



# **The youths' participation in the EU Climate policy. How to enhance the representation of those who are most entitled?**

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## **Abstract**

In the EU, one-third of the population is under the age of 30. Many of these 170 million young Europeans showed an unexpected commitment facing the climate crisis, especially in the last two years. A peculiar sensitivity to the subject, nourished by academic preparation and sense of community, are the driving values of this young generation. It appears consequential that the future of the continent will be decided by this generation of committed young men and women. If the EU seeks to foster its global role in the fight against climate change, then it seems plausible that the leadership needed is the one originating in the current European youth, that will compose the next generation of EU leaders. This paper aims at exploring how and to what extent the youths can influence the EU climate policy and how to increase the youth's participation in EU climate policy.

In the first part, the paper introduces the issue of the youth's underrepresentation in the EU Climate policy and the inadequacy of EU instruments to represent interests and instances of the next generation of Europeans in the field of climate change. The argument is based firstly on an evaluation of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 proposed by the European Commission. The EU Youth Strategy aims at encouraging youth participation in democratic life and to enhance EU youth policy cooperation for 2019-2027. As of now, the two main issues affecting this generation of young Europeans committed in the field of climate policy are, first, underrepresentation at the EU institutional level, and second, a lack of influence in the field of EU Climate policy. Through the EU Youth Strategy, the Council indicates a Sustainable Green Europe among the 11 priorities of the EU-Youth Cooperation and it recognizes the role of young Europeans facing current and future challenges, such as climate change. The resolution establishes a new consultative process that brings closest youths and EU policy-makers in the form of a structured dialogue instrument. Nonetheless, the adoption of such an instrument still does not guarantee the adequate representation of the young population in the EU Climate Action policy-making. The EU should reply to the young Europeans' demand for a stronger role as climate agenda setters by fully integrating them in its climate policy-making.

In the second part, the paper aims at exploring the variegated landscape of the youth-led climate organizations at the EU level, to understand measures and sum up their political proposals to enhance the role of young people in the EU climate policy framework. So far, climate youth organizations are mainly

active at the local level given the rapid growth of the Fridays for Future movement, which the base is composed of young students. However, following the recent events, mainly the last EU election and the rapid growth of youth climate movements, a new kind of organizations are coming up. This study takes as an example of the youth-led climate organization Generation Climate Europe to show how this bottom-up young lead organization claims the role of young Europeans as truly climate agenda setters. This organization aims at bringing together the voices of the different youth climate organization in Europe to push the EU institutions to take more serious action in the fight against climate change.

Once having identified the EU youth policy instruments in climate policy and the climate priorities of the youth-led organizations actively engaged with the EU institutions this paper identifies a mismatch between the willingness of the youths to be represented into the EU climate policymaking and the EU instruments in place. To fulfil this gap in accordance with the proposals coming from the youth-led organizations this study proposes the launch of an EU Youth Climate Summit such as the best tool to strengthen the voice of the young Europeans in the EU climate policy.

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## 1. Introduction

In the EU, one-third of the population is under the age of 30. Many of these 170 million young Europeans showed an unexpected commitment facing the climate crisis, especially in the last two years. A peculiar sensitivity to the subject, nourished by academic preparation and sense of community, are the driving values of this young generation. It appears consequential that the future of the continent will be decided by this generation of committed young men and women. If the EU seeks to foster its global role in the fight against climate change, then it seems plausible that the leadership needed is the one originating in the current European youth, that will compose the next generation of EU leaders.

As of now, the two main issues affecting this generation of young European committed in the field of climate policy are, first, underrepresentation at the EU institutional level, and second, a lack of influence in the field of EU Climate policy. However, on the 26 November 2018, an EU Council Resolution 14080/18 released the framework of the EU Youth Strategy, aimed to encourage youth participation in democratic life and to enhance EU youth policy cooperation for 2019-2027. In the same resolution, the Council indicates a sustainable green Europe among the 11 priorities of the EU-Youth Cooperation and it recognizes the role of young Europeans facing specific challenges such as climate change. The resolution establishes a new consultative process that brings closest youths and EU policymakers in the form of a structured dialogue instrument. Nonetheless, the adoption of such instrument still does not guarantee the adequate representation of the young population in the EU Climate Action policymaking. the EU should reply to the young Europeans' demand for a stronger role as climate agenda setters by fully integrating them in its climate policy-making.

To act on the climate crisis young Europeans should capitalize on the visibility afforded by the current media exposition to claim for larger participation in the EU policymaking. Whether young European will take their responsibility and they will increase their voice over a critical issue for their future such as climate change the EU will gain from this both in terms of external credibility in the international context and in terms of politically support to the EU integration projects from the next generation of European citizens.

This paper aims at exploring how and to what extent the youths can influence the EU climate policy and how to increase the youth's participation in this area. In conclusion, this study proposes to establish an EU Youth Climate summit modelled on other successful initiatives such as the EU Social summit, through which the EU is used to bring together citizens and institutions.

## **2. Methodology, literature review and the paper's structure**

This paper addresses the research question through a qualitative research approach based on literature review and existing data analysis.

Concerning the available literature on the argument, this research is based mainly on the analysis of primary sources from the EU institutions, position papers of youth-lead organizations and newspapers' articles. Research institutes and scholars have rapidly started to dedicate their attention to the topic of youth engagement in the field of climate but still, neither proper academic literature nor any school of thoughts exists.

In the first part, the paper introduces the issues of the youth's underrepresentation in the EU climate policy and the inadequacy of EU instruments to represent interests and instances of the next generation of Europeans in the field of climate change. The argument is based firstly on an evaluation of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 proposed by the European Commission.

In the second chapter, the study focuses on the role of the young Europeans in the EU Climate policymaking. This part of the paper aims at exploring the variegated landscape of the youth-led climate organizations at the EU level, to understand measures and sum up their political proposals to enhance the role of young people in the EU climate policy framework.

To summarise, the EU and the youth-led organizations advocate for a more predominant role of young Europeans in the field of climate change. Keeping this in mind, the EU has not developed so far an adequate set of tools to enhance youth participation in the EU climate policymaking. At the same time, the youth organizations that claim for a more predominant role of young Europeans in the field of climate have not been able yet to channel and drive their political instances into the EU institutional debate. Once having identified the EU youth policy instruments for climate change and the climate priorities of the climate youth-led organization actively engaged with the EU institutions this paper proposes the launch of an EU-Youth Climate summit such as the best tool to strengthen the voice of the young Europeans in the EU climate policy.



### **3. The EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027. Which role for the young Europeans in the EU Climate policy**

#### **3.1 Climate change, a popular topic**

Starting in November 2018, strikes began to be organized all around the world, inspired by figures such as the Swedish activist Greta Thunberg. Galvanised by the COP24 conference in Katowice, Poland, these bottom-up movements continued in December 2018, both in Europe and outside. In January 2019, mass strikes took place against insufficient policies on global warming. In several countries, including Germany and the UK, students demanded a change in laws to reduce the voting age to 16, so they could influence public elections in favour of the youth and this topic. In most of the cases, regional groups were organised, communicating autonomously through Whatsapp and spreading their messages using flyers and social media. The way they expressed their voice in fighting against climate change has been surprisingly spontaneous and apolitical. They are claiming for effective solutions to cope with global warming through pacific protests during the strikes “Fridays for future” and through bottom-up initiatives, most of the time at the local level.

In the EU, these spontaneous organizations benefit from large attention from policymakers and institutions, mainly because of the timeframe, the inter-generational socio-economic and cultural bases and the wide support across the Member States.

On 9 May 2019, during the European Union summit in Sibiu, representatives of the movement from all over Europe met with several national leaders of European countries and handed them an open letter, which was signed by over 16,000 European climate strikers and sympathisers. In that letter, strikers demanded to make the climate a priority, to set binding targets to fight against the climate crisis, to take action for a common future.<sup>1</sup>

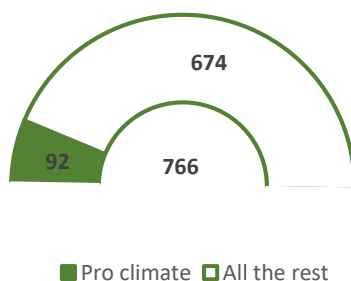
The birth of the Fridays For Future movement and the strikes of the young Europeans coincides with the election of the European Parliament. Indeed, the year 2019 was marked by the progressive

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<sup>1</sup> FridaysForFuture. May 9, 2019. *Open Letter to all heads of State of the EU*. Accessed October 5, 2019. <https://fridaysforfuture.de/sibiu-open-letter-to-all-heads-of-state-of-the-eu/>

institutionalization of climate change into the EU political debate. On one hand, political parties tried to surf the way of the climate protest to increase their consensus and appeal facing the young European generation. On the other hand, the new European Commission put on climate change and carbon neutrality all of its political weight. In fact, during the European election's political campaign, climate strikes and more in general climate change, increasingly occupied the core of the political debate among the main EU institutional stakeholders, parties, head of states, campaigners and groups of interests.

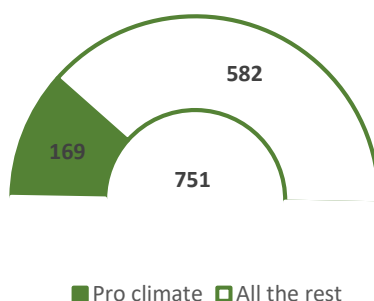
The graphic below shows the increasing amount of pro-climate supporters in the EP in the last three elections: the pro-climate coalition gets bigger from 2009 to 2019. Pro-climate supporters are defined as party which have adopted tackling climate change among the political priorities in their manifestos facing the European elections in 2009, 2014 and 2019.



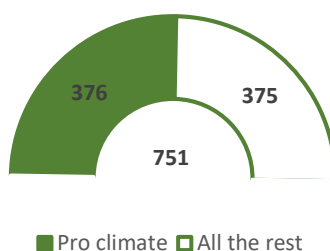
Graphic 1. Climate action support in the European Parliament after the 2009 election <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Graphic built on the base of the results of the European elections 2009. Source: European Parliament, May 2009. *Election results, European Parliament 2009*. Brussels: European Parliament. Accessed October 25, 2019. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2014-results/en/election-results-2009.html>



Graphic 2. Climate action support in the European Parliament after the 2014 election <sup>3</sup>



Graphic 3. Climate action support in the European Parliament after the 2019 election <sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Graphic built on the base of the results of the European elections 2014. Source: European Parliament, May 2014. *Election results, European Parliament 2014*. Brussels: European Parliament. Accessed October 25, 2019. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2014-results/en/election-results-2014.html>

<sup>4</sup> Graphic built on the base of the results of the European elections 2019. Source: European Parliament, May 2019. *Election results, European Parliament 2019*. Brussels: European Parliament. Accessed October 25, 2019. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/elections-press-kit/0/european-elections-results>

Table 1. Evolution of the climate action support in the European Parliament			
	PE 2009	PE 2014	PE 2019
<b>Pro climate</b>	92	169	376
<b>All the rest</b>	674	582	375
<b>Total</b>	766	751	751
<b>Political parties actively engaged for climate change policies</b>	European United Left/Nordic Green Left (Gue/NGL) and The Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA)	European United Left/Nordic Green Left (Gue/NGL), The Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA) and Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)	European United Left/Nordic Green Left (Gue/NGL), The Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA), Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) and Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D)

In the past, climate change was only at the heart of European Green Party program, indeed in 2009, only the European Green Party adopted climate as the priority of its political action.

In the aftermath of the EU elections in May 2019, all the main forces composing the majority of the winner coalition claimed a more ambitious climate policy in the next EP and EC mandate. More than half of the European parties, including the 2 main political families, the EPP and S&D Group, listed fighting against climate change at the core of their manifestos.

After the 2019 elections, the newly elected President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen presented her team and the new structure of the next European Commission, which reflects the priorities and ambitions of the political forces composing the European Parliament. At the heart of the new Commission's agenda, there is the need to address the changes that are transforming our societies and way of life, which are the climate and the environment, technology and demography.

According to President-elect von der Leyen, the EU must lead the transition to a healthy and sustainable planet, enhancing the participation of citizens to the democratic process of the EU. The incoming Commission's President will be supported in its work by three Executive Vice-Presidencies; one of which will be Frans Timmermans', who will coordinate the work on the European Green Deal. He will also manage the Climate Action Policy, supported by the Directorate-General for Climate Action.<sup>5</sup>

The new EU Commission seems resolute to give a greater deal of importance to the Climate Action in the next five years: indeed, this portfolio was assigned to one of three executive vice-presidents. "Protecting our planet and our shared environment is our generation's defining task," said von der Leyen, adding that her Commission's commitment is to make Europe "the world's first climate-neutral continent".

According to the future head of the Commission, climate not only should be seen as an "urgent moral, human and political obligation" but also as "long-term economic imperative" based on the opportunities that the ecological transition will offer". In the first 100 days of the mandate, Timmermans should propose the first European climate law under a new European climate pact - that will bring together social actors across Europe to create a "new climate culture in Europe".<sup>6</sup>

Therefore, it appears clear that whether the young Europeans wants to shape the next generation of EU climate policy, they must engage into the institutional dimension of the EU seeking to channel their claims into more structured and institutionalized organizations.

### **3.2 The EU Youth Dialogue and the 11 European Youth Goals**

Over the past few years, after the signature of the Lisbon Treaty, the European Union has strengthened its youth policy.

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<sup>5</sup> Von der Leyen, Ursula. September 11, 2019. *A Union that strives for more: My agenda for Europe*. Brussels: European Commission.

<sup>6</sup> Euobserver. September 2019, 2019. *Von der Leyen gives Timmermans green deal*. Accessed October 6, 2019. <https://euobserver.com/environment/145902>

Main steps in the EU youth policy	
2008	Council resolution 2009/C 311/01 on a Renewed framework for European cooperation in the EU Youth Field
2010	First Cycle of the Structured Dialogue (now renamed EU Youth Dialogue)
2012	EU Youth Report
2014	EU Work plan for youth 2014-2015
2016	EU Work plan for youth 2016-2018
2017-2018	6th Cycle Structured Dialogue (EU Youth Dialogue) and elaboration of the EU Youth Goals
2018	EU Youth Strategy and the adoption of the 11 EU Youth Goals

In years following the Lisbon Treaty, the European Commission launched the European Cooperation in the Youth Field that set out a renewed framework for an improved cooperation in the field of youth policy between Member States in the 2010-18 timeframe. The strategy focused on two main aspects: providing more opportunities for young people in education and in the labor market and fostering the participation of young Europeans in the society. Whether the stress on the labor market was a reaction to the breakdown of the EU employment rate after the financial crisis, stressing the social engagement of the young Europeans has been one of the driving forces of the EU integration project.

Always in 2010 took place the 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle of the Structured Dialogue (nowadays renamed EU Youth Dialogue), a process through which the EU regularly involves youth in the policy making. The process is the result of a European Union Council Resolution 9060/05, which invited the European Commission and the Member States to develop a structured dialogue with young people and youth organizations, experts on youth issues and public decision makers.<sup>7</sup> The European cooperation in the Youth Field was the biggest boost for its implementation.

When the 2010-16 policy cycle came to an end, there was a strong impulse to provide a new framework for the EU youth policy able to reflect the main changes in the EU society and to give to the young Europeans new tools to raise their voice facing old and new priorities. After the signature of the Paris

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<sup>7</sup> Council of the European Union. 2005. *2661st Council meeting "Education, youth and culture"*. Council Resolution, Bruxelles: Consilium Press Office.

Agreement, climate change related concerns spread to the next generations and ranked highly among the political priorities of young Europeans. In 2016, the European Commission, through the communication “Investing in Europe Youth’s”<sup>8</sup> expressed its willingness to foster youth participation in civic society for the upcoming years. Also, in this case the focus of the communication was the job market. Through this initiative, the European Commission presented the “Youth Package” containing three strands of actions:

- 1) better opportunities to access employment;
- 2) better opportunities through education and training;
- 3) better opportunities for solidarity, learning mobility and participation.

At the end of 2016, the Slovakian Presidency of the EU pushed to maintain and enhance effective European cooperation in the youth field after 2018 and the Council gave its approval to strengthen youth policy coordination among the Member States. Thus, was under this positive cooperative approach of the EU institutions that the European Commission proposed a new EU Youth Strategy to mark the joint commitment between the Commission and the Member States to this policy. In May 2018, the European Commission released the communication “*Engaging, Connecting and Empowering young people: a new EU Youth Strategy*” and launched the framework for EU youth policy cooperation in 2019-2027.<sup>9</sup>

This massive institutional effort was preceded by the 6<sup>th</sup> cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue “*Youth in Europe: What’s next*”, which took place in 2017/2018 and involved young Europeans coming from every part of the continents. At the end of this process 11 European Youth Goals that came into the final EU Youth Strategy were developed:

- 1) Connecting EU with Youth;
- 2) Equality of All Genders;
- 3) Inclusive Societies;
- 4) Information & Constructive Dialogue;
- 5) Mental Health & Wellbeing;
- 6) Moving Rural Youth Forward;
- 7) Quality Employment for All;

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<sup>8</sup> European Commissions. December 7, 2016. “*Investing in Europe's Youth*”. Eur-lex. Accessed October 21, 2019. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52016DC0940&from=EN>

<sup>9</sup> European Commission. May 22, 2018. *Engaging, Connecting and empowering young people: a new EU Youth Strategy*. Communication, Brussels: European Commission.

- 8) Quality Learning;
- 9) Space and Participation for All;
- 10) Sustainable Green Europe;
- 11) Youth Organisations & European Programmes.<sup>10</sup>

The 11 European Youth Goals aim at identifying cross-sectoral areas that affect young people's lives and point out existing challenges. Among these, the goals 10 and 11 are the most relevant for the topic of this study. First, according to the goal number 10 "*Sustainable Green Europe*", the EU should "achieve a society in which all young people are environmentally active, educated and able to make a difference in their everyday lives". Second, by achieving goal number 11 "*Youth Organisations & European Programmes*", the EU should allow every young person in the EU to have access to youth organisations and EU programmes. Not only this will increase the general level of education, but it will also allow young people to actively participate in the EU life making them active citizens.<sup>11</sup> By adopting the EU youth Strategy and these two goals not only the EU encourages the young to engage in climate change, but it also encourages their active participation in the civil society.

At the conclusion of this process, the launch of the EU Youth Strategy and the adoptions of the 11 European Youth Goals came together with the signature of "*The New Narrative for Europe, Declaration*" written with the contribution of young people, including representatives of youth organizations and educational institutions from across the EU. As a matter of priorities, this declaration lists civic engagement and Green Planet Europe among the four political priorities for the young Europeans.<sup>12</sup>

### 3.3 The EU Youth Strategy

Even if youth policy remains a national competence, the overall objective of the EU Youth Strategy is to address the challenges that the young Europeans are facing all over Europe and provide a common and

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<sup>10</sup> Youthconf. April 4, 2018. *YouthGoals*. Accessed September 18, 2019. <http://www.youthgoals.eu/>

<sup>11</sup> Youthconf. April 4, 2018. *YouthGoals*. Accessed September 18, 2019. <http://www.youthgoals.eu/>

<sup>12</sup> European Commission. January 2018. *New Narrative for Europe*. Brussels: European Commission.



coherent EU responses complementing the efforts and initiatives of the Member States.<sup>13</sup> The EU Youth Strategy focuses on three core areas of action, around the three words “Engage, Connect, Empower”, while working on joined-up implementation across sectors. To align youth policy even more effectively with EU funding supporting its objective, the strategy has been aligned to the Multiannual Financial Framework.

Mutual learning between the Member States, the European Commission and relevant stakeholders is ideal for the advancement of youth policy regarding both core and cross-sectoral areas. Besides Expert Groups, which can develop policy guidance, practical tools and can share good practices, the EU youth strategy 2019-2027 also offers new ways of mutual learning, such as peer reviews and peer counselling, high-level forums, analysis and studies.

Thereby, the priorities of the EU Youth Strategy are followed up also through Work Plans for three years. The EU Work Plan for Youth 2019-2021 will focus most on the peer-learning activities and expert group meetings. The Trio Presidency of Romania, Finland, Hungary, followed by Germany, will oversee the implementation phase of these activities aiming to advance the policy proposals for the core years of the strategy.

The EU Youth Strategy is based on several instruments, such as the Future National Activities Planners, the EU Youth Dialogue, the EU Youth Strategy Platform and the EU Youth coordinator is the European Commission's contact and visible reference point for young people.<sup>14</sup>

#### *The Future National Activities Planners*

These plans allow Member States on a voluntary basis to share their objectives in line with the EU Youth Strategy. The goal of the planners is to increase transparency in the implementation of youth policies at regional, national and EU level. Youth policies in Member States are among the main important instruments for the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy. They are often consolidated in a national youth strategy or an equivalent youth policy planning strategy. The content of such national youth

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<sup>13</sup> Official Journal of the European Union. December 18, 2018. *Resolution of the Council of the European Union 2018/C 456/01*. Resolution, Brussels: Official Journal of the European Union.

<sup>14</sup> European Commission. January 20, 2018. *EU Youth Strategy*. Accessed October 22, 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy_en)

strategies can be highly relevant for other Member States in allowing them to establish synergies, facilitate peer learning and help to identify and cluster different interests and specific needs of Member States in youth policy development. The aim of collecting future national priorities in the field of youth from 2019 onwards is to foster bilateral or multilateral projects through Member States, share national needs and future strategies to promote harmonization and mutual understanding, and identify areas for mutual learning between Member States.

### *The EU Youth Dialogue*

As mentioned above, the EU Youth Dialogue is the dialogue with young people and youth organizations involving policy and decision makers, as well as experts, researchers and other relevant civil society actors, as appropriate. It is a form for continuous joint reflection and consultation on the priorities, implementation and follow-up of European cooperation in the field of youth. It builds on the achievements of past dialogue processes, with the aim of including more decision-makers and young people, especially those with fewer opportunities in decision-making processes and in the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy. EU Youth Dialogue is organized into 18-month work cycles. Each cycle focuses on a different thematic priority (set by the Council of Youth Ministers). The success of EU Youth Dialogue depends on the direct involvement of young people and youth organizations. During each 18-month work cycle, every EU country conducts a national consultation of young people and youth organizations. The participatory process in each country is managed by national working groups through representatives of youth ministries, national youth councils, youth organizations, youth workers, researchers and young people from all backgrounds.

### *The EU Youth Strategy Platform*

Finally, the EU Youth Strategy Platform facilitates participatory governance and coordination of the implementation of the Strategy. The platform also aims to build a basis for a regular civic dialogue, to give stakeholders a greater role in coordinating the implementation of the strategy and to offer opportunities to exchange information on activities and results. The European Commission aims at organizing dedicated meetings to bring together, as appropriate, representatives of EU institutions,

Member States, National Agencies of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, youth organizations and other relevant stakeholders as well as local and regional authorities.<sup>15</sup>

#### *EU Youth Coordinator*

The European Commission proposes for the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 the establishment of an EU Youth Coordinator within the European Commission, with the objective of enhancing cross-sectoral cooperation, as well as knowledge development and exchange on youth issues within the European Commission services. The EU Youth Coordinator is supposed to work hand in hand with various stakeholders to ensure a coherent communication towards young people.

### **3.4 The recent efforts of the EU to include youths in the EU policy making**

During 2019 a great number of meetings and events took place to bring together the youths and the EU institutions around the topic of climate change. An emblematic moment was when Greta Thunberg was invited to speak to the European Parliament last April, occasion in which she also met Commissioner for Climate Action, Miguel Arias Cañete in a session of the ENVI Committee.<sup>16</sup>

Apart from this very appealing event, also the European Commission's initiatives to involve young people in the public debate and the decision-making process had strong attendance. At the end of last April, the European Youth Week took place. This initiative held every two years and this time entitled "Democracy and me", focused on the topic of youth participation in the EU policy-making. This year European Youth Week brought together an outstanding number of participants, around 115,000, in several events across the 34 Erasmus+ program countries.<sup>17</sup> The European Youth Week of this year tackled a very broad range of topics concerning youth and democracy and it focused also on climate change. As part of the European Youth Week initiative, in Brussels took place a public discussion run by Artur Runge-Metzger, director

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<sup>15</sup> European Commission. January 20, 2018. *EU Youth Strategy*. Accessed October 22, 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy_en)

<sup>16</sup> EP ENVI Committee. April 16, 2019. "Climate activist Greta Thunberg urges MEPs to put words into action". News European Parliament. Accessed October 1, 2019. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190410IPR37531/climate-activist-greta-thunberg-urges-meps-to-put-words-into-action>

<sup>17</sup> European Commission. April 29, 2019. *European Youth Week 2019: "Democracy and me"*. EC Press Release Database. Accessed October 1, 2019. [https://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2255\\_en.htm](https://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2255_en.htm)

at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action, on how to include young European in the fighting against climate change.<sup>18</sup>

Another attempt of the EU to involve young people in EU politics, was the Young Citizen Dialogue hold in Sibiu in May 2019. One of the five workshops of the event, attended by a group of young Europeans and EU leaders such as Claude Juncker, focused on climate change and entitled "*Fighting climate change: what difference can Europe and its young people make*". These workshops aimed at bringing the young citizens' voice at the attention of the head of states during the Sibiu Summit.<sup>19</sup> Finally, this year "Youth" is selected as the theme of the Climate Diplomacy Weeks, during which EU Delegations and embassies of EU Member States around the world hold various events to foster dialogue and cooperation on climate change and exchange best practices.<sup>20</sup> This initiative proves once again the crucial role that the youngest generations have in the fight against climate change and the EU's willingness to increase their participation in its policymaking.

### 3.5 The EU youth strategy, a wishy-washy step

The European Parliament at this early stage of the launch of the EU Youth Strategy criticized the lack of ambitious in ensuring stronger participation to young people in the EU policymaking. According to the report on the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy of the CULT Committee, there is an urgent need to give a voice to them either through the successful structured dialogue or through all other formats such as creating a forum for discussion between young people and decision-makers. Young people should have

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<sup>18</sup> European Commission. August 26, 2019. *European Youth Agency of Change on Climate Action*. Accessed October 1, 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/efe/themes/economics-strategy-and-information/european-youth->

<sup>19</sup> European Commission. May 8, 2019. *Young Citizens' Dialogue in Sibiu with the President of Romania, Klaus Iohannis, and the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker*. Accessed October 1, 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/citizens-dialogues/young-citizens-dialogue-sibiu-president-romania-klaus-iohannis-and-president-european-commission-jean-claude-juncker-2019-may-08\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/citizens-dialogues/young-citizens-dialogue-sibiu-president-romania-klaus-iohannis-and-president-european-commission-jean-claude-juncker-2019-may-08_en)

<sup>20</sup> European Commission. May 27, 2019. *Climate Diplomacy Weeks*. May 27. Accessed October 1, 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/events/climate-diplomacy-weeks\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/events/climate-diplomacy-weeks_en)

the opportunity to easily access decision making at the EU level to share their views and make a relevant input into decision making.<sup>21</sup>

So far there are two main elements in which the new Strategy lacks substance and practical solutions. The first concerns the instruments deployed to increase the youth participation in the EU policymaking and the second one the thematic aspect of climate change.

First, the EU Strategy lacks recognition for young people as agenda setters and equal partners in policy making.<sup>22</sup> This crucial element was already stated in the EAC publication on 12 ideas for the future of Europe, in fact despite new instruments, young people as truly agenda setter do not have the adequate recognition.

Secondly, from a thematic perspective climate change occupies a marginal role in the strategy comparing to the themes of labour and education. These topics are still at the core of the new policy framework while climate change is addressed vaguely under the EU Youth Goals number 10 "Sustainable green Europe". The strategy tackled the climate dimension as a silos sector rather than adopting a comprehensive approach that touch all of its dimensions. Increasing the role of the youths in climate change policy should be among the first political priorities of the new policy framework. Despite the efforts of the EU to advance in this issue, as proved by the recent initiatives and the EU public commitment, the Strategy does not seem to address this topic adequately.

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<sup>21</sup> European Parliament, CULT Committee. 2018. *Report on the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy (2017/2259(INI))*. Report, Bruxelles: European Parliament.

<sup>22</sup> European Commission. June 1, 2017. *12 Ideas for the Future of Europe*. Luxembourg: Publication of the European Union.

## **4. Outside the institutional framework, the proposals of the youth climate organizations**

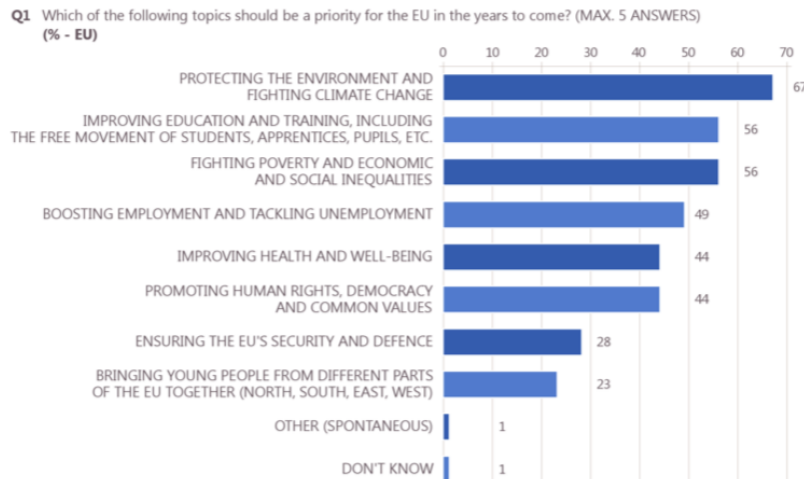
### **4.1 How the young Europeans perceive the climate change issue**

In August 2018, Greta Thunberg was standing in front of the Swedish parliament. It was the beginning of her protest and the birth of a youth movement that is taking an amplitude that some years before was considered impossible. In less than one year, the 16-years-old Swedish girl has mobilized thousands of young people all around the world and sensitized people of all ages to the issue of climate change. Greta has succeeded where politics have failed. She spread the message that climate change is everyone's issue and that the youngest generations are the most entitled to act for change.

The young Europeans are fully aware of the importance to tackle climate change. According to a recent survey of the Eurobarometer at the end of 2017 young people showed an outstanding commitment in civil society. They hold an interest in politics and are socially active more than 50% engage in organized activities, nearly one third are active volunteers and other support a cause through media attention or consumer choice.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> European Commission. May 22., 2018. *Engaging, Connecting and empowering young people: a new EU Youth Strategy*. Communication, Brussels: European Commission.

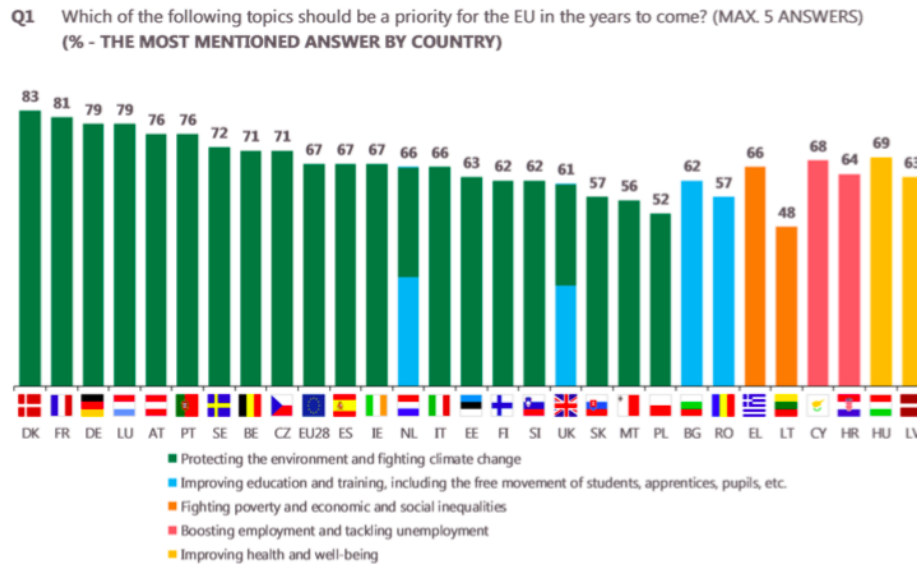


Graphic 4. The political priorities for the EU in the years to come according to European young people – 1  
(Eurobarometer, 2019) <sup>24</sup>

In April 2019, the Eurobarometer survey, entitled “*How do we build a stronger, more united Europe? The views of young people*”, confirmed the importance given to climate change by the youngest generations.<sup>25</sup> The conclusion of this survey stated that, for more than two thirds (67%) of the interviewed, protecting the environment and fighting climate change should be by far one of the top political priorities for the EU in the years to come.

<sup>24</sup> Eurobarometer. April 1, 2019. “*How do we build a stronger, more united Europe? The views of young people.*” *Eurobarometer Public Opinion*. Accessed October 1, 2019. P. 8  
<https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/survey/getsurveydetail/instruments/flash/surveyky/2224>

<sup>25</sup> Eurobarometer. April 1, 2019. “*How do we build a stronger, more united Europe? The views of young people.*” *Eurobarometer Public Opinion*. Accessed October 1, 2019.  
<https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/survey/getsurveydetail/instruments/flash/surveyky/2224>



Graphic 5. The political priorities for the EU in the years to come according to European young people - 2  
(source: Eurobarometer, 2019) <sup>26</sup>

This study is interesting also for another crucial information that it provides to us. The study underlines the willingness of young people to be more actively involved as policy shapers. Indeed, “more than three-quarters of the interviewed take part in some form of organized movements (including youth organizations) and are active participants”. Plus, 35% declare that they have directly participated in campaigns, strikes or street protests, 41% of those participating in student or youth organizations, 38% have posted opinions on latest news on their social media, 72% have voted in local, national or European elections and 58% are volunteering in social activities or local community projects.

<sup>26</sup> Eurobarometer. April 1, 2019. *"How do we build a stronger, more united Europe? The views of young people."* Eurobarometer Public Opinion. Accessed October 1, 2019. P. 9  
<https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/survey/getsurveydetail/instruments/flash/surveyky/2224>





Graphic 6. Participation of European youth in social, political and civic activities (source: Eurobarometer, 2019)<sup>27</sup>

Therefore, it can be affirmed that not only climate change is one of the main priorities for young people, but that they are also willing to actively participate for change and to get their voice stronger.

## 4.2 The EU youth organization landscape

### *A matrix to understand the EU youth organizations' engagement*

The goal of this chapter is to understand and analyse, if and in which proportion the EU youth organisations are engaged in the field of climate change and/or if they promote youth participation to EU policy-making by adopting an advocacy strategy. It is clear that some of these have one of the two characteristics, but the goal of this paper is to understand if some have both, and therefore to be able to analyse them.

To study the reality of the classic EU youth organisations, it was decided to create a Matrix showcasing a series of information for each youth organisation analysed:

<sup>27</sup> Eurobarometer. April 1, 2019. "How do we build a stronger, more united Europe? The views of young people." *Eurobarometer Public Opinion*. Accessed October 1, 2019. P. 20  
<https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/survey/getsurveydetail/instruments/flash/surveyky/2224>

- the name;
- if the organisation is engaged in the field of climate change;
- if the organisation promotes and enhances youth participation in EU policy-making (advocacy activity);
- the year of the foundation of the organisation;
- the website.

For the two-main information looked for each organisation - the engagement of the youth organisation in the field of climate change and the promotion of youth participation at EU policymaking - the possible answers to be inserted in the matrix were only “yes” or “no”. Below you can find the example of the matrix.

Youth organisations	Are they engaged in the field of climate change?	Do they promote youth participation policy making at EU level?	Website	Year of foundation
List of organisations				

To select the organisations for this studies, it was decided to use the ones that are members of the European Youth Forum. The European Youth Forum is the European platform of young organisations in Europe: it is the European umbrella organisation for the principal EU youth organisation.<sup>28</sup> This is why it has been chosen to analyse the list of International Youth organisation which are full members of the European Youth Forum. These 42 members are the main EU level youth organisations acting in the EU.<sup>29</sup>

### *The results*

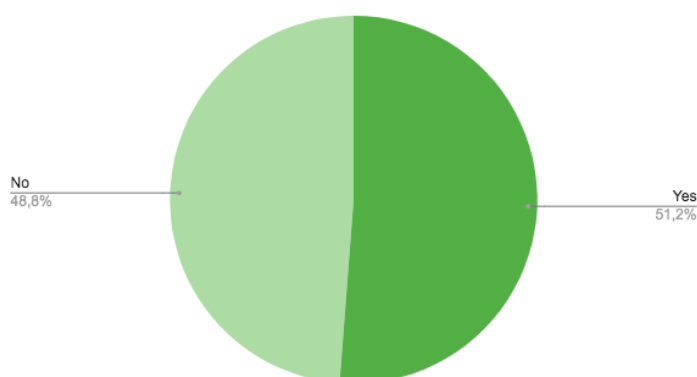
42 EU level youth organisations were analysed to understand if they are engaged in the field of climate change and if they promote youth participation in EU policy-making. The full Matrix as well of the list of organisations studied are present in Annex 1.

<sup>28</sup> European Youth Forum. September 1, 2018. *European Youth Forum: our goals & vision*. Accessed October 16, 2019. <https://www.youthforum.org/european-youth-forum-our-goals-vision>

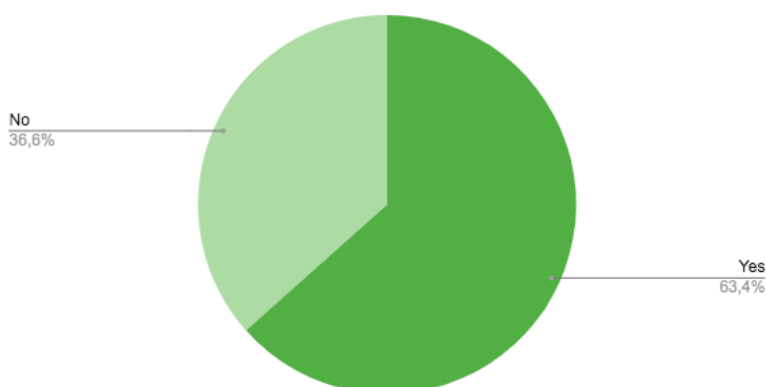
<sup>29</sup> Youth Forum. October 16, 2019. *Our members*. Accessed October 16, 2019. <http://tools.youthforum.org/memberorganisations/>

The results show that more than half of the youth organisation are engaged in the field of climate change (21 over 40) and that a large majority of these (26 over 40) are actively promoting youth participation in EU policy-making through an advocacy activity.

	Are they engaged in the field of climate change?	Do they promote youth participation in EU policy making?
Yes	21 (51,2)	26 (63,4%)
No	20 (48,8%)	15 (36,6%)



Graphic 7. Are the youth organisations engaged in the field of climate change?



Graphic 8. Are the youth organisations promoting youth participation to policy making at EU level

Moreover, it can be noted that 14 of these 42 are both active in the field of climate change and promote youth participation in EU policy-making. Below it can be found a list of these 14 organisations:

<b>1</b>	AEGEE (European Students' Forum)
<b>2</b>	DEMYC (Democrat Youth Community of Europe)
<b>3</b>	EDS (European Democrat Students)
<b>4</b>	ETUC Youth (European Trade Union Confederation - Youth)
<b>5</b>	FYEG (Federation of Young European Greens)
<b>6</b>	IFLRY (International Federation of Liberal Youth)
<b>7</b>	IUSY (International Union of Socialist Youth)
<b>8</b>	IYNF (International Young Naturefriends)
<b>9</b>	JEF (Young European Federalists)
<b>10</b>	RYE (Rural Youth Europe)
<b>11</b>	YEE (Youth and Environment Europe)
<b>12</b>	YEPP (Youth of the European Peoples Party)
<b>13</b>	YES (Young European Socialists)
<b>14</b>	YWCAS (Young Women's Christian Association)

### *Analysis of the results*

From this study it can be drawn a few conclusions on these “classic” youth organisations:

- There are not many organisations that are both actively involved in the field of climate change and that at the same time advocate for it and promote youth participation in EU policy-making (in fact many EU youth organisations have other purposes such as informing, sharing information, raising awareness and training).
- Over these 14 organisations, only three are specialised on the topic of environment, climate and sustainability: FYEG (Federation of Young European Greens), IYNF (International Young Naturefriends), YEE (Youth and Environment Europe).
- Many of these organisations are the youth organisation of EU level political parties (such as YEPP - Youth of the European Peoples Party-, etc.). Therefore, their views and ideas are in line with the ones of the party and their approach is less bottom-up and more top-down. If they are not linked

to a political party, some of these are linked to a bigger EU level organisation, such as the ETUC Youth (European Trade Union Confederation - Youth) who is linked to ETUC, and the JEF (Young European Federalists) who is linked to the EFM.

- All these organisations were created in the last decades (before 2000).

#### **4.3 A new alternative to the present youth organisations: Generation Climate Europe**

Besides from these “traditional” youth organisations, there are a new kind of organisations that are rising. Organisations which are born and inspired by the youth movement which is taking place right now in the EI and all around the world. This paragraph is going to analyse one of these which works at the EU-level: Generation Climate Europe.

Generation Climate Europe (GCE) is the first environmental coalition of the main youth-led organisations and networks active at the European level. It was created to ensure that the EU always recognises and promotes the interests of young people in Europe in the field of climate change and the environment. The founders have recognized that at the national and UN level, young people have a strong voice on environmental issues, but at the European level, this is lacking. Therefore, the coalition aims at representing youth in environmental and climate change issues at the European levels and targeting all relevant bodies of the EU.

According to their proposals, policies should be drafted with young people, as they are the ones these will affect. Generation Climate Europe is the first European coalition of youth-led NGOs to better advocate for climate action. GCE is also a platform for various stakeholders to collaborate, pooling their resources together.

The priorities of GCE are twofold. First, it calls for stronger climate action from the EU. It is vital that the EU with the beginning new Commission, plans an ambitious Green Deal, which must be in line with the Paris Agreement. Secondly, the coalition stands for greater involvement of youth in the decision-making process. According to them, young people have shown their will to generate a change and they deserve an active role in in the policy making process.

Beyond these two priorities, the coalition has six demands:

1. That the EU declares a climate emergency, acting with greater urgency to meet the Paris Agreement's goals;
2. Youth need a greater voice in the European decision-making process, for instance concerning the New Green Deal;
3. The EU has to be a strong climate leader, doing more to encourage global adherence to the Paris Agreement;
4. Europe needs a fast transition to renewable energy sources;
5. Sustainable transport is needed so that neither travel nor the environment are sacrificed;
6. Formal and non-formal education is needed to empower the youth in tackling climate change.

The coalition wants to have a close relationship with Youth for Climate and Fridays for Future. Strikes have been a crucial way for young people to enter the political sphere and these movements continue to put pressure on our decision-makers.<sup>30</sup>

#### **4.4 Conclusions of the chapter**

From the analysis of the youth organization landscape currently represented in Brussels, the following conclusions can be drawn.

First of all, climate youth organizations are mainly active at the local level given the rapid growth of the Fridays for Future movement which the base is composed of young students. Climate youth organizations are getting a strong influence also at UN level thanks to the support to the cause given by the UN Secretary-General, Guterres and the attention of the media. When it comes to the representation at the national and EU institutional level, youth organizations still have to structure and find the best channel to address their political proposals. In doing that, the EU elections have been an important trigger to put at the attention of the main EU institutions and policy-makers on the climate priorities of the young Europeans.

Secondly, having analysed the main EU youth organisations (members of the European Youth Forum), it is clear that the organisations that both participate to the EU policy-making by advocacy activities and have climate priorities, are not very numerous. Plus, often the ones which have both of these characteristics

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<sup>30</sup> Generation Climate Europe. September 10, 2019. *Generation Climate Europe*. Accessed October 7, 2019. <https://gceurope.org/#gce>

have a top-down approach and are not born recently. This is why they are not always able to represent at best the new will and proposals coming from the recent youth climate movements.

However, following the recent events, mainly the EU election and the rapid growth of the Friday for Future movements, a new kind of organizations are coming up. In this analysis, at EU level, it was decided to study the recently born Generation Climate Europe. This umbrella organization is composed of the main European young organizations in the field of climate change: it is currently the newest organisation which precisely embodies the essence of these rising young climate movements. This bottom-up young lead organization aims at actively advocating for the climate in the European Parliament and in the European Commission: it mostly claims the role of young Europeans as truly climate agenda setters.

## **5. How to channel youth voice for climate change at EU level**

### **5.1 Setting the framework**

Since the signature of the Paris Agreement in 2015, the European civil society as a whole and the EU institutions, are even more engaged in the fight against climate change. This green wave is confirmed by the results of the EU elections, by the consequent political priorities adopted by the designated European Commission and by the massive engagement of the young Europeans in fighting the climate change.

In the previous chapters, this study identifies both the willingness of the European Commission to extend the participation of the youths in the EU policymaking, in particular for what concerns the political priority of climate change and the claim of young European for a stronger role as agenda-setters in the climate policy.

The final chapter of this study aims at replying to the initial research question: “how to enhance the young Europeans voice in the EU climate policy?”.

Following the latest initiatives in the EU Youth Strategy and the analysis of the political priorities of the young climate organizations, the paper suggests the launch of an EU Youth Climate Summit as the tool to increasingly integrate young European in the EU climate policy.

### **5.2 The policy bases**

The proposal to establish an EU Youth Climate Summit is based on the assumptions of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 and the adoption of the 11 EU youth goals. The Strategy identifies as priorities 1 and 10, “Connecting EU with the Youth” and “Sustainable Green Europe”. These political priorities are fundamental to this proposal. Fostering the sense of youth belonging to the European project by increasing the participation of young Europeans in the EU climate policymaking, is considered one of the main political priorities of the next EU generation.



Whether the EU Youth Strategy could be considered as the political base of this proposal, the current EU Youth Dialogues are the main channel to launch the new EU Youth Climate Summit. Indeed, the EU Youth Dialogue is a consultative process, implemented by the European Commission, that aims to increase cooperation with civil society and get firsthand input from young people. The EU Youth Dialogue is organized in a cycle of 18 months and based on a specific topic selected for each cycle. The proposal is to make permanent the topic of climate change during this exercise.

Another great example of collaboration between the EU institutions and civil society is the Tripartite social summit, which takes place twice per year. This summit is a forum for dialogue between the EU institutions and the European social partners, focused on social and employment matters. The summit is co-chaired by the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the Head of State or Government of the rotating presidency, and the European social partners. These are selected EU level organizations representing the various social and civil society categories (e.g. the European Trade Union Confederation, Business Europe, European Centre of Employers and Enterprises and others). This structure could be replicated also for our proposal: a forum for dialogue with selected organisations representing a specific topic and the EU institutions.

In this sense, the new youth organisations active in this field, such as Generation Climate Europe, already mentioned above, also have similar propositions. Indeed, they propose to establish a formal dialogue between the young environmental stakeholders and the European Commission, mediated by the organising partners. This dialogue will involve the DGs involved in this topic, such as DG Climate Action, DG Health and Food Safety, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, DG Mobility and Transport, DG Energy, DG Environment and DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.<sup>31</sup>

### **5.3 A new proposal: “the EU Youth Climate Summit “**

In this final part of the paper, a possible way to create a long-lasting and continuous dialogue between the youth organisations focused on climate change and active lobbying activity and the EU institutions is proposed.

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<sup>31</sup> Generation Climate Europe. 2019. European Commission proposal. Brussels: Generation Climate Europe.

Considering what has been mentioned above, this new instrument should be built on the framework of the EU Youth Strategy and the EU Youth Dialogue, that are already in place and working. A Summit composed by selected EU youth organisations and representatives of the EU institutions should take place twice per year in a European Summit. This Summit could be called “EU Youth Climate Summit”.

This Summit will have the aim of creating a space where the EU youth organisations active in the field of climate change, and representatives of the EU institutions can dialogue, allowing the young people to actively participate to the EU climate policymaking and to become real agenda-setters. During these occasions, the young Europeans represented by selected organisations will have the chance to give their opinion on existing policies and future proposals coming from the EC, as well as to suggest themselves new proposals for the EU climate agenda.

EU youth organisations should be carefully selected. The following main criteria should be applied to this procedure:

- it should be EU youth organisations focused on climate, and that embody the recent European youth movements that have arisen from the streets, especially thanks to the Fridays for Future strikes and similar events. This means organisations with a bottom-up approach, which ideas and inspirations come directly from the young people currently involved in this campaign;
- it should be the EU youth organisation actively willing to participate in the EU policy-making activity and wishing to become agenda setters.

The EU Youth Climate Summit could take place during the Summer (June-July) and in January. In fact, to have a Summit during the summer will allow young students to easily participate (during their summer break from the studies), it will take place before -and in preparation- of the UN General Assembly and the State of the EU, and right after (every five years) the EU elections. Plus, this summit can take place in parallel to other main EU events, in order not only to be as tied to the EU events and priorities as possible but also to attract attention.

## 6. Conclusions

To sum up, the following conclusions can be drawn from this study.

First, there is not an official strategy of the European Commission focused on the role of the youth in the EU climate policy. The youths' interest for climate came out with force recently in 2019 but the EU Youth Strategy was published in 2018. This means that a deviation of one year did not allow the EC to anticipate and better reflect the climate priorities of the young Europeans into its major youth policy framework. In particular, the EU Strategy lacks recognition for young people as agenda setters and equal partners in policy making and from a thematic perspective climate change occupies a marginal role in the strategy comparing to the themes of labour and education.

Secondly, the methodology of this research is a crucial element to consider. Originally the idea was to conduct a series of interviews with the principal European youth organizations on the field of climate mainly active at the EU institutional level. However, several respondents declare not to be in the position to provide specific replies as their policy proposals needed further elaboration. This means that youths are consolidating their protests into the proper institutional channels but this process is not finished yet. Climate youth organizations are mainly active at the local level given the rapid growth of the Fridays for Future movement which the base is composed of young students. From what can be drawn from the matrix used in this paper EU youth organisations (members of the European Youth Forum), that both participate to the EU policy-making by advocacy activities and have climate priorities, are not very numerous. However, following the recent events, mainly the EU election and the rapid growth of the Friday for Future movements, a new kind of organizations active at the EU institutional level are coming up.

Finally, the young Europeans have strongly expressed their willingness to engage in the EU democratic process as shown by the increasing number of youth organizations which advocates enhancing youth participation in EU climate policymaking. Keeping this in mind the youth climate activists have experimented some difficulties to address their claims to the EU institutions. At the same time, the EU has declared many times the necessity to integrate the young Europeans into the EU climate policy-making but it has never set the appropriate tools to follow through its intentions. Therefore, there is a mismatch

between the willingness of the youths to be represented into the EU climate policymaking and the EU instruments in place. The establishment of the EU Youth Climate Summit, as described in the last chapter, could fulfill this gap by enhancing the participation of the young European into the EU policy making.

## Annex 1: The Matrix

Youth organisations	Are they engaged in the field of climate change?	Do they promote youth participation policy making at EU level?	Website	Year of foundation
ACTIVE (ACTIVE - Sobriety, Friendship and Peace)	no	no	<a href="https://activeoffice.wordpress.com">https://activeoffice.wordpress.com</a>	2011
AEGEE (European Students' Forum)	yes	yes	<a href="https://www.aegee.org/about-aegee/">https://www.aegee.org/about-aegee/</a>	1985
ALLIANCE (Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations)	yes	no	<a href="http://www.alliance-network.eu/about-us/aims-structure/">http://www.alliance-network.eu/about-us/aims-structure/</a>	1982
ATD-Quart Monde (International Movement ATD Fourth World)	no	no	<a href="https://www.atd-fourthworld.org">https://www.atd-fourthworld.org</a>	1957
DEMYC (Democrat Youth Community of Europe)	yes	yes	<a href="http://www.demyc.org">http://www.demyc.org</a>	1964
EBCO (European Bureau for Conscientious Objection)	no	yes	<a href="http://www.ebco-beoc.org">http://www.ebco-beoc.org</a>	1979
ECYC (European Confederation of Youth Clubs)	no	no	<a href="https://www.ecyc.org">https://www.ecyc.org</a>	2011
EDS (European Democrat Students)	yes	yes	<a href="https://edsnet.eu/">https://edsnet.eu/</a>	1961
EEE-YFU (European Educational Exchanges - Youth For Understanding)	no	no	<a href="https://about.yfu.org/eee-yfu">https://about.yfu.org/eee-yfu</a>	1951

**The youths' participation in the EU Climate Action policy. How to enhance the representation of those are most entitled?**

<b>EFIL (European Federation of Intercultural Learning)</b>	no	yes	<a href="https://efil.afs.org">https://efil.afs.org</a>	unknown
<b>ESU (The European Students' Union)</b>	no	yes	<a href="https://www.esu-online.org">https://www.esu-online.org</a>	1982
<b>ESN (Erasmus Student Network)</b>	no	yes	<a href="https://esn.org">https://esn.org</a>	1989
<b>ETUC Youth (European Trade Union Confederation - Youth)</b>	yes	yes	<a href="https://www.etuc.org/en">https://www.etuc.org/en</a>	1973
<b>EUDY (European Union of the Deaf Youth)</b>	no	yes	<a href="http://eudy.info">http://eudy.info</a>	1992
<b>EUJS (European Union of Jewish Students)</b>	no	yes	<a href="https://www.eujs.org">https://www.eujs.org</a>	1978
<b>EYCE (Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe)</b>	yes	no	<a href="https://www.eyce.org">https://www.eyce.org</a>	1968
<b>FIMCAP (International Federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Movements)</b>	no	no	<a href="https://fimcap.org/en/">https://fimcap.org/en/</a>	1962
<b>FYEG (Federation of Young European Greens)</b>	yes	yes	<a href="https://fyeg.org">https://fyeg.org</a>	1988
<b>IFLRY (International Federation of Liberal Youth)</b>	yes	yes	<a href="http://www.iflry.com">http://www.iflry.com</a>	1947
<b>IFM/SEI (International Falcon Movement - Socialist Educational International)</b>	yes	no	<a href="http://ifm-sei.org">http://ifm-sei.org</a>	1922
<b>IFMSA (International Federation of Medical Students' Associations)</b>	no	yes	<a href="https://ifmsa.org">https://ifmsa.org</a>	1951

<b>IGLYO (International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Youth and Student Organisation)</b>	no	yes	<a href="https://www.iglyo.com">https://www.iglyo.com</a>	1984
<b>IUSY (International Union of Socialist Youth)</b>	yes	yes	<a href="http://iusy.org">http://iusy.org</a>	1904
<b>IYNF (International Young Naturefriends)</b>	yes	yes	<a href="http://www.iynf.org">http://www.iynf.org</a>	1975
<b>JECI-MIEC (International Young Catholic Students – International Movement of Catholic Students)</b>	no	no	<a href="http://iycs-jeci.org">http://iycs-jeci.org</a>	unknown
<b>JEF (Young European Federalists)</b>	yes	yes	<a href="https://www.jef.eu/home/">https://www.jef.eu/home/</a>	1949
<b>LYMEC (European Liberal Youth)</b>	no	yes	<a href="https://www.lymec.eu">https://www.lymec.eu</a>	1976
<b>MIJARC (International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth)</b>	yes	no	<a href="https://mijarceurope.net">https://mijarceurope.net</a>	1950
<b>OBESSU (Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions)</b>	no	yes	<a href="https://www.obessu.org">https://www.obessu.org</a>	1975
<b>RYE (Rural Youth Europe)</b>	yes	yes	<a href="https://www.rurallyoutheurope.com">https://www.rurallyoutheurope.com</a>	1957
<b>SCI (The Association of Service Civil International)</b>	yes	no	<a href="https://sci.ngo">https://sci.ngo</a>	1920
<b>TEJO (World Esperanto Youth Organization)</b>	no	no	<a href="https://www.tejo.org">https://www.tejo.org</a>	1952
<b>WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts)</b>	no	no	<a href="https://www.wagggs.org/en/">https://www.wagggs.org/en/</a>	1919

**The youths' participation in the EU Climate Action policy. How to enhance the representation of those are most entitled?**

<b>WOSM (World Organization of the Scout Movement (European Scout Region)</b>	yes	no	<a href="https://www.scout.org">https://www.scout.org</a>	1920
<b>YEE (Youth and Environment Europe)</b>	yes	yes	<a href="https://yeenet.eu">https://yeenet.eu</a>	1983
<b>YEN (Youth of European Nationalities)</b>	no	yes	<a href="http://www.yeni.org">http://www.yeni.org</a>	1984
<b>YEPP (Youth of the European Peoples Party)</b>	yes	yes	<a href="http://youthpepp.eu">http://youthpepp.eu</a>	1997
<b>YES (Young European Socialists)</b>	yes	yes	<a href="http://www.youngsocialists.eu">http://www.youngsocialists.eu</a>	1992
<b>YEU (Youth for Exchange and Understanding)</b>	yes	no	<a href="http://www.yeu-international.org">http://www.yeu-international.org</a>	1989
<b>YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association)</b>	no	yes	<a href="https://www.ymcaneurope.com">https://www.ymcaneurope.com</a>	1973
<b>YWCAS (Young Women's Christian Association)</b>	yes	yes	<a href="https://european.ywca.org">https://european.ywca.org</a>	unknown



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