

The Annual Young European Councils

The annual Young European Councils (YEC) are international conferences focused on uniting young local leaders from each European Union Member State who are determined to make their voices heard. The aim of the YEC is to provide actionable and innovative input to European policy making and, for this reason, the conference results are discussed with senior policy makers from several sectors. The Young European Council goes beyond simulation games. The YEC 2015 won the 2016 European Charlemagne Youth Prize for the third best youth project in the European Union.

The Young European Council 2016

The YEC 2016 will take place in Brussels, Belgium from November 7 to November 11 and is held under the patronage of the European Parliament. The conference is expecting over 100 participants and will feature four Councils:

- Council Heads of State and Government: on structure and budget of European Union;
- Council on gender equality and social inclusion;
- Council on security and home affairs;
- Council on European Union external affairs and development aid.

The program spans one week and includes three elements.

1. Negotiations: The main focus of the conference is to achieve a Final Communiqué with innovative yet actionable policy recommendations for European policy making.
2. Meetings: Delegates meet with senior stakeholders, e.g. framed by YEL's Eat & Meet program.
3. Knowledge and Skills: The YEC yields critical skills to succeed in today's labor markets and society.

Select Confirmed Guest Speakers

- Ms. Georgieva – VP European Commission
- HE Ambassador de Gooijer – PR Netherlands
- HE Ambassador Bonnici – PR Malta
- Mr. Dassis – President EESC
- Ms. Schumacher – Director UN Women Brussels

Select Previous Guest Speakers

- HE Ambassador Thompson – IOM
- HE Ambassador Frøysnes – CoE
- Mr. Markkula – President CoR
- Ms. Hedegaard – Commissioner
- Mr. Andor – Commissioner Emeritus



Ambassador Thompson discusses YEC 2015 Final Communiqué.



Delegate addressing her Council at the YEC 2014.

Young European Leadership

Young European Leadership (YEL) is an international nonprofit and nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering young leaders and future decision makers from Europe and beyond. One of the responsibilities of YEL is to recruit and train the official delegations of the EEU to the annual Y20 Summits, the official young counterpart to the G20 Summits.

YEL conceptualized and organizes the annual YECs. The conference is being realized after over 11 months of voluntary work. The participants are recruited in a competitive application process across the European Union, focusing on innovativeness, leadership skills and general background.

Additional Resources

For more information about the YEL and the YEC, please visit younglead.eu/yec. For more information about YEL's Eat & Meet programme, please visit younglead.eu/eam.