

“When we speak of the future of the EU and about the leaders we need, the discussion must begin with the challenges we will face,” noted Ivailo Kalfin MEP, Member of the European Parliament, and former Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister. The coming years will be about addressing three important issues : the makeup of the institutional structure of the EU, overcoming the public reluctance to listen to Europe’s “talking heads” and creating a more participative approach to democracy, he said. The structures of the EU that were unable to withstand the effects of the crisis have been examined and EU leaders have strived to bolster the institutional defences of the EU with the

“People are fed up with listening to speeches from politicians. They need something they can touch, see, and participate in.”

Ivailo Kalfin MEP, Member of the European Parliament

fiscal compact, Banking Union, and more eurozone integration, among others. While the debate on these issues still rages, progress is being made.

With the expanded influence over policy decisions granted by the Lisbon Treaty, the European Parliament is growing in importance among the EU’s institutions. This notwithstanding, as the European elections draw near, citizen engagement with the process remains low.

Finally, he concluded, the EU will have to confront the lack of public participation in the democratic process. “People are fed up with listening to speeches from politicians,” he said. “They need something they can touch, see, and participate in.” The political process in Europe needs to shift to respond to new technology, particularly social media, and pay attention to the voice of the people.

With low expectations for voter turnout to the European elections, there is likely to be an increase of populist and nationalist political parties in the European Parliament. Some estimates suggest that up to 30% of parliamentary seats will be filled by members of populist political parties, indicated Cami.

“The EU is not very popular,” noted Cédric Denis-Remis, French Dean of ParisTech Shanghai and European Young Leader 2013. “There is a serious lack of interest among the EU’s citizens on how to shape the EU for the future.”

PART I

**Updating European
Democracy:
a New Outlook for Politics
in the EU**

Part I

40 UNDER 40 / EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS



“The crisis has halted the positive chain of events that has legitimised the European institutions for so many years. We have to prioritise. What really matters now is to give visibility to the underlying values of the EU”

Andrei Cosmin Luca



“We overreacted to the crisis, questioning not only the idea of our common currency but the validity of the union as a whole. We have forgotten that our union is more than the body economic, more than the sum of our economies.”

Tomáš Sedláček

Searching for a common narrative

“The crisis has halted the positive chain of events that has legitimised the European institutions for so many years,” stressed Young Leader Andrei Cosmin Luca, Counsellor for EU affairs, Embassy of Romania in Rome. The response to this diminished legitimacy is far too often disenchantment with the entire EU project, particularly among young people and minorities, rather than a more nuanced reasoning for current economic hardships. “We have to prioritise,” he said. “What really matters now is to give visibility to the underlying values of the EU.”

“Since the end of World War II, there has always been a strong narrative backing further EU integration: unity, inclusion, growth, the European family, and so on,” noted Young Leader Malcolm Byrne, Head of Communications at the Irish Higher Education Authority. “The difficulty now is that the EU has lost its story.”

“If we want to brand the EU as a world superpower, we need to stop referring to it as an experiment,” stressed Young Leader Jamila Aanzi, Member of the European Elections Committee of the Social Democratic Party of the Netherlands (PvdA). “We have passed the experimental phase of the EU.” What is lacking in Europe is more confidence in the EU and what it stands for.

In contrast, noted Tomáš Sedláček, Bestselling author, Chief Macroeconomic Strategist at CSOB, and European Young Leader 2012, though the current economic crisis began in the United States (US), it did not lead to introspection concerning the union of its states, nor questions about its common currency.

“Nobody in their right mind considered kicking California out of the ‘dollar zone’,” he stressed. “In the EU, however, we overreacted to the crisis, questioning not only the idea of our common currency but the validity of the union as a whole. We have forgotten that our union is more than the body economic, more than the sum of our economies.”

A coherent European narrative should be built upon the fundamental values underlying the EU. A vision of the EU as a role model for the world, not from a perspective of economic perspicacity but rather out of a consideration for rule of law, democracy, freedom, dignity, and equality. “The status quo in the world is not peace, it is war,” stressed Denis-Remis. “Nevertheless, in Europe we have created peace through unity. We need to shout this from the rooftops at every possible opportunity and in every possible way.”



Current EU leadership lacks popularity and visibility outside of the Brussels and EU bubbles, he said, suggesting a European branding campaign to emphasise the value of the EU. The first step towards re-branding Europe is to search outside of European politics for people that can commit to and transmit the message – artists, athletes, civic leaders, national politicians, and so on.

The rise of populist politics

Over the past few decades, there has been an emergence of populist political parties in Europe. These politicians are hostile to the European institutions, oppose mass immigration, and are highly critical of the financial, cultural, and political elite in the EU, noted speaker Marley Morris, Researcher and Consultant at Counterpoint on the Recapturing Europe's Reluctant Radicals project.

While they have been growing for decades, these groups tend to gain ground during times of economic hardship, presenting simple, if impractical, explanations and solutions for faltering prosperity. Their rhetoric is often based on anti-immigration discourse and societal differences in religion, gender, and race.

"The mainstream response to populism is often to sound the alarm against it, when what is required is a much more nuanced approach," Morris stressed. Importantly, mainstream politicians and media should consider that, while quite vocal in their opposition, populist MEPs have little actual impact on policies and processes in the European Parliament.

"The danger of populism lies rather in its rhetoric," he said. Populist politicians are more likely to make speeches in plenary debates and, through this increased visibility, have a greater effect on society than their actual power would suggest.

"Because populist parties are on the rise, we assume that the people support an anti-EU agenda. We need to determine how to better communicate European success stories throughout the Union and between member states," indicated Young Leader Guillaume Liegey, Co-founder, Liegey Muller Pons.

Part I

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“Populist parties are able to gain support by responding to popular issues on the ground. Our failure is that we are not listening to the people and directly addressing their legitimate concerns, thus leaving a gap in the political market to be filled.”

Malcolm Byrne



“To communicate an effective message to the electorate, the keywords are focus, clarity, and simplicity. Populists understand this.”

Daniela Ott

This approach should be targeted, principled, and emotive, Morris said. In the first instance, a targeted approach means concentrating on ‘floating voters’ – those citizens who are not necessarily supportive of populist political parties but are unlikely to vote.

Secondly, mainstream political parties should be principled and grounded in clearly defined values. “There are many good reasons not to vote for mainstream parties,” noted Young Leader Shahin Vallee, Member of the Cabinet of President Herman Van Rompuy, European Council. “Mainstream political parties are increasingly out of touch with voters, especially socially disenfranchised people, women, and youth. The issue is less about fighting against populist politics and more about fighting for political renewal and a fresh perspective.”

“There is a crisis in traditional political parties,” stressed Young Leader Jens Ole Bach Hansen, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations. “They are finding it difficult to sell their visions of European and national democratic politics to the electorate.”

The inclination for politicians to tailor their platforms to the lowest common denominator is worrying, the Young Leaders agreed. This needs to be addressed by mainstream political parties’ adoption of straightforward and unwavering value propositions.

Finally, concluded Morris, populist rhetoric needs to be confronted with emotion. Mainstream rhetoric on the EU level lacks the same driving passion demonstrated by many populist politicians. Simply put, populism makes for better theatre than mainstream politics, with more clearly definable narratives, for example ‘good’ people vs. ‘bad’ immigrants.

“Populist parties are able to gain support by responding to popular issues on the ground,” stressed Byrne. “Our failure is that we are not listening to the people and directly addressing their legitimate concerns, thus leaving a gap in the political market to be filled.”

Ireland, for example, does not have an anti-immigrant party, he continued. Part of the reason for this is the strong pro-immigration narrative that has been built into Irish society as a reflection on the country’s own waves of immigration during times of hardship. Through the creation of this narrative that addresses potential public concerns with European and third country immigration, immigrant populations in Ireland are more accepted than elsewhere.

The underlying assumption in the discussion on the rise of populism is that it is inherently negative, noted Young Leader Alberto Alemanno, Professor of EU Law and Risk Regulation, HEC Paris. “Rising populism is



“Before we know it. We will have a new team of middle-aged white men to replace the current team of middle-aged white men in the leadership positions of the EU. While there is no doubt that we need a new narrative, perhaps we also need new narrators.”

Kirsten van den Hul

not necessarily a bad thing,” he said. “The fact that these anti-EU movements exist means that Europe matters. It may be that now is the right time to have a real European political debate to decide what is at stake and overcome our difficulties.”

The tendency towards sensationalising populism in politics and the media needs to be counteracted with effective arguments. “We have to be more convincing with hard facts, numbers, and concrete examples of how things would be worse without the EU,” indicated Young Leader Irene Tinagli, Member of the Italian Parliament. “People will be willing to listen, if we can bring concrete and relatable arguments to the table.”

“At the end of the day, time is money,” stressed Young Leader Daniela Ott, COO, Kering Luxury Division and CEO, Tomas Maier Brand. “To communicate an effective message to the electorate, the keywords are focus, clarity, and simplicity. Populists understand this.”

“It is true that we need to be clear and simple in our approach,” agreed speaker Monica Frassoni, Co-chair of the European Green Party, “but life is not clear or simple, nor are the solutions to the political and social issues facing Europe.” The fact that politics in the digital era has been reduced to 144-character sound bites gives an advantage to those politicians whose campaigns can run on the simplest of ideas, for example, that ‘immigrants are taking all the jobs’.

“The problem with populism is that it does not present solutions,” she added. “We have to create access to all sides of the political debate and demonstrate that populism and nationalism are not really options. Instead, we panic and act as if they have already won.”



Part I

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“Europeans are willing to believe in Europe if they have leaders who are willing to commit to taking a European role”

Guillaume Klossa



“The most important thing a leader must possess is the ability to imagine a better world. We are at a moment in history where the EU is not leading anything. We need someone to have a vision of the world as it should be and the ability to sell that vision.”

**Jorge Juan
Fernandez Garcia**

The problem of credibility in the European elections goes beyond the rhetoric, indicated Young Leader Juhan Lepassaar, Member of Cabinet of Vice-President Siim Kallas, Commissioner for Transport, European Commission. “We need more credible candidates in the European elections,” he said. “Thus far, they are not so impressive – either young politicians at the beginning of their careers, or elder statesmen at the end but nobody with any real political capital.”

What should Europe’s new leaders look like?

“Before we know it,” noted moderator Kirsten van den Hul, The Change Agent and European Young Leader 2013, “We will have a new team of middle-aged white men to replace the current team of middle-aged white men in the leadership positions of the EU. While there is no doubt that we need a new narrative, perhaps we also need new narrators.”

By the end of 2014, the EU’s top positions will be in new hands, as the current Presidents of the European Parliament, Council, and Commission, as well as the college of EU Commissioners leave their posts. It behoves the European institutions to consider whether the current – and future – leadership truly reflects the rich diversity of European society and values.

“The standard system based on party politics will create the standard types of politicians we have now,” indicated Young Leader Pavla Gomba, Executive director, UNICEF Czech Republic. To increase citizen interest in the European elections, the challenge is to attract people to European politics that in turn can make European politics more attractive to a greater portion of the electorate.

“Many political parties see the EU as an elephant graveyard where elder politicians go to die with dignity. This only increases the disengagement of young people,” noted Young Leader Josep-Maria Gascon, Associate to the General Tax Counsel, Solvay. Much remains to be done to create an atmosphere in EU politics to engage new constituents.

Beyond the question of attractiveness, the very definition of EU leadership is problematic. “We are not creating EU leaders,” Tinagli said. “Instead we simply move our national leaders up to the EU level. Our system is not structured in a way to allow truly European leaders to emerge.”

“Europeans are willing to believe in Europe if they have leaders who are

willing to commit to taking a European role,” Klossa stressed. Though historically there have been several EU leaders that have brought legitimacy to the EU, there is a tendency to ‘be European’ until the end of their term, at which point they fall back into their national identity.

To this end, the EU institutions need to focus on creating EU mass media, indicated Balázs Denes, Director, European Civil Liberties Project at Open Society Foundations and European Young Leader 2013. While media networks exist in each member state, there are few options for mass dissemination of information on the European level.

Pessimism among Europe’s youth is another serious issue, noted Young Leader Ivana Sendekka, Founder, Next Generation Leaders of Slovakia. During the two first Next Generation Leaders of Slovakia conferences it was found that, though young people are willing to participate and invest in the future, opening dialogues with politicians is often fruitless.



“I am not sure that any of our Slovakian young leaders would want to work with our politicians,” she said. “The only way we youth can effect change is to undertake our own initiatives. However, we cannot exist apart from our leaders. We need support and legislation from higher up.”

In order to change the leadership paradigm in Europe, young leaders need to decide for themselves which values they want to embody – vision, coherence, integrity, solidarity, and so on – and then strive to awaken these values in society and politics. “There are real basic needs and narratives that are simply nonexistent in Europe right now,” she concluded. “Our political candidates are disconnected from real life. We need to ask ourselves what we can do about this.”

European leaders should reflect the ideals of European society, the Young Leaders agreed. They should be multi-lingual and team-oriented, young, preferably women, have international experience and IT skills, and have the potential to create change. “We live in changing times,” stressed Young Leader Maria Vlachou, CEO, Fereikos-Helix. “Our leaders should reflect this and be flexible, open, and willing to embrace change.”

“The most important thing a leader must possess is the ability to imagine a better world,” noted Young Leader Jorge Juan Fernandez Garcia, Director E-Health & Health 2.0, Hospital

Part I

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Sant Joan de Déu. “We are at a moment in history where the EU is not leading anything. We need someone to have a vision of the world as it should be and the ability to sell that vision.”

Leadership should not be limited to politicians and party politics, indicated Yuriy Vulkovsky, Executive Director, Bulgarian Festivals Association. Civic action can serve to put pressure on authorities and help to create links between politicians and citizens.

“We need to look for leaders in civil society who can balance out our politicians,” stressed Young Leader Blazej Moder, Director, New Center of Lodz Programme. “We should look outside of politics to focus on empowered leaders who will defend good constitutions, rules, and institutions.”

“What we need are active citizens,” Vulkovsky said. “The problem is that there is a divide between the people and their politicians, between ‘us’ and ‘them’, when the truth is that we have to understand and learn from each other.”

“When we speak of leadership, we speak of change,” concluded Kalfin. “Leadership is the feeling of success that you bring to those who follow you and leaders are the people who can motivate others to do something positive. Leadership is not someone that we select. Rather, there is a little bit of it in each one of us.”



“We live in changing times. Our leaders should reflect this and be flexible, open, and willing to embrace change.”

Maria Vlachou

Citizen engagement with the democratic process - Voter turnout

With the 2014 elections coming up in May, the trend, established during previous elections, of low voter turnout will likely continue. Moreover, it is expected that a greater proportion of voters will support populist or nationalist candidates as a response to deepening economic and social insecurity in the EU.

While the debate on how to deconstruct populism in Europe continues, it is only relevant insofar as voter turnout remains low, Denes indicated. “A certain portion of the population will always turn out to vote for radical parties,” he said. “Radical politics becomes an issue when mainstream parties are unable to connect with people and motivate them to participate in the democratic process.”



“Over the past few years, participatory democracy has been competing with representative democracy. The future of democracy lies in being able to reconcile these two forms. Governance in twenty years time will be a crowd-sourcing platform.”

Alberto Alemanno

In an attempt to inspire citizen participation in this process, the European Green Party adopted a new approach in the run up to the European elections, creating the first Europe-wide online primary to select its candidates for European Commission President, indicated Frassonni. The impulse behind this strategy is an attempt to personalise EU politics and to make a real competition out of the elections.

“People in the EU feel that their capacity to influence policy is less than what it is,” she noted. “The feeling that voting actually translates into impact is limited and needs to be encouraged. The legitimacy of EU politics depends on this.”

Traditional door-to-door campaigning remains the most effective way to ensure voter turnout. Liegey, who oversaw the field campaign strategy during the election campaign of French President François Hollande in 2012, applied the idea of a door-to-door campaign with overwhelming success.

This strategy can be applied to the European elections as well, he noted. For the European elections this year, the Party of European Socialists has launched a pilot project to gauge its effectiveness, the results of which will be determined in May. If this can be proven successful, the EU may see a rise in voter engagement in future elections past 2014.

As it stands, however, the EU institutions are out of touch and have difficulty accepting that there exists a democratic deficit, stressed Young Leader Wouter Verschelden, Journalist, Founder and Publisher at Newsmonkey.be. “The EU is grey and boring, with little sex appeal,” he said. “If we want to solve this problem and turn the EU around, we need a truly democratic system. Democracy is about people, about voting on ideas and the people that embody them.”

Drawing on the example of Ireland, Byrne suggested a more systemic approach to increasing public engagement with European issues. Irish voters select individual candidates for the European Parliament, rather than operating on a list-based system. This, coupled with national referenda on every EU treaty, promotes citizen engagement with European politics.

Furthermore, Ireland’s relatively high turnout for European elections could be attributed to the fact that both local and European elections are held on the same day, thus simplifying the democratic process for voters.

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“It is true that that people, especially young people, are making greater efforts to engage with the political process in the EU through online platforms, but for them to have an effect, they need policy-makers to join them in the debate.”

Adam Nyman



“Our image of politicians is dire. We think of them as untrustworthy and not as average people who face problems, fight for their beliefs, and get results. We need to share more positive stories of people interacting with their politicians.”

Antonia Meszaros

The electoral system tends to reward politicians for taking shortcuts, rather than working for their constituents, the Young Leaders agreed. “Every four years, politicians go to the streets to tell people what to do,” stressed Martijn Arets, Expedition Leader at Crowd Expedition, Founder, Institute for the Collaborative Economy, and European Young Leader 2013. “What about the other three years? Politicians need to do more to build long-term relationships with voters.”

The reverse is also true, noted speaker Natalia Alonso, Head of EU Advocacy Office, Oxfam International. “Though we citizens only vote every four years, we have to hold our politicians to account and to demand our rights as citizens much more frequently. This is active citizenship.”

It is not enough to simply be angry about the state of affairs in the EU and the world, she continued. By channelling public anger at the global financial crisis into a proactive campaign to encourage governments to implement a financial transactions tax, Oxfam International and numerous partners were able to inspire people to become more involved in the policy process.

As a result of this campaign and targeted lobbying, eleven member states have committed to an EU financial transactions tax, the proceeds of which will go towards funding public services as well as development and climate change mitigation.

“Leadership is important,” she concluded, “but we should never underestimate the effect of organisation on the grassroots level. There is power behind this. We citizens should never feel powerless.”

Citizen engagement with the democratic process – Building from the grassroots

As technology and social media continue to evolve, political parties’ monopoly on access to policy diminishes. “Over the past few years, participatory democracy has been competing with representative democracy,” noted Alemanno. “The future of democracy lies in being able to reconcile these two forms. Governance in twenty years time will be a crowd-sourcing platform.”

As the make up of European democracy shifts, political parties will need to consider the way their institutions are engineered and to develop new ways of interacting with their constituents. Essentially, the party system will need to adapt to new technological realities, to translate ‘likes’ into policies.



This institutional engineering must consider three elements: education, experimentation, and empowerment, he said. Educational initiatives through online platforms should be more widely promoted and disseminated, to bridge the gap between the benefits of European policies and European public interest.

Secondly, it behoves the European institutions and the parties that make them up to experiment and take risks with regards to how they interact with citizens. New ways of approaching traditionally marginalised groups - particularly youth and minorities - should be explored in order to stimulate more involvement in the democratic process.

Finally, he concluded, through the exploitation of social media and communications technology, it is possible to include a wider audience in the policy process. Translating proposals into more digestible formats and allowing citizens to react and comment on them, subsequently turning this input into fodder for the policy process, is a way to inform, include, and empower people.

Around election time, there is the usual debate about how to increase voter participation and the usual arguments from politicians that people - especially young people - are not interested in politics, noted speaker Adam Nyman, Director of Debating Europe, an online platform that encourages citizens to discuss EU policy directly with policymakers.

Debating Europe, which has engaged over 300,000 citizens during the past two years, demonstrates that the interest is there. "Through online innovations such as Facebook, Change.org, Avaaz, and so on, citizens now have the tools to have an impact in European politics," he stressed.

As regards the European Parliament elections, the Green Party is the only group to have used methods of participatory democracy, in the online elections for their candidates for European Commission President, he continued. Though these preliminary efforts are small - only 23,000 people from across Europe voted through this process - they are a step in the right direction.

Beyond the internet and social media, technology is changing how politicians and citizens interact in other ways, noted Liegey. In the US, software that was originally created to manage

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political campaigns is being used to manage community action. “One can do a lot to organise people in the field using campaign software and social media,” he stressed. “Combining this with traditional door-to-door campaigning can be a very powerful tool to create links between politicians and the electorate.”

While constituent engagement through the use of social media and other technological channels is on the rise, what is missing is representation from politicians and policymakers on the other side of table, noted Nyman. “It is true that that people, especially young people, are making greater efforts to engage with the political process in the EU through online platforms,” he said, “but for them to have an effect, they need policymakers to join them in the debate.”

The issue for politicians is not that they do not listen, stressed Young Leader Antonia Meszaros, Journalist. The difficulty lies rather with inducing people with specific problems to trust the system and to approach their representatives.

Politicians are too often involved in the day-to-day processes of government and find it hard to be innovative, noted Tinagli. With so many issues needing attention, politicians require help from citizens to be made aware of existing problems and develop specific proposals to address them. “As a Member of Parliament, I am very grateful to those civic-minded individuals who contact me with proposals or who invite me to their community to open a dialogue on what is important to them,” she concluded.

“Our image of politicians is dire,” stressed Meszaros. “We think of them as untrustworthy and not as average people who face problems, fight for their beliefs, and get results. We need to share more positive stories of people interacting with their politicians.”

“We speak of politicians like a different species,” concluded Alonso, “forgetting that the social contract goes both ways. We are all political actors and if we want to change what we do not like in politics, we have to engage with ideas that resonate in our society.”

Citizen engagement with the democratic process – Marginalised groups

Youth are underrepresented in political decision making, as well as women and visible minorities. While election years see an increase in campaigning aimed at these politically-marginalised groups, “one cannot start trying to increase youth and minority participation in the democratic process three months before an election. Participation should be on the agenda all the time,” Aanzi stressed.

While youth aged 15-25 comprise one fifth of the world’s population, they are not formally represented in national or European political institutions, she noted, adding that the representation of women in political parties is on the decline regardless of policies aimed at promoting gender equality in politics.

“In today’s EU – a body politic in transition – new thinking and fresh ideas can make a real difference,” she concluded. “While decision makers recognise the importance of this, they are simply unable to engage these marginalised groups and remain condescending to youth and women.”

“Reaching out to young people can and is being achieved through technology and social media,” stressed Gomba. “What is even more troubling however is that the current political elite apparently find it too challenging to reach out and listen to what European youth have to say.”



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“One cannot start trying to increase youth and minority participation in the democratic process three months before an election. Participation should be on the agenda all the time.”

Jamila Aanzi

Young Leader Danae Bezantakou, Managing Director, Navigator Shipping LTD, and Co-founder of the iforu-Greek Mentoring Network, noted that “we do not have enough young role models in the EU .We need a programme on the European level to promote mentoring and create a generation of empowered youth and women.”

The bottom line for European political parties and institutions is that they should focus on campaigning as permanent actions, concluded Aanzi. This means including young people, women, and other politically marginalised groups, making the system more attractive for all Europeans.

Furthermore, to build a system that greater reflects the diversity of the EU, political parties must change their recruiting policies and make greater efforts to attract representatives of the richness of European society.



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**The European
Young Leaders
on EU policy issues**

Protecting EU values in the member states – The Hungarian case study

The new Hungarian constitution entered into force on 1 January 2012, adopted by the conservative government of Fidesz-Hungarian Civil Union with what some believe to have been insufficient input from the opposition and society at large.

Under this new constitution, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and his government have dismantled parts of the legal and political framework created by the EU accession process and been seen to go against EU values, notably the values of tolerance, political participation, solidarity, and freedom of expression and of the press.

“After accession there is an expectation that the new member state will continue on a path that upholds EU values,” Meszaros indicated. “The subsidiarity principle ensures that there is no EU mechanism for monitoring what happens in a member state, and even less capacity on the EU level for disciplinary action.”



“Binding our national systems to EU values is a part of being in the European family. The people who erode these values must be held accountable. This presupposes political will on the part of those responsible in the European institutions”

Ana Gomes MEP

The Young Leaders offered five recommendations to combat what is happening in Hungary and to strengthen the role of the EU in defending its values when they are under attack from within:

- 1.** The system of national checks and balances in Hungary having been removed, there is a need for a European system to compensate. In order for this to work, however, the member states need to accept EU intervention.
- 2.** More power should be granted to the EU Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), with a specific mandate to investigate corruption within member state governments at the behest of citizens.
- 3.** While there already exists to varying degrees whistle blowing initiatives within the member states, the EU needs to develop a similar initiative to address corruption in state administrative bodies.
- 4.** More mechanisms are needed to monitor what is happening in the member states. In Hungary’s case, it took the European Commission two years to become aware of what was occurring. The suggestion here is to strengthen the EU Missions in Budapest and elsewhere, beyond propaganda and relationship-building. In addition, Heads of Mission should be foreign nationals in order to avoid physical, legal, and political blowback from their actions.
- 5.** Finally, stronger control of the media authorities in the member states through the Audiovisual Media Services Directive of the EU will serve to prevent cases where media authorities are made up exclusively of pro-government members.



“Defending EU values is not a question of more mechanisms or whistle blowers, it is a question of citizenship. We have the mechanisms. What we lack is people working to make them function.”

Olivier Basille

Beyond these recommendations, “we are talking about speeding up the EU’s reaction time when a member state acts as Hungary is,” Denes said. Though several international watchdog organisations began calling attention to the Hungarian government’s transgressions as early as 2011, the EU has yet to react in a decisive manner with an appropriate response.

“Binding our national systems to EU values is a part of being in the European family. The people who erode these values must be held accountable. This presupposes political will on the part of those responsible in the European institutions,” stressed Ana Gomes MEP, Member of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Demanding accountability for upholding EU values should come from the European Council, noted Mark MacGann, Senior Vice President, Member of the European Management Team, NYSE Euronext. “We the people only have a say in selecting our governments once every election cycle,” he said. “We need to see more courage from the member state governments when one of their ranks plays loose with European values.”

“Defending EU values is not a question of more mechanisms or whistle blowers, it is a question of citizenship,” noted Olivier Basille, Director, Reporters Without Borders (RSF). “We have the mechanisms. What we lack is people working to make them function. The NGOs are not working, the politicians are not working. MEPs are supposed to go to their home countries to meet with their constituents and they are simply not doing their jobs.”

At the heart of the Hungarian case is the bigger question of to what degree can the EU intervene with member state policies, noted Alemanno. “Our basic proposal is that there should be one resource for the EU to rely on: European citizenship. Europeans should feel that their citizenship is an opportunity for empowerment when the fundamental values of the EU are at stake. We need to be able to trigger a political response on the EU level.”

Ukraine, Turkey, and Serbia - What is the future for countries on the fringes of Europe?

The results of the economic crisis have in some ways called into question the EU’s enlargement process. While opinions in Europe are divided about whether and to what degree enlargement should continue under the current circumstances, it is clear that the accession process for prospective member states has become more stringent.

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“Ukraine, Turkey, and Serbia are countries with different statuses relative to the EU. While these countries themselves are internally divided on the question of accession, there is also a strong east-west divide in enlargement in EU politics.”

Kati Piri



“The EU needs to get its house in order. We need to understand what we are offering, what the fundamental principles of the EU are, so that it becomes clear for prospective member states what they can be a part of.”

Nina Rawal

“Ukraine, Turkey, and Serbia are countries with different statuses relative to the EU,” noted Kati Piri, Candidate Member of the European Parliament for the Dutch Labour Party (PvdA). “While these countries themselves are internally divided on the question of accession, there is also a strong east-west divide in enlargement in EU politics.”

At the current time, Serbia is on the path towards membership and fulfilling the requirements of the Community Acquis, though accession is not likely on the immediate horizon. The perspectives for Ukraine and Turkey are less clear, however much portions of these countries’ populations aspire to membership.

The concern with these latter two countries, stressed Bach Hansen, is that if they are not provided with clear signals of association and eventual membership from the EU, they could end up in a sort of limbo, trapped between the geopolitical spheres of influence of Russia or the Middle East and the EU.

This potential grey area suggests a host of governance, migration, and security consequences for Europe and its neighbours. Conversely, he noted, including these countries in the EU as member states brings with it a host of budgetary, social, and cultural concerns.

Though Ukraine is a country under extreme internal pressure, and not yet close to gaining status as a candidate country for EU membership, there is an important geographical element to consider, Gomes said. Furthermore, she added, recent demonstrations in the country have shown that a large portion of the population is clamouring for EU values – rule of law, transparency, anti-corruption, and so on – to the point that, during recent official visits to Ukraine, high-level EU representatives heard criticisms of the EU’s stance on fundamental human rights.

“There is a huge gap in the EU’s normative power,” indicated Shada Islam, Head of Policy at *Friends of Europe*. “We tell others around the world what to do but are struggling to enforce the mechanisms to protect our own values at home. We have to be cognisant of the fact that this paradox is eroding our image on the global stage.”

Turkey, who has been a candidate country since 1999, highlights another important issue in the future of enlargement. “Let us be honest with ourselves,” said Verschelden. “There is not a majority in the EU, not even among politicians, in support of Turkey’s accession. The consequences of this would be enormous, even ignoring the cultural and social implications of integrating a majority Muslim country and focussing solely on the size of the population.”



While it is true that Turkey, with a population of over 80 million, would be entitled to 90 MEPs, noted Bach Hansen, the fact that it is not a Christian country underscores a much-needed discussion in the EU: is it a Christian project? “It seems strange to define the EU as a Christian project with so many Muslims already living within its borders,” he concluded.

The EU’s ability to influence events in its neighbourhood is weakened because of a lack of clear benefits. “Our trade benefits are not glamorous and neither is our aid, which is going to governments and not to civil society organisations,” noted Islam.

“The EU needs to get its house in order,” stressed Young Leader Nina Rawal, Investment Manager, Industrifonden. “We need to understand what we are offering, what the fundamental principles of the EU are, so that it becomes clear for prospective member states what they can be a part of.”

The Young Leaders suggest that the EU needs to take a proactive strategy to define a unified stance to clarify its value proposition to the countries on its periphery. For those countries such as Ukraine, Turkey, and Serbia, whose membership candidate status remains vague for the foreseeable future, the EU needs to illustrate a clear path.

“The European project is a pilot for a global project in a world where the nation state is changing along with the boundaries that we have lived with until now,” Rawal concluded. “We cannot say ‘no’ to the countries on the fringes of Europe, nor can we simply do nothing – if we choose this, we choose to leave them outside and limit the EU as a template for global governance.”

How serious is the EU on the new financial framework and Banking Union?

In the heat of the crisis, banks in Europe were taking extreme risks to maximise their profits and, as a result, putting pressure on the entire banking system to increase profit margins. To bolster the system against further crises and prevent future widespread financial insecurity, the EU has been working for several years to create a set of single rules to govern banking within the eurozone.

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“If we want to sell unified European solutions to EU citizens, we must make them feel that the European institutions are on their side. They need to know that the EU has their concerns at heart”

Ghislain Boula de Mareuil



“Is Europe serious about a Banking Union? I would say it is deadly serious. It may seem that the Banking Union is taking a long time but it is in fact one of the fastest legislative initiatives and the one of the greatest shifts in sovereignty from the member states to the EU ever seen.”

Mark MacGann

While there is a lot of political will to go forward with the Banking Union, citizen trust in the EU's capacity to protect member state economies is sorely lacking, the Young Leaders agreed. “The lack of accountability and response from the EU to prosecute or even determine those responsible for the failings of Europe's banking system has drained public support for European initiatives in this area,” noted Gascon.

What is required is a comprehensive, single, and centralised mechanism for banking supervision, a clear roadmap from the European Commission that encourages trust, unifies national and European legislation, and explores a way to protect the banking sector while preserving taxpayers' savings.

“If we want to sell unified European solutions to EU citizens, we must make them feel that the European institutions are on their side. They need to know that the EU has their concerns at heart,” stressed Young Leader Ghislain Boula de Mareuil, M&A Advisory, Shanghainvest, De Par-dieu Brocas Maffei.

The European institutions need to be seen as different from member state authorities and banking institutions. If the EU can be seen to clearly limit manager bonuses and shareholder returns from banks rescued by tax money, it would go a long way towards improving public perception and undoing the negative image of the supposed revolving door between bankers, politicians, and bureaucrats

This challenge is compounded by the fact that, though technical solutions exist, they are not enforced because of a lack of support from member state governments, he indicated. The fragmentation within the single market in terms of monetary policy and government response in supporting failing banks leads to very real effects on the real economy. The second underlying challenge to unifying the banking sector is therefore to address the uncoordinated national response.

“Is Europe serious about a Banking Union? I would say it is deadly serious,” stressed MacGann. “It may seem that the Banking Union is taking a long time but it is in fact one of the fastest legislative initiatives and the one of the greatest shifts in sovereignty from the member states to the EU ever seen.”

The Banking Union as it stands aims to fuse together eurozone financial oversight to create a single banking supervisory authority, resolution authority, rescue fund, and a single guarantee to depositors. “At the heart of these initiatives is the goal of breaking the lethal embrace between banks, sovereigns, and the taxpayers that support them,” he said.

The crisis in the EU ultimately had such a devastating effect because of

the European institutions' lack of control over fiscal policy in the eurozone. In the US, where the crisis was born, the Federal Reserve was able to respond quickly and decisively to push back against the effects of the crisis, while the EU struggled with ineffective mechanisms, unable to exercise enough control over its single currency.

To prevent this from reoccurring as a result of future economic instability, the European institutions have developed the Single Resolution Mechanism (SRM), which has already taken, among others, the following steps:

- 1.** Auditing the banking system through assets quality reviews with the aim of purging the banking system of junk investments and levelling the playing field in the EU.
- 2.** The transfer of bank auditing and supervision to the European level, as well as the creation of mechanisms to federalise the dismantling of European banks if need be.
- 3.** The creation of the so-called 'bail-in regime' that ensures that those who invest in banks' financial activities are responsible for the results, as opposed to the taxpayers.

The SRM, if fully adopted at the end of 2014, will limit fragmentation in financial markets and allow the European Central Bank to directly supervise banks in all the member states in the eurozone and provide bailout funds for any troubled banks in those countries.

The initiative will be supported by a 55bn euro reserve fund, though in the case of widespread bank failure, this amount will only be able to cover a fraction of the overall costs. Critics of the SRM, notably the German government, warn that this initiative also risks sowing discord among member states as a result of tax revenues from one country being spent to save banks in another.

Though much remains to be done before the Banking Union is operational, it is a decisive and nearly unprecedented display of European institutional finesse, MacGann stressed. "In the past five years, European taxpayers have spent 473bn euros – almost one thousand euros per citizen," he concluded. "The Single Resolution Mechanism is designed to ensure that this can never happen again."





“The European Commission can neither impose nor prohibit any member state to pursue shale gas exploitation in their energy mix. This is the real challenge in the EU’s energy policy.”

Paula Pinho

Shale gas extraction in Europe – Seeking a delicate balance

Though the world has known about the existence of shale gas for decades, only in recent years has it become technologically and economically feasible to extract it. Since 2005, the shale gas revolution in the US has enabled that country to halve energy prices and increase GDP by 1%, curb carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 12% as a result of lessened dependency on coal, and create hundreds of thousands of jobs.

The EU has also benefited from this revolution in the form of cheaper coal imports from the US as a result of lessening American dependence, though this growth potential has been counteracted to a certain degree by the fact that European industry has increasingly moved operations over to the US to take advantage of lower energy costs, noted speaker Paula Pinho, Member of Cabinet to EU Commissioner for Energy, Günther Oettinger, in charge of the shale gas portfolio.

Though it is still unclear if the shale gas revolution can be replicated in the EU, it is unlikely to have the same transformational impact on the economy as in the US for the following reasons, noted Pinho:

1. The geology in the regions in the US that are rich with shale gas makes it easier to drill and access underground resources.
2. By its nature, extracting shale gas requires more empty spaces and a lower population density, which are more characteristic of the US than the EU.
3. Contrary to land ownership laws in the EU, US law dictates that landowners also own the natural resources that are found on their property, presenting a much stronger economic incentive for exploiting those resources.
4. The high costs of building the required number of onshore drilling rigs.





“If we want to evolve in our energy use, we must take a good look at our systems to determine what does and does not work from an ethical perspective and accept what we find. Nature speaks but we do not listen. We are about to poison this world in such a way that it can never be fixed.”

Lavinia Sandru

5. A lack of the necessary skills in the EU.

6. Finally, there are many Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY) environmental issues at play between the member states in the EU.

An additional complication in the EU is the subsidiarity principle, which grants member states responsibility over their energy policy. “The European Commission can neither impose nor prohibit any member state to pursue shale gas exploitation in their energy mix. This is the real challenge in the EU’s energy policy,” she concluded.

There is currently a national debate in Poland on this issue, noted Moder. While the country’s economy is developing well, it is dependent on coal and struggling to meet the CO2 emission goals set out by the European Commission. “Poland needs to consider shale gas as an alternative to coal, though there are environmental issues to consider. We are in a position where all of our potential energy sources are bad. We need to find a balance between ecological and economic concerns.”

Looking at the individual cases of the member states, it is clear that solutions to the energy mix in Europe require projects on the EU level. “When one considers global levels of energy production and consumption, being French or German does not mean anything anymore. We need to think globally in our approach to energy policy,” stressed Denis-Remis.

The potential impact of shale gas on the EU’s energy paradigm is greater than renewable energy, he added. As it currently stands, the EU relies mainly on fossil energy, with renewables making up a very small portion of its energy mix.

Though the EU has set its 20-20-20 target to deal with the reality of climate change, the shift to renewable energy is still outside of reach, due in large parts to the decades of investment and development in fossil resources. “We can save the earth with a big shift in the way we produce and consume energy,” he said, “but no one is ready to accept the required economic sacrifices. Simply put, we need to increase energy prices to accurately reflect the costs to our environment.”

The environmental cost of extracting shale gas is very high, stressed Lavinia Sandru, President of the Romanian organisation European Ecological Initiative and European Young Leader 2013. While exploiting the resource is cheaper than developing renewable sources of energy and boasts a higher profit margin, the EU needs to set its priorities as regards environmental protection and to follow through on its commitments.

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“When one considers global levels of energy production and consumption, being French or German does not mean anything anymore. We need to think globally in our approach to energy policy”

Cédric Denis-Remis

The risks of the industrial methods of shale gas extraction include earthquakes from the high pressures required by horizontal drilling¹ and hydraulic fracking², as well as the use of various toxic and untested substances leading to pollution and groundwater contamination.

“If we want to evolve in our energy use,” she concluded, “we must take a good look at our systems to determine what does and does not work from an ethical perspective and accept what we find. Nature speaks but we do not listen. We are about to poison this world in such a way that it can never be fixed.”

“We have a lot of scientific evidence for climate change,” noted Bach Hansen, “and we need to get serious about combating it. EU finance ministries should factor in the future costs to our society of inaction. The money we save today is money we will have to spend later.”

The costs of developing renewable energies are high but so are those associated with extracting shale gas, Vlachou stressed. In addition, the extent of shale gas reserves in Europe remains unknown so there is a real risk of overall financial loss if these reserves do not last.

The heart of the problem is growth, Denis-Remis said. The price of energy is decreasing worldwide to meet the demands of emerging economies



who wish to develop at the same level as the West. The lower cost of fossil energy discourages investment in alternatives, while increasing taxes on fossil fuels will reduce growth.

“We have to bear in mind that the EU has been the global pioneer in promoting renewables at great cost and with little reciprocation from global partners,” Pinho indicated. “The reality in Europe is that there are governments failing because of high energy prices. It is hard to sell the idea of saving for tomorrow when there are so many problems today. As policymakers, we have to find the right balance.”

Achieving the delicate balance in regards to shale gas extraction between economic, energy, and growth concerns on the one hand and environmental concerns on the other, begs the question: Should the EU continue to advocate ambitious climate change targets at the expense of EU economic competitiveness?

Moving forward in this area, the European Commission should try to explore the possibilities represented by shale gas while ensuring that checks and security measures are put in place to protect the environment, the Young Leaders concluded.

1. Contrary to traditional methods of oil and gas extraction and owing to its placement in layers underground, extracting shale gas requires drilling down to certain depths and then laterally.

2 Extracting shale gas through hydraulic fracking requires mixing the gas with water, sand, and chemicals and then separating the gas upon removal from the ground.



PART III

The future of the EU
Considering the
New Pact for Europe

Part III

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“If you look at the European Union, we are in a state of flux,” he said. “We need to consider not where we will be in thirty years time but in what direction we should lead the EU in the immediate future”

**Janis A.
Emmanouilidis**



“The quality of our political participation has been decreasing for decades, along with trust and membership in political parties.”

Jon Worth

As awareness of the EU's need to transform to meet the effects of the euro crisis grows, so too does the debate about the future of the European project. Alongside deeper reflection processes like the inter-institutional European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS) or the European Parliament's Spinelli Group, a consortium of several European foundations have undertaken to craft a Europe-wide debate about the reforms needed to stabilise a European Union suffering socio-economic and political turmoil³. This initiative, titled New Pact for Europe and currently in an interim phase, will present its findings to the new EU leadership in 2014.

“If you look at the European Union, we are in a state of flux,” he said. “We need to consider not where we will be in thirty years time but in what direction we should lead the EU in the immediate future,” noted Janis A. Emmanouilidis, Member of the Reflection Group on the New Pact for Europe. To this end, the reflection group has identified five strategic options to be debated:

- 1. Back to basics.** The rationale behind this option is that EU integration has gone too far. The EU should abandon the treaty changes and possibly even the single currency and to settle on the core of European integration – the single market.
- 2. Consolidating past achievements.** This option allows for the implementation of decisions already made in the EU, without any further fundamental changes to its structures and processes.
- 3. Moving ahead ambitiously.** Simply consolidating past achievements is not enough and the 28 member states need to work together to bolster the EU's structures to completely overcome the crisis and meet future challenges.
- 4. Leaping forward.** The experiences of the past few years have demonstrated that, in order to surmount future crises, the EU needs a strong executive government capable of making autonomous decisions on the European level. This option proposes a full economic and political union and includes the possibility of separating those member states that are willing to join from those that are not.
- 5. Changing the more-or-less EU logic.** Does the traditional debate between more or less EU integration make sense? Proponents of this option believe that the EU should not be based on national models of governance and that there needs to be a fundamental rethinking on the future of Europe.

“Looking at the current situation in Europe,” Emmanouilidis stressed, “it appears that there is little political appetite to move past consolidating what decisions have already been made. We must ask ourselves if simply muddling through the crisis is enough to confront the growing frag-

mentation in the EU.” The political, social, and economic fragmentation in Europe is leading to increasing levels of nihilism and disenchantment, especially among young people.

What is truly needed in Europe is a single government, noted speaker Andrew Duff MEP, Member of the European Parliament Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Spinelli Group Steering Board Member. “We must turn the European Union into the proper parliamentary government of a fiscal union,” he stressed. “It is essential that we put in place a government that is not only democratically elected but that rules democratically.”

The crisis cannot be resolved before borrowing costs come down for poorer eurozone member states and there is a gradual mutualisation of sovereign debt. The European Commission, through the creation of a Eurobond regime, is the only reasonable authority to create, implement and enforce the necessary political and economic frameworks.

While there are those in the EU who fight against further federalisation, big steps have still been made in the area of fiscal union. “In 2007 it would have seemed incredible that Europe was ready to step forward with the integration that is implied by the regulatory framework for the financial sector,” he said. “Yet here we are, on the eve of the creation of the Banking Union.”

Moving forward on the current path is useless without an examination of what it means to be European, Rawal noted. “What does it mean to be European? What unites us? The causality in the EU debate is wrong,” she stressed. “We are deciding on a Banking Union before we are clear about what we want to accomplish together.”

“I am against a great leap forward in the structures of the EU,” stressed speaker Jon Worth, European Blogger and European Young Leader 2012. “The days of old men sitting in smoke-filled rooms deciding what the future of Europe should be are rightly over.”

It was found that there is overwhelming support for rethinking the more-or-less EU logic among the participants. “We need to rethink in depth the ideas underlying the EU,” noted speaker Philippe Van Parijs, Belgian Philosopher. This rethinking should address some of the basic problems facing Europe.

Firstly, there is a political problem, that political democracy at both the national and EU levels is being hollowed out, Worth indicated. “The quality of our political participation has been decreasing for decades, along with trust and membership in political parties,” he said. “Now, our political parties are not taking decisions on a solid basis of support in the way they previously did.”

Secondly, there is a linguistic problem, he continued. The notions of being pro-EU or Eurosceptic have coloured the debate to the point where nuances in political stances are no more. The left-right spectrum of politics in the EU has been replaced by this more-or-less approach, creating a situation where sensationalist, all-or-nothing debate has replaced actual political debate.

Part III

40 UNDER 40 / EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS



“The future of Europe will be a constellation of cities, rather than a collection of member states,” he noted. “The future of the EU is a future of better-run cities with strong ties to one another.”

Philippe Van Parijs



“Who will develop and disseminate a common EU mass media and identity? It will not be the lawyers or the economists, it will be the artists. Who will inspire us? Who will be our storytellers? We very much need an EU cultural space and nobody is talking about it.”

Yuriy Vulkovsky

Instead of this all-or-nothing approach, the EU needs to become a contested political space in which different ideologies can play out. “In the EU elections,” he stressed, “we need political parties that provide clear platforms and processes, as well as faces to put on each. We will see more of this in the 2014 elections but we need to then make sure that what is decided is respected.”

Finally, he concluded, there is a need for massive improvement in the scope for participative democracy in the EU. Citizen participation in the EU decision-making process is possible, especially through new technology and should be strengthened in the future.

While facing these problems is a good start, Van Parijs noted that perhaps a deeper questioning of the ideas behind the EU project is needed. Rethinking the logic of the debate should integrate a number of different elements.

Firstly, Europeans must consider decline as a virtue. “Will the EU decline in terms of growth and global influence? Yes. Is it unavoidable? Yes. Is it regrettable? No,” he said. The economic growth and general prominence enjoyed in decades past will decline as emerging economies take their place on the global stage. The sooner that the EU can accept its diminished role in the world, the better it will be for all Europeans.

Secondly, there needs to be a shift towards a ‘caring Europe’. While the EU institutions should care about the efficiency and economic results of the system, in order to maintain legitimacy, it needs to be clearly recognised that the people come first.

To make authority on the EU level a caring authority, the EU must be given control over social policy, he said, drawing comparisons to Europe’s first publicly funded social pension system, created under Otto van Bismarck, which was crucial in giving rise to the modern German federal state.

A third important shift needed in the debate is a move away from the importance of the nation-state as the building block of the EU. “The future of Europe will be a constellation of cities, rather than a collection of member states,” he noted. “The future of the EU is a future of better-run cities with strong ties to one another.”

Finally, he concluded, there is the issue of a common language. “We urgently need a greater ability to better communicate across the EU,” he said. “We need to democratise our lingua franca, which will be English.



"I disagree with the notion that we can create a European identity. I identify more with Brazilians than with many of my fellow Europeans. Europe is a pragmatic option, not an identity. We have to be realistic about what the EU can accomplish. A great leap forward to further integration is simply not possible, nor desirable."

Joao Almeida

This is not only a matter of regulation but of increasing citizen mobility."

Part of this problem is that there is no common identity in the EU, indicated Verschelden. In order to develop this common identity, the EU needs a common mass media.

"Who will develop and disseminate a common EU mass media and identity? It will not be the lawyers or the economists, it will be the artists," noted Vulkovsky. "Who will inspire us? Who will be our storytellers? We very much need an EU cultural space and nobody is talking about it."

"I disagree with the notion that we can create a European identity," stressed Young Leader Joao Almeida, Secretary of State of Internal Administration, Portugal. "I identify more with Brazilians than with many of my fellow Europeans. Europe is a pragmatic option, not an identity. We have to be realistic about what the EU can accomplish. A great leap forward to further integration is simply not possible, nor desirable."

Changing the debate and direction of Europe is simply not an option, noted Duff. "We have to put greater stress on growth of the federal level. This is not a question of sharing stories but finding ways to govern in the best interests of all. Dream on if you like," he said, "but the critical issues are here and must be addressed with the political institutions that we have at our disposal."

The bottom line is that politics is about providing solutions to specific problems, concluded Byrne. Whatever model is designed in Europe should be the best at solving these problems. The most important consideration in framing the future debate on Europe is to determine what global problems cannot be addressed on the national, regional, and local levels.

3. The *New Pact for Europe* project is supported by a large transnational consortium including the King Baudouin Foundation, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Allianz Kulturstiftung, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, European Cultural Foundation, European Policy Centre, "la Caixa" Foundation, Network of European Foundations, Open Estonia Foundation, Open Society Initiative for Europe, Stiftung Mercator, and Svenska Kultur Fonden.

Partners

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INSTITUTIONAL PARTNER



European Commission

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Agency Executive Agency (EACEA) Europe for Citizens Programme

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Agency Executive Agency (EACEA) is responsible for the management of certain parts of the EU's Culture programmes under supervision from its parent DG Communication of the European Commission. The aim of the Europe for Citizens programme is to bring Europe closer to its citizens and to enable them to participate fully in the European construction. Through this programme, citizens have the opportunity to be involved in transnational exchanges and cooperation activities, contributing to developing a sense of belonging to common European ideals and encouraging the process of European integration. The European Commission is the EU's executive body and represents the interests of Europe as a whole.

SUPPORTING PARTNERS



ELIAMEP

The Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) is a private, independent, nonprofit-making think-tank, established in Athens in 1988. Its mission is to conduct research and provide policy makers, academics and the public at large with authoritative information and substantiated policy recommendations, so as to contribute to the development of evidence-based responses to major European and foreign policy challenges. Next to conducting specific targeted research projects, it also undertakes various kinds of information and awareness-raising activities to promote the public debate.



Gulbenkian Foundation

The Hertie School of Governance is a private university based in Berlin, accredited by the State and the German Science Council. Interdisciplinary and practice-oriented teaching, first-class research and an extensive international network set the Hertie School apart and position it as an ambassador of good governance, characterised by public debate and engagement. The School was founded at the end of 2003 as a project of the Hertie Foundation, which remains its major partner.



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King Baudouin Foundation

The King Baudouin Foundation is an independent, pluralistic foundation working in Belgium and at the European and international level. We seek to change society for the better, so we invest in inspiring projects and individuals. In 2012 we provided a total of 22 million euro in support to 1,700 organisations and individuals. A total of 1,730 people generously made their expertise available on independent juries, expert groups and advisory committees. The Foundation also organises debates on important social issues, shares research results through (free) publications, enters into partnerships and encourages philanthropy, working 'through' rather than 'for' the King Baudouin Foundation. The Foundation was set up in 1976, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of King Baudouin's reign.



Open Society Foundations

The Open Society Foundations (OSF) is a private foundation whose aim is to promote democratic governance and human rights, as well as economic, social and juridical reform by using its influence on public policies. OSF helps forge alliances beyond borders to better fight problems such as corruption and violations of rights. OSF was created as the Open Society Institute in 1993 by Georges Soros with the aim of promoting his other foundations in Eastern and Central Europe, as well as in countries of the former USSR. OSF has widened the activities of the Soros foundations network to other parts of the world where transition to democracy is an issue.

MEDIA PARTNER



Europe's World

Published every 4 months, Europe's World is the only independent Europe-wide policy journal, produced in association with some 150-plus leading European think tanks and academic institutions. Since its launch, Europe's World has established itself as the premier ideas platform for new thinking on political, economic and social issues. Its 100,000 readers, drawn from politics, business, the media, academia, think tanks and NGOs, are a powerful and influential audience, who value Europe's World for its thought provoking articles, Europe-wide outlook and lack of national or political bias. To date, over 1,000 of today's most respected thinkers and influential leaders, ranging from Kofi Annan, Carl Bildt, Kemal Dervis, and Anna Diamantopoulou, to Connie Hedegaard, Pascal Lamy, and Anders Fogh Rasmussen, have contributed articles, firmly strengthening Europe's World's reputation as the leading forum for ground-breaking ideas, and proving beyond a doubt that great minds don't think alike.

About us

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EuropaNova



Guillaume Klossa, President of EuropaNova

Guillaume Klossa is President of EuropaNova, which he founded in 2003 with a clear mission in mind: to bring together new generations of Europeans to build the next steps of the European project. With the help of Jacques Delors, he launched the *Etats Généraux de l'Europe* in 2006, which has become the major event for European civil society in France and Europe. Guillaume held executive positions in the business and industry sectors, including European Director of Digital activities at Bureau Veritas Group and Executive Vice President at McDonald's France. He was a European columnist of the French daily *Metro*. In 2007, Guillaume was appointed Special Advisor to the French Minister of European Affairs, Jean- Pierre Jouyet, during the French Presidency of the European Union, and joined the European Council in 2009 as an Adviser to the Reflection Group on the Future of Europe. Also a published author, Guillaume co-wrote, with economist Jean-Francois Jamet, an essay on the future of Europe, entitled *Europe, la dernière chance?* (2011) and recently published *Une jeunesse européenne* (2014). An alumnus of LSE, he graduated from Sciences Po Paris and holds a Masters in Management from HEC Paris.



François Lafond, Executive Director of EuropaNova

Francois Lafond is currently Executive Director of EuropaNova from October 2013. Previously, he was the executive director, member of the managing board of the French Aspen Institute (2012-13) and, director of the Paris office director of The German Marshall Fund of the United States (2008-2011). Before, François Lafond was a special adviser of the Italian Minister for Regional Affairs and Local Autonomies (2007-8), responsible for international relations of the think tank Glocus in Rome, and associate professor at the Centre for European Studies of Sciences-Po Paris (2001-9). He was also special adviser of the Italian undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs (2006-7), deputy director of Policy Network in London (2003-6), researcher and then deputy secretary general of the think tank Notre Europe in Paris (1999-2003), chaired by Jacques Delors, and research associate at the European University Institute's Robert Schuman Centre in Florence (1995-9). He has masters in political science, public law and European studies and is also a former trainee from the European Commission in Brussels. He is currently member of the scientific committee of the Institute of European Democrats, (Brussels/Paris), member of IDEFIE (Paris), and a regular collaborator of the daily Italian newspaper Europa (Rome).



Andreea Tarcan, Programme Manager "40 UNDER 40" at EuropaNova

Andreea Tarcan joined the EuropaNova team in 2011 and has worked on the "40 UNDER 40" – European Young Leaders programme since its early inception stages, being involved in all operational, conceptual and logistical aspects. Currently, Andreea oversees all the aspects of the programme at EuropaNova, with the support of her team, and assists on a regular basis EuropaNova's other activities. After getting her B.A. in English, she taught English literature, British and American history and linguistics at the Sorbonne University in Paris. She has managed her own translation company for three years before deciding to take another career path and work in the EU sphere. Andreea holds a Masters in European affairs and a Law degree from the Paris Pantheon Assas University.



Giles Merritt, Secretary General of *Friends of Europe*

Giles Merritt is the Secretary General of *Friends of Europe* and Editor-in-Chief of *Europe's World*, the only Europe-wide policy journal. In 2010, he was named one of the 30 most influential "Eurostars" by the Financial Times, together with European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen. He is a former correspondent of the Financial Times, in Dublin/Belfast, Paris and Brussels, as well as a former columnist of the International Herald Tribune. Giles is a journalist, author and broadcaster who has specialised in the study and analysis of European public policy issues since 1978. His opinion columns have ranged widely across EU political and economic issues, and they have been published around the world. Giles also published books on the unemployment crisis in industrialised countries in the eighties, and on Eastern Europe & the USSR in the nineties. He founded Forum Europe, established in 1989 as one of the leading EU conference organisers, as well as Brussels' only specialist think tank on security and defence issues, the Security & Defence Agenda.



Geert Cami, Co-founder & Director of *Friends of Europe*

Geert Cami co-founded *Friends of Europe* in 1999. Presided over by former European Commission Vice President Stevy Davignon, *Friends of Europe* is an independent and politically neutral think-tank for EU policy analysis and debate, aiming to be lively, provocative, pan-European and influential also outside the charmed circles of Brussels' policymaking community. Besides its international conferences, debates and reports, *Friends of Europe* is also known for being at the forefront of using new technologies and innovative formats to reach wider audiences. Geert also co-founded the think-tank Security & Defence Agenda, as well as *Europe's World*, the only Europe-wide policy journal, read by over 100,000 people throughout the world. For a few years in the mid-nineties, Geert worked in the brand new Information and Communications department at the European Commission's ECHO, the then newly set-up directorate dealing with humanitarian affairs. Before that, Geert worked briefly as a teacher, and he produced television reports for international organisations, as well as music programmes for Belgian public Radio 1.



Nathalie Furrer, Director of *Friends of Europe*

Nathalie Furrer is the Director of *Friends of Europe*, one of Brussels' leading think tanks that aims to stimulate thinking on key global and European political challenges. In this role, she manages the team and develops the overall programme of the think tank, liaises with members, partners and the press. She also coordinates all debates and publications, as well as other initiatives co-organised by *Friends of Europe* on all issues covered by the think tank. Prior to joining *Friends of Europe* she was working in an institute for public policy research, organising international conferences throughout Europe. Nathalie graduated in Political Science from the University of Geneva and has a Masters in Communication from the Sorbonne in Paris.



Laetitia Garcia Moreno, Events Manager at *Friends of Europe*

Laetitia is an Event Manager at *Friends of Europe*, where she is responsible for planning and coordinating all aspects of *Friends of Europe's* approximate 50 events per year. Prior to this, she spent over three years working for Edificio, a company that offers a selection of prestigious venues in Brussels. Laetitia speaks 4 languages and is a holder of a high school diploma in tourism.

Founders

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EuropaNova

EuropaNova was founded in 2003 by a group of young, professionally active, intellectuals committed to political and citizen life following the shock of the first round of the French presidential election. It gradually became, as of 2005, a think & action tank in favour of European integration. EuropaNova works closely with the European institutions, think tanks and civil society to develop solutions to solve the crisis and promote reform of the European Union as well as to promote the creation of a genuine European public space.

The uniqueness of EuropaNova stems from its multi-generational and multi-disciplinary way of producing and disseminating ideas, training new generations of Europeans and carrying out the citizen public debate with the global aim to contribute to the creation of a European public space.

The core missions of EuropaNova

DEBATES: Nearly 60 years following the Hague Congress, EuropaNova launched the Etats Généraux de L'Europe (www.etats-generaux.eu) in collaboration with local, national and European public authorities, as well as partners from the associations, business and labour sectors, for which the challenge is to re-engage the European civil society and to create a reference point for dialogue between citizens and policy makers.

The first edition took place in 2007 on the topic of the Revival of a European Pride in collaboration with the European Movement in France and Notre Europe-Institut Jacques Delors. In preparation of the 2014 European elections, the Political Auditions "Tous Européens?" are a major monthly political meeting enabling key figures in French and European politics to answer the questions of a jury composed of citizens on the sincerity and nature of their European commitment, on their analysis of the European situation and on how to solve the crisis and build the world of tomorrow. In 2013, EuropaNova has organised the Conference EUROPA, a 2-day forum that brought together over 60 international decision-makers to debate and exchange ideas on the future of Europe in an interdisciplinary and intergenerational context. These formats which have inspired a number of political fora are

designed to give citizens a taste for the European debate.

LEADERSHIP: Since its early years, EuropaNova has promoted talented individuals who have achieved or are on their path to great achievements and gave them a platform to express their opinions and views on Europe by organising the Young Leader Auditions. A few of the most renowned leaders who participated to these events are: Milo Djukanovic, Andreas Schwab MEP, Paul Magnette, Thijs Berman, Flore Vaseeur, Cédric Villani. EuropaNova has launched, with Friends of Europe, the first European programme for the new generation of European opinion leaders: "40 UNDER 40", which is inspired by the famous American leadership programmes and seeks to promote a new generation of opinion leaders.

IDEAS: EuropaNova contributes to the public debate and aims to reflect, analyse and suggest public policy choices to national and European policy makers: proposal of a new institutional treaty in September 2005, proposal to hire a state minister in charge of European affairs, presidential pact for Europe (April 2007) signed by Ségolène Royal and Nicolas Sarkozy including the creation of a socio-economic European governance, as well as the right to mobility for the youth, project of a European bailout fund (February 2009), details of the pillars of the economic governance of the Union (March 2010), proposal of a production and innovation strategy for Europe in the context of the new industrial world (2012). Some proposals have contributed to concrete results: Treaty of Lisbon, creation of a right to the mobility of young Europeans with the Erasmus programme, creation of the European Financial Stability Fund (May 2011) and of the European Stability Mechanism (2012).

For more information

www.europanova.eu
www.conference-europa.eu
www.facebook.com/Europanova
www.twitter.com/Europa_Nova



Friends of Europe – Les Amis de l'Europe is a leading European think-tank that aims to stimulate thinking on the future of the EU. Our contribution has for more than a decade been the confrontation of ideas that is so vital to policymaking and to encouraging wider involvement in Europe's future.

DIFFERENT

If Friends of Europe has become a Brussels institution, that is because it is so “un-Brussels-like”. We are the EU think-tank with a difference. We make Europe's policy choices lively and relevant to people outside the ‘charmed circle’ of Eurocrats and Brussels-based specialists, both in our debates and in our publications. About half of those who take part in Friends of Europe's stimulating and newsworthy events are not from Brussels.

Friends of Europe has never sought to compete with academic researchers who contribute analysis to the European political process. Our publications are widely disseminated and written by specialists or by our distinguished Trustees. They are highly readable and explain complex issues in an easily understood manner. Friends of Europe also co-initiated Europe's World, the only pan-European policy journal that offers policymakers and opinion-formers across Europe a platform for new ideas and for forging consensus.

The formats of our events are unusual. There are “Café Crossfires” at one end of the spectrum, in which leading experts and policymakers both cross swords and answer tough questioning from the floor. And at the other, major international conferences – our “Policy Summits” – that attract top political figures and make headlines. And we are pioneers in harnessing new technology to debating Europe's future, and its role in the world. We have been holding satellite TV debates since 2003.

Friends of Europe seeks to offer a voice to groups not traditionally represented in the EU debate, but who can make a difference: from young people to inuits or explorers on topics such as climate change, to people on the ground when we address development issues.

INDEPENDENT

If being different has made Friends of Europe a Brussels institution, so has being independent. Friends of Europe's hallmark since its earliest days has been its independence: We have no national or party political bias, nor do we advance the interests of any of the organisations we partner with.

We work with a wide variety of partners who are attracted by our lively and jargon-free approach to Europe's big issues, and also by our insistence that all sides and viewpoints must be fairly represented in the debates.

Our partners range from EU and non-EU governments to international bodies like the UN, World Bank and IMF, from the EU's institutions to NGOs, both big and small, such as Transparency International and WWF, and from ‘big business’ to trade associations. Media such as the Financial Times or This is Africa are regular partners. We are proud to work closely with other think-tanks and universities from Europe and worldwide, from New York's Columbia University to the Kiel Institute for the World Economy.

POLICY AREAS COVERED

Our portfolio of events and reports means that Friends of Europe contributes ideas on almost all EU-related issues. Specific initiatives led by Friends of Europe include the Development Policy Forum (DPF), the Greening Europe Forum (GEF), the Asia Programme, the Understanding China programme and the Europe China Forum.

Friends of Europe recently launched Debating Europe, an innovative online debate platform that lets citizens submit policy ideas directly to Europe's leaders.

For more information

www.friendsofeurope.org
www.debatingeurope.eu
www.facebook.com/friendsofeurope.foe
www.twitter.com/friendsofeurope

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Photographer: Philippe Molitor

Design & Layout: Marc Desmoulin

June 2014



Printed on sustainably produced paper



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