



Brussels, 25.6.2025  
C(2025) 3967 final

**COMMISSION DECISION**

**of 25.6.2025**

**setting up the President's Youth Advisory Board**

# COMMISSION DECISION

of 25.6.2025

## setting up the President's Youth Advisory Board

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 165 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 165(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) provides that Union action is to be aimed at, among other things, encouraging the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe.
- (2) The 2019-2027 EU Youth Strategy<sup>1</sup> fosters youth engagement and active citizenship, encouraging young people to participate in democracy and society.
- (3) The Communication on the European Year of Youth 2022<sup>2</sup> reaffirmed the ambition of the Commission to empower young people to actively participate in and shape the Union's future.
- (4) In the Political Guidelines for 2024-2029<sup>3</sup>, President von der Leyen committed to reuniting our societies by supporting young people, giving them greater freedom and responsibility within our societies and democracies, and ensuring that they can use their voice to help shape the future.
- (5) The President is further committed to setting up a President's Youth Advisory Board ('the Board'), composed of young people from all Member States to advise the Commission on issues that matter to their peers in their community and to act as a sounding board for ideas developed by the Commission.
- (6) The President's Youth Advisory Board should work in synergy with various Union policy initiatives, thereby ensuring coherence and complementarity across those initiatives. Such initiatives include the EU Youth Dialogue, which is a structured dialogue between young people and decision makers; the annual Youth Policy Dialogues between European Commissioners and young people; the Youth Check, which consists of an assessment of the relevance to young people of major new initiatives in the Commission Work Programme and consultations with them about these initiatives; and the EU Youth Stakeholders Group, which facilitates exchanges and youth consultations with young people on forthcoming EU policy initiatives. To take into account young people's perspectives on issues of global relevance, synergies

---

<sup>1</sup> Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on a framework for European cooperation in the youth field: The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027. OJ C 456, 18.12.2018, p. 1–22

<sup>2</sup> [Commission Communication on the European Year of Youth 2022](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Political Guidelines 2024-2029 | European Commission](#)

should also be sought with the Youth Action Plan in EU External Action 2022 – 2027<sup>4</sup>.

- (7) In line with the Commission's initiatives to prepare candidate countries for accession to the Union, young people from the candidate countries may be involved in the Board to ensure that their voices and perspectives actively contribute to shaping the future of the Union.
- (8) The Board should be set up to discuss political and societal issues that matter to young people and that affect them, and should operate in compliance with the horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups, laid down in Commission Decision C(2016) 3301<sup>5</sup>. The Board should provide advice on ongoing and future Commission policies and initiatives relevant to young people.
- (9) The first and subsequent meetings of the Board should take place at a timely moment in order to best inform the annual political priority-setting exercise.
- (10) The Board should be composed of one national youth-led organisation per Member State and of a European umbrella youth organisation that covers all Union Member States.
- (11) There are justified reasons to deviate from the standard procedure for launching a call for applications to select the members of the Board, as outlined in Commission Decision C(2016) 3301. The objectives set out in recital 8 may be better achieved by directly engaging representatives of youth-led umbrella organisations active in youth advocacy. This targeted approach would ensure both a balanced geographical representation and a balanced ability to represent, enhancing the Board's legitimacy and impact.
- (12) National Youth Councils are independent, representative and youth-led bodies that have been set up in all Member States. They have well established mechanisms in place to collect feedback from a diverse range of young people and to disseminate information to them. In a consultative role, they contribute actively to the discussion and development of youth policies both at national and Union level. Typically functioning as umbrella organisations, National Youth Councils bring together a broad spectrum of youth organisations and local and regional councils, as well as individual young people. They ensure that the diversity of needs and interests of young people, and the challenge they face, are effectively represented, making them essential contributors to inclusive discussions on youth policies.
- (13) In addition to their consultative role, the National Youth Councils also draw up opinions and recommendations on youth issues for policymaking bodies at all levels of government. They act as multipliers and share the outcomes of their work with partner youth associations and ensure synergies with other youth participation networks, thereby strengthening the impact and effectiveness of youth participation structures.
- (14) At European level, the National Youth Councils are key stakeholders in the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy. They have been assigned a central role in the implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue for 2019-2027, as endorsed by the

---

<sup>4</sup> [Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council Youth Action Plan \(YAP\) in EU external action 2022 – 2027 Promoting meaningful youth participation and empowerment in EU external action for sustainable development, equality and peace](#)

<sup>5</sup> Commission Decision C (2016) 3301 of 30.05.2016 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups

Member States in 2018. They participate in the EU Youth Stakeholders Group set up by the Commission and are involved in developing and implementing youth policy at all levels of governance. Furthermore, the involvement of the National Youth Council in discussions at Union level is essential for ensuring that the diverse voices of young people from various groups and countries are included in Union policymaking.

- (15) The European Youth Forum is the biggest platform of youth organisations in Europe representing over 100 youth organisations and bringing together tens of millions of young people from all over the continent. It works to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives and advocates for their rights. The European Youth Forum also acts as a multiplier, sharing the results of its work with its member organisations and ensuring synergies with other youth participation forums. There is no equivalent organisation in the field of youth in terms of range of membership, scope and European outreach.
- (16) In view of recitals 12 to 15, the National Youth Councils and the European Youth Forum, who would be members of the Board, should provide the Commission with a list of qualified representatives from their organisations, who can offer valuable advice on youth issues, drawing directly from insights gathered from young people in their Member States and at European level.
- (17) It is proposed that the Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) should invite each member of the Board to propose up to four representatives each year, in accordance with objective selection criteria laid out in the Decision, and striving to ensure adequate ability to represent, diversity<sup>6</sup>, and gender balance among the individuals proposed.
- (18) Based on these proposals, the Director-General of DG EAC should select two representatives per each member to take part in the Board. The meetings of the Board should be attended by one representative of each member organisation.
- (19) The Board should aim to empower a diverse range of young individuals to contribute meaningfully to its work throughout its mandate. The annual selection process of representatives will enable the Board to reach out to a broad group of young people, bringing in a wide range of fresh perspectives.
- (20) The members of the Board should be registered in the Transparency Register at the time of their selection and for the entire duration of their membership of the Board.
- (21) Rules on disclosure of information by members of the Board and their representatives should be laid down. Personal data should be processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725<sup>7</sup>.
- (22) This Decision should expire by the end of the mandate of the current Commission.

---

<sup>6</sup> In light of the non-discrimination grounds in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited.

<sup>7</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

***Subject matter***

The President's Youth Advisory Board (the 'Board') is set up.

*Article 2*

***Tasks***

The Board's task shall be to provide advice on ongoing and future Commission policies and initiatives relevant to young people and bring about an exchange of experience and good practice between young people and the Commission by (among other things):

- (a) highlighting issues faced by young people from different communities and territories, including specific challenges linked to their socio-economic background or personal situation (including disability, gender, racial or ethnic origin, migrant or social background, religion or belief, sexual orientation, etc);
- (b) providing advice to the Commission based on insights gathered from young people, aiming to address their key concerns across a wide range of policy areas;
- (c) providing the Commission with feedback on existing and proposed Union policies, strategies, and initiatives aiming for closer alignment with the interests, needs and priorities of young people in an accessible way;
- (d) facilitating two-way communication between the Commission and young people in all Member States and sharing information about the Union's initiatives with young people, while receiving feedback on the outcome of their activities, including through active engagement and promotion with relevant multipliers, networks and communities;
- (e) aiming to ensure that the rights and needs of all young people are taken into account in ongoing and future Commission policies and initiatives, regardless of their background, sex, racial or ethnic origin, social background, religion or belief, disability, age, or sexual orientation;
- (f) contributing to the visibility of the Board's work by sharing public outcomes, key messages and relevant content within their own networks and communities.

*Article 3*

***Consultation***

The Commission may consult the Board on any matter relating to existing or proposed policy initiatives of relevance to young people.

## Article 4

### **Membership**

1. The Board shall be composed of the following 28 members:
  - (a) the National Youth Council in each of the 27 Member States. For those Member States where there is more than one National Youth Council , a rotating system shall be organised at Member-State level.
  - (b) the European Youth Forum.
2. Without prejudice to point (a) of the first paragraph of Article 4, the Commission shall ask each Member State to designate one National Youth Council to be a member of the Board.
3. The Commission hereby appoints the European Youth Forum as a member of the Board.
4. Members shall be appointed for the duration of this Decision.
5. Registration in the Transparency Register is required in order for organisations referred to in points (a) and (b) of paragraph 1 to be appointed as members. Members who are no longer registered in the Transparency Register shall not be invited to participate in any meetings of the Board and shall not receive any documents.
6. The members shall each propose on a yearly basis a shortlist of up to four representatives. The shortlist shall ensure adequate ability to represent, diversity<sup>8</sup>, and gender balance The members shall be allowed to propose the same representative(s) for more than one year, provided they continue to meet the eligibility criteria laid down below. The proposed representatives should meet the following criteria:
  - (a) being between 18 and 28 years of age at the time of the proposal of the member;
  - (b) being able to demonstrate proven and relevant experience, including at local, national, European or international level, in Union policies or European societal issues;
  - (c) having experience in the participation and consultation of young people to represent effectively the positions expressed by their peers, for example by having participated at least once in the EU Youth Dialogue or at least once in consultation meetings at local, regional or national level;
  - (d) having experience in sharing information about European societal issues in their communities.
7. On the basis of the criteria laid down in paragraph 6, from the representatives proposed by each member, the Director-General of the Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) shall select two of them to participate in the work of the Board, taking into account the ability to represent,

---

<sup>8</sup> In light of the non-discrimination grounds in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited.

diversity, and gender balance. For each meeting, and depending on the agenda, the member shall decide which of the two representatives should attend.

#### *Article 5*

##### ***Chair***

A representative of the Commission shall chair the Board.

#### *Article 6*

##### ***Operation***

1. The Board shall act at the request of DG EAC, in compliance with the Commission's horizontal rules on expert groups<sup>9</sup> ('the horizontal rules').
2. Meetings of the Board shall be held on Commission premises or online, depending on the circumstances.
3. DG EAC shall provide secretarial services. Commission officials from other departments with an interest in the proceedings may attend meetings of the Board.
4. In agreement with DG EAC, the Board may, by simple majority of its members, decide that all or certain parts of its deliberations shall be public.
5. Minutes of the discussion on each point on the agenda and of the opinions delivered by the Board shall be meaningful and complete. Minutes shall be drafted by the secretariat under the responsibility of the Chair.
6. As far as possible, the Board shall adopt its opinions, recommendations and reports by consensus. In the event of a vote, the outcome of the vote shall be decided by simple majority of the members. Members who have voted against or abstained shall have the right to have a document summarising the reasons for their position annexed to the opinion, recommendation or report.

#### *Article 7*

##### ***Invited experts***

DG EAC may invite experts with specific expertise on a topic on the agenda to take part in the work of the Board on an ad hoc basis.

#### *Article 8*

##### ***Observers***

1. Youth-led organisations from candidate countries and potential candidates may be granted observer status by invitation, applying as far as possible the same process and criteria laid down in paragraphs 2 and 4 of Article 4.
2. Organisations appointed as observers shall propose their representatives according to the same criteria and procedure laid down in paragraph 6 of Article 4. Two of the proposed representatives shall be selected by the Director-General of DG EAC

---

<sup>9</sup> Commission Decision C (2016) 3301 of 30.05.2016 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation

applying as far as possible , the same criteria as those laid down for members in that article.

3. Observers' representatives may be permitted by the Chair to take part in the discussions of the Board and provide expertise. However, they shall not have voting rights and shall not participate in the formulation of recommendations or advice of the Board.

#### *Article 9*

##### ***Rules of procedure***

On a proposal by and in agreement with DG EAC, the Board shall adopt its rules of procedure by simple majority of its members, on the basis of the standard rules of procedure for expert groups, in compliance with the horizontal rules.

#### *Article 10*

##### ***Professional secrecy and handling of classified information***

The members of the Board and their representatives, as well as observers and invited experts, are subject to the obligation of professional secrecy, which by virtue of the Treaties and the rules implementing them applies to all members of the institutions and their staff, as well as to the Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of Union classified information, currently laid down in Commission Decisions (EU, Euratom) 2015/443<sup>10</sup> and 2015/444<sup>11</sup>. Should those rules change, the members will be subject to the amended rules. Should they fail to respect these obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

#### *Article 11*

##### ***Transparency***

1. The Board shall be registered in the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ('the Register of expert groups').
2. As concerns the Board's composition, the names of members and observers shall be published in the Register of expert groups; the interests they represent shall be disclosed.
3. All relevant documents, including the agendas, minutes and participants' submissions, shall be made available either on the Register of expert groups or *via* a link from the Register to a dedicated website, where this information can be found. Access to a dedicated website shall not be subject to user registration or any other restriction. In particular, the agenda and other relevant background documents shall be published in due time ahead of the meeting, followed by timely publication of the minutes. Exceptions to publication shall only be permitted where it is deemed that disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001<sup>12</sup>.

---

<sup>10</sup> Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 of 13 March 2015 on Security in the Commission (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 41).

<sup>11</sup> Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

<sup>12</sup> These exceptions are intended to protect public security, military affairs, international relations, financial, monetary or economic policy, privacy and integrity of the individual, commercial interests,

*Article 12*

***Meeting expenses***

1. Participants in the activities of the Board shall not be remunerated for the services they offer.
2. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by participants in the activities of the Board shall be reimbursed by the Commission. Reimbursement shall be made in accordance with the provisions in force within the Commission and within the limits of the available appropriations allocated to the Commission departments under the annual procedure for the allocation of resources.

*Article 13*

***Applicability***

This Decision shall apply until the end of the mandate of the current Commission.

Done at Brussels, 25.6.2025

*For the Commission*

*Glenn MICALLEF*

*Member of the Commission*

---

court proceedings and legal advice, inspections/investigations/audits and the institution's decision-making process.