



European
Commission

“Connecting Youth” Conference

Western Balkans Youth Conference – Paris, 4 July 2016

SUNDAY 3 JULY

Ibis Paris Porte D'Orléans, 33, Rue Barbès, 92120 Montrouge, Paris

19h30

WELCOME COCKTAIL

MONDAY 4 JULY

Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, 17 Boulevard Jourdan, 75014 Paris

08h30

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

9h00 - 9h40

Welcome and introduction

Marcel Pochard, President, Cité internationale universitaire de Paris

Christian Danielsson, European Commission Director-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

Keynote speeches

Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Harlem Désir, Minister of State for European Affairs

Moving to working group areas

9h45 - 11h15

WORKING SESSION "Positive Agenda for the Youth"

Parallel Working Groups on the themes of the Positive Agenda for the Youth

Youth on the move, education on the move - Education and mobility for young people Topics for discussion

- Which are the European exchange programmes and student mobility schemes available to the Western Balkans? What can be done more in the region to maximise their potential?
- Which are the opportunities for Vocational and Educational Training for the Western Balkans? How can young people be more aware of them?
- What could be done to promote mobility in Europe even more strongly (including between the EU and the Western Balkans)?

Moderator: Marlène Bartes (European Commission); Expert: Artur Payer (European Commission)



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Knocking on job market's doors - Employment and entrepreneurship for young people

Topics for discussion

- What more can be done to address youth unemployment?
- What can the Western Balkans learn from programmes tackling youth unemployment within the EU?
- Is youth entrepreneurship an efficient tool for countering youth unemployment?
- What more can be done to motivate young people to become entrepreneurs and open new businesses?

Moderator: Ana Trbović (Faculty of Economics, Finance and Administration, Belgrade)

Experts: Christiane Westphal, Christophe Masson (European Commission)

Not just another brick in the wall - Youth engagement & participation

Topics for discussion

- What can be done to increase the number of young people actively engaging in political and societal life? What is the key to making the young become more interested in national / European policy making?
- What role can the European Voluntary Service play in further promoting civic engagement and contributing to democracy, rule of law and fundamental freedoms in the Western Balkans?
- What can be done to prevent violent radicalisation among the youth? How can local communities, civil society & national authorities better reach out to the youth, particularly those who are or feel marginalised?
- How can the representation of young people and their ideas be better ensured both on national and European levels?

Moderator: Claus Giering (European Commission); Experts: Harald Hartung, Sophie Dagand (European Commission), Gerrard Quille (European Parliament)

Get up, stand up, speak up! - Youth and the media (follow up to the Speak Up! Conference)

Topics for discussion

- What are the challenges in strengthening free & robust media in the Western Balkans (and in the EU)? Do young people in the EU and in the Western Balkans have access to a variety of objective, good quality and independent information?
- What can be done to further support professional journalism and the training of journalists at national / European level?
- How can young journalists be helped to adhere to and maintain professional and ethical standards?

Moderator: Jeta Xharra (Balkan Investigative Reporting Network); Experts: David Hudson, Karl Giacinti (European Commission)



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11h15 - 11h30	COFFEE BREAK
11h30 - 12h15	Wrap up of the discussions of the Working Groups
12h15 - 13h30	LUNCH BUFFET
13h30 - 14h30	<p>"Promoting the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation between the youth in the Western Balkans" - Launch of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office • Messages from the region <p>Patrick Kanner, Minister of Urban Affairs, Youth and Sport, France Blendi Klosi, Minister of Youth and Social Welfare, Albania Adil Osmanovic, Minister of Civil Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina Kujtim Shala, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Kosovo* Marjan Spaseski, Director of the Agency for Youth and Sports of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Predrag Boskovic, Minister of Education, Montenegro</p>
14H30 - 14H45	COFFEE BREAK AND GROUP PHOTO
14h45 - 16h15	<p>DIALOGUE WITH POLITICAL LEADERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary presentations by the rapporteurs of the working groups • Reactions of the political leaders <p>Blendi Klosi, Minister of Youth and Social Welfare, Albania Adil Osmanovic, Minister of Civil Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina Kujtim Shala, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Kosovo* Marjan Spaseski, Director of the Agency for Youth and Sports of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Predrag Boskovic, Minister of Education, Montenegro Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Member of the European Parliament</p> <p>Concluding remarks Genoveva Ruiz Calavera, Director for the Western Balkans, Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission Harlem Désir, Minister of State for European Affairs</p>
16h30	RECEPTION

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.