



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11.02.2022
C(2022) 914 final*

Dear President,

The European Commission would like to thank the Bundesrat for its Opinion on the proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a European Year of Youth 2022 {COM(2021) 634 final}.

The Commission appreciates that the Bundesrat welcomes the conclusion that action at all levels is necessary to achieve the aims of the proposal.

This decision to make 2022 the European Year of Youth, adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 22 December 2021, is striving to give young people more and better opportunities for the future. The European Year of Youth 2022 aims to make a difference in the lives of young people. It will be a major undertaking to boost the efforts of the European Union, the Member States, regional and local authorities to honour, support and engage with youth. This is essential, not only for this generation, but for our future.

Youth participation in the democratic process is essential for a healthy democratic society, and the Commission recognises Austria's efforts to involve young people in ongoing consultation processes, such as within the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe or the EU Youth Dialogue in order to give young people the opportunity to present their views on Europe's future.

The European Youth Goals, which are an integral part of the EU Youth Strategy and therefore the European Year of Youth 2022, and which have been developed by young people for the benefit of young people under the EU Youth dialogue process, are showing that many young Europeans are eager to participate in defining the development of the European Union. The Commission acknowledges Austria's efforts and participation in the development of the European Youth Goals during the trio of the Council presidency in 2017/2018. It appreciates Austria's actively involving youth in the development and decision-making processes at national level.

*Ms Christine Schwarz-Fuchs
President of the Bundesrat
Dr Karl Renner-Ring 3
A – 1017 WIEN*

Concerning the implementation of the Year, the co-creation process with young people, Member States, stakeholders and other EU institutions kicked off on 27 October 2021, with a survey in all EU official languages. It was launched on the European Youth Portal to collect ideas from the young people. Nearly 5,000 people had completed the survey. The Commission is also gathering ideas via social media, by mail, the Conference on the Future of Europe, the EU Youth Coordinator, internal and external networks, and meetings with national coordinators and youth stakeholders.

The success of the European Year of Youth 2022 will largely depend on the mobilisation, involvement and active contribution of young people and youth stakeholders at European, national, regional and local levels, as well as the strong involvement of Member States through their appointed national coordinators. Making 2022 an inclusive, forward-looking and ambitious year will require excellent cooperation at all levels. The Commission welcomes, therefore, that Austria has appointed a National Coordinator for the Year from the Federal Chancellery of Austria.

The Commission believes that the political dialogue with national Parliaments is essential for linking the Institutions and the citizens of the European Union, and looks forward to continuing it with the Bundesrat in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mariya Gabriel
Member of the Commission*