

Resolution of the Conference on the Future of Europe event **"Youth - fundamental actors of the sustainable development"**

Dear reader,

The **Conference on the Future of Europe** is an exceptional opportunity to involve all relevant societal actors in revitalising unique perspectives for development and refreshment for the European Union. At the moment, the global society and the European space, in particular, are facing sudden transformations, crises that insist on overlapping and massive changes spotted on the international order as we knew it only a few weeks ago. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has generated a shock, but also a need for a solid reaction in support of a heroic people, fighting in all possible fields to protect their sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and freedom.

In all this amalgam of factors, we discovered, through the multiple interactions with the young generation, that young people are, at every level, totally dedicated to advance massive community goals. For them, resilience has become a common denominator, and participation in the societal life is no longer optional. We are at a point where, all the more so, we need to start a broad, comprehensive debate on youth affairs, on the forms of tools for them, on their participation and on the challenges they face as a generation.

The European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in her 2021 State of the Union address that 2022 will be the European Year of Youth. At a turning point for the global society, the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** is becoming a source of inspiration and a real roadmap, and its implementation must be a priority in the context of a prosperous, inclusive, sustainable future.

Young people have shown that they can play an active role in this process, especially during this period of maximum global tension, but their involvement is hampered by serious impediments. An exceptional example is given to us by the young Ukrainian generation, the quintessence of the struggle for the protection and fruition of their country's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and freedom. Thus, the following questions should be asked:

How do we outline the role of young people in managing the most complex global issues, issues that strongly affect the security of our societies? What concrete actions are we pursuing for a truly sustainable future? How can we facilitate the involvement of young people in achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals**? These are the questions and issues for which we have identified concrete, punctual solutions in our discussions. We present below the format of our work sessions:

- **Participants:** the students of the **Parliamentary Shadowing Program**, 5-10 / working group;
- Carrying out the activity of the working panels - online, starting from the following structure - identifying public problems and exposing solutions through the debates;
- Carrying out a plenary session at the end, in hybrid format, having as speakers the special guests of the working groups;

- The creation of a team, made up of students from the Parliamentary Shadowing Program, who will elaborate, together with Simina Tulbure's office, the final material of the conference, which will be transmitted through the mechanisms of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

At the same time, we present to you the program that we followed in the course of the working sessions:

- *Tuesday, March 29, 2022. 15: 00-16: 30 (Online) / Youth in 2022 - A Generation of Resilience*
- *Tuesday, March 29, 2022. 16: 45-18: 15 (Online) / Youth and humanitarian assistance in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine*
- *Tuesday, March 29, 2022. 18: 30-20: 00 (Online) / Youth and societal challenges - equal opportunities, the green transition and the digital transformation*
- *Wednesday, March 30, 2022. 15: 00-17: 00 (physical and hybrid, "Hortensia Papadat-Bengescu" Hall, building C1 - C4, 2nd floor, Romanian Parliament) / Plenary session*

Below, you will find the concrete measures discussed, starting from the issues addressed. We specify that the solutions drafted with *Italic, pink* will represent the object of some concrete legislative initiatives, which we will elaborate together with each interested participant. We are also waiting for any kind of proposal from you and we are open to a real, beneficial and harmonious collaboration. Ultimately, cohesion is vital in our efforts to address timely and pressing public issues.

With much hope, determination and confidence in the power of citizen participation,

Simina Tulbure

USR PLUS Member of the Parliament for the Romanian Diaspora

Panel 1: Young people in 2022 - a generation of resilience

Keynote speakers: Nicu Ștefănuță - MEP, Andrei Miftode - Member of the Romanian Parliament

Moderators: Simina Tulbure - Member of the Romanian Parliament, Răzvan Foncea - Adviser, MP
Cabinet Simina Tulbure

The generic message of the panel: Young people have shown that they are key players in strengthening society's resilience, representing an impressive model of adapting and managing societal challenges, and their participation in security decision-making is not an option, but a condition. In order to ensure the prosperity of the communities concerned.

- Changing the paradigm on the young generation - from decision-makers to decision-makers, stakeholders on the issues that impact them;
- Stimulating European dialogue with young people on international and Community security issues, through discussion forums, advisory platforms and decision-making processes open to their participation;

I would like young people to have more formal tools. We are currently in the last year of the pandemic and the first year of the war and the problems facing young people are becoming more complex, crises are worsening, mental health is endangered, anxiety is increasing. (Nicu Ștefănuță)

- Developing the horizon of Erasmus + programs to ensure their accessibility, as current scholarships do not meet the cost of living;
- Creating spaces dedicated to young people, in which they can contribute to public policies aimed at the future of Europe (including by instrumentalizing the European Parliament's local offices);
- *Inclusion of pillars on the participation of young people in security decision-making and in strengthening societal resilience under the auspices of Member States' national defense strategies;*
- Establishing youth pillars in the context of defining agendas on security and resilience issues;
- Combating misinformation through media education;

Bullying is increasingly common in the Romanian society, including on the political scene, and this phenomenon weakens the resilience of young people, requiring a strong reaction from the authorities. (Andrei Miftode)

- Empowering and leveraging the civic dimension of education, including through curricular transformations and progress in public consultation infrastructure;
- *Ensuring a beneficial climate at the level of the education system and, in general, in society, through concrete anti-bullying and anti-cyberbullying measures, so that the participation of young people in social life takes shape in a harmonious environment.*

Panel 2: Youth and humanitarian assistance in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine

Keynote speakers: Vlad Gheorghe - MEP, Ramona Strugariu - MEP, Marcela Nistor - MP in the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, Georgiana Marcu - Romanian Youth Forum, Gabriel Carnariu - Romanian Youth Council

Moderators: Simina Tulbure - Member of the Romanian Parliament, Răzvan Foncea - adviser, MP Cabinet Simina Tulbure, Galina Manole - adviser, MP Cabinet Simina Tulbure

Active participants: Alexandru Petru Țventarnii

The generic message of the panel: The humanitarian crisis generated by the brutal and irrational invasion orchestrated by the Russian Federation over Ukraine identified Romania and the Republic of Moldova in the foreground, and helping the refugees fleeing from this bloody attack became a moral mandate of each of us. Thus, young people chose to dedicate their time and efforts to this cause. Their humanitarian work became essential, and the harmonious integration of young refugees into society is, all the more, a priority pillar and a mission of utmost importance for our society.

- Encouraging existing platforms for helping Ukrainian refugees (United for Ukraine platform, for example, created by MEP Vlad Gheorghe);

The young people worked hard in the volunteer activities, being present day and night, without any hesitation in getting involved in helping the refugees. (Vlad Gheorghe)

- Supporting Dopomoha-type initiatives on making information and job offers accessible to young Ukrainians;
- Subsidising and supporting non-governmental organisations elaborating humanitarian efforts, especially those coordinated by youth;

The night shifts, the transport, the accommodation, but also the emotional support, all of these were provided by the young people. Regarding the Moldova for Peace project, I must say that there were many challenges. We had an advantage because we knew the Russian language and thus we could understand each other more easily, but we also had to counterbalance the fake news. (Marcela Nistor)

- Creating platforms that stimulate the participation of young people in peace dialogue;

The All4Ukraine initiative is our form of support for young people in Ukraine. (Georgiana Marcu)

- Combating misinformation on humanitarian crisis issues through consistent media education mechanisms;

- *Helping young Ukrainians integrate in the Romanian society, through primary intervention, psychological and career counseling services, harmonious housing options, financial resources, community inclusion plans, Romanian language courses, scholarships and coherent approaches to further studies, information on career opportunities, public participation mechanisms and actions dedicated to intercultural exchanges and accommodation;*
- Supporting young people in the Eastern Partnership of the European Union (Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia) on active involvement in the processes of accession of their countries of origin to the European Union, by funding projects and cooperation platforms on common public policy issues;

The young Ukrainians are heroes, they are also fighting for us, and the concrete manifestation of support for them is up to each of us! (Ramona Strugariu)

- Creating levers for empowering young Ukrainians in the post-war context and strengthening the role of the young generation in Ukraine in post-war construction (financial mechanisms, cohesive and inclusive decision-making, facilitating access to European youth programs, etc.);
- *Recognition of young people's humanitarian volunteering as professional experience, including in areas of activity such as international relations.*

Panel 3: Tinerii și provocările societale - egalitatea de șanse, tranziția verde și transformarea digitală

Keynote speakers: Dragoș Pîslaru - MEP, Dacian Cioloș - MEP, Anca Dragu - Senator in the Romanian Parliament, Oana Țoiu, MP and president of the Youth and sports Committee in the Chamber of Deputies, Violeta Alexandru - Member of the Romanian Parliament, Dumitrița Rogoșinaru and Gabriel Zvîncă - UN Youth Delegates of Romania, Dumitru Oprețoiu - Europuls representative and adviser to MEP Alin Mituța, Cătălina Uță - adviser to MEP Dragoș Pîslaru

Moderators: Simina Tulbure - Member of the Romanian Parliament, Răzvan Foncea - adviser, MP Cabinet Simina Tulbure

Active participants: Antonia Chiroiu-Boteanu, Maria Geambaș, Alexandru Mocanu, Irina Mocanu

The generic message of the panel: Empowering young people is a key mission of all actors on the European spectrum, and the European Year of Youth must become a starting point in consolidating innovative and relevant policies for young people, developed and implemented in partnership with young people. Good governance is also about youth participation in addressing the major themes of the century: social inclusion, the green transition and digital transformation.

The Conference on the Future of Europe opens new perspectives for the Future of Romania as well. We want to have a similar exercise on a yearly basis. (Dacian Cioloș)

- Transferring the youth sector to the exclusive competence of the European Union;

We have to listen to the young people. Young people need to be considered the present because they are also contributing to a better tomorrow. The lack of women in politics affects us all, the same happens in the case of young people; without their involvement, massive issues are not put on the table and do not reach the public agenda. The angle from which each generation looks at various issues is vital for us, and only by involving everyone can we have a 360-degree image. (Anca Dragu)

- Stimulating the participation of young women and young people belonging to minority communities, disadvantaged in public and political life, through civic empowerment programs, gender quotas and well-targeted consultation mechanisms;
- *Reform of the Law on Volunteering, in order to validate the involvement of young people in any context conducive to the development of skills, not only in specific areas;*
- *Reform of the Internship Law in order to ensure the widening of the range of paid internship opportunities in the public sector and in order to ensure the applicability of the rules provided including in the private and non-governmental sector;*
- Establishing youth indicators for any public policy, at any decision-making level, that has an impact on young people;

I believe that, in addition to emphasising the importance of involving young people in the society, we need to provide real contexts and viable levers for them to strengthen their voice and contribute to decisions on the development of a sustainable society, with a focus on responsible resource management. (Simina Tulbure)

- Creating community hubs to stimulate the involvement of young people in solving local community problems, under the auspices of public-academic-non-government-private partnerships, with strong emphasis on projects in areas such as green transition, digital transformation and innovation;

We need an infusion of young people in public administration. Please do not give up. If you know that you can do something good for Romania, fulfil your role without hesitation. (Violeta Alexandru)

- Stimulating the employment of young people in public administration, through fair and inclusive competitions, scholarships for specific projects and other initiatives to open the institutional spectrum to young people interested in specific public issues;
- Accessibility of information on youth opportunities, through information points in educational institutions and in environments widely accessed by young people;
- Creation of career guidance centres associated with pre-university education units;
- Valorization of volunteering as a vital element in the admission processes in higher education;
- Legislation, recognition and training of green skills among young people, especially among those from the communities most affected by the just transition;

Young people are the ones who, some say, "should pay our pensions." Well, before they pay our pensions, they have to have that opportunity. It is our responsibility, at European level and at the level of each EU Member State, to create access and opportunities for them. (Dragoş Pişlaru)

- Discovering formulas for adapting the idea of the French Presidency on the European Civic Service and, at the same time, the AmeriCorps model, under the tutelage of pan-European volunteer programs and involvement in social causes of young professionals;

Micro-skills are the future, in a world in full globalisation and transformation. (Oana Țoiu)

- Recognition of micro-skills and micro-qualifications through satisfactory national legislation;
- Strengthening the European Union internship program - ALMA;
- *Cancelling the practice of unpaid internships at European level, preventing and combating forms of procrastination aimed at non-remuneration of work submitted by young people (use of voluntary qualifications or short-term internships for complex professional actions, which naturally fall within the scope of legitimate, remunerable work).*