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Objet:	Priorités futures de la politique européenne de la jeunesse - <i>Débat d'orientation</i> (<i>Débat public [proposé par la présidence] conformément à l'article 8, paragraphe 2, du règlement intérieur du Conseil</i>)

Après avoir consulté le groupe "Jeunesse", la présidence a élaboré le document de réflexion figurant en annexe, qui servira de base au débat public lors de la session du Conseil EJCS du 23 mai 2018.

Priorités futures de la politique européenne de la jeunesse

Document de réflexion de la présidence

La présidence bulgare du Conseil de l'Union européenne intervient à un moment où le débat sur l'avenir de l'Union bat son plein et où les défis à relever sont nombreux.

En mars 2017, la Commission européenne a présenté le Livre blanc sur l'avenir de l'Europe, qui exposait cinq scénarios possibles pour l'évolution de l'Europe d'ici 2025. Dans le même contexte, les dirigeants de l'Union européenne, réunis à Rome le 25 mars 2017 pour célébrer le 60^e anniversaire des traités de Rome, se penchaient sur les réalisations passées et discutaient de ce que pourrait et devrait être notre avenir commun.

La résilience, la cohésion et l'ouverture à toutes les communautés sont l'avenir de notre Union. À cet égard, et gardant à l'esprit que les jeunes peuvent être la principale force de création de communautés, la question de savoir comment mieux soutenir la jeunesse et mieux dialoguer avec elle revêt une grande importance. Les jeunes doivent avoir des perspectives ainsi que les aptitudes et les compétences nécessaires pour devenir des citoyens européens actifs et engagés capables de prendre leur vie en main, de soutenir les autres et profiter de tous les avantages que procure un monde globalisé et fondé sur la connaissance.

"L'avenir de l'Europe et des jeunes" constitue une des priorités générales de la présidence bulgare. Convaincue que l'avenir de l'Europe et de la société dans son ensemble dépend de la jeunesse, la présidence axe ses efforts sur le rôle des jeunes en tant que moteur du développement durable et de l'égalité en Europe.

L'actuelle stratégie de l'UE en faveur de la jeunesse – adoptée par le Conseil en 2009 dans sa résolution relative à un cadre renouvelé pour la coopération européenne dans le domaine de la jeunesse – arrive à terme cette année. Les prochains mois nous offriront donc une occasion unique de repenser et d'encre améliorer la manière dont l'UE travaille pour et avec les jeunes.

Le Conseil a déjà fourni une importante contribution au processus d'élaboration d'une nouvelle stratégie de l'UE en faveur de la jeunesse par le biais de ses conclusions – adoptées le 22 mai 2017 – sur les perspectives stratégiques pour la coopération européenne post 2018 dans le domaine de la jeunesse. Sans reproduire celles-ci dans leur intégralité, il est bon d'en rappeler un certain nombre de points essentiels. Les États membres et la Commission étaient invités à:

- élaborer et soutenir un nouveau cadre pour la coopération européenne dans le domaine de la jeunesse, après 2018, ayant **une véritable valeur ajoutée au niveau de l'UE**;
- prendre en considération le fait que le cadre pour la future coopération est **intersectoriel, souple, adapté aux besoins et transparent** et qu'il tient compte de l'évolution rapide des circonstances politiques, sociales, culturelles et économiques en Europe et au-delà;
- veiller à ce que le programme **Erasmus+** et d'autres programmes et instruments contribuent à la mise en œuvre du cadre, et soient **cohérents avec celle-ci** le cas échéant.
- **évaluer, revoir et renouveler le dialogue structuré** et ses objectifs en vue de faciliter un dialogue innovant, constructif et ciblé non seulement avec les jeunes faisant partie d'organisations de jeunesse, mais également avec les **jeunes de divers milieux, les jeunes moins favorisés et ceux qui n'appartiennent à aucune organisation**;
- prendre davantage en considération **les compétences et les valeurs** nécessaires aux jeunes pour qu'ils s'épanouissent dans leur vie personnelle, sociale et professionnelle et, en particulier, à instaurer un dialogue avec les jeunes moins favorisés et à ne pas les exclure;
- tenir compte du rôle que **l'Internet, les médias sociaux et le passage au numérique** peuvent jouer dans la promotion de la solidarité, de la participation politique et de la citoyenneté active chez les jeunes ainsi que dans la lutte contre l'aliénation politique, le populisme, la propagande et la radicalisation pouvant conduire à l'extrémisme violent;
- veiller à ce que l'élaboration du cadre pour la future coopération européenne dans le domaine de la jeunesse soit **fondée sur des données probantes, nourrie et étayée par une vaste consultation ouverte à tous** menée avec l'ensemble des parties prenantes concernées, y compris les jeunes, les entités compétentes en matière socio-éducative, les animateurs socioéducatifs (tant professionnels que volontaires) et les décideurs politiques à tous les niveaux, de façon à dégager un consensus sur les finalités et objectifs de la future politique de la jeunesse et à susciter leur engagement en faveur de ceux-ci.

Comme ce dernier point l'indique clairement, il importe de procéder à une vaste consultation lors de l'élaboration de la nouvelle stratégie. La Commission a procédé à ses propres consultations, notamment dans le contexte de son examen à mi-parcours de la stratégie de l'UE en faveur de la jeunesse afin d'évaluer le rôle de la stratégie dans la définition des mesures et des politiques relevant du domaine de la jeunesse, tant au niveau de l'UE qu'au niveau national. Les conclusions préliminaires font notamment apparaître que le degré général de sensibilisation à la stratégie de l'UE en faveur de la jeunesse doit être amélioré, que la nouvelle stratégie de l'UE en faveur de la jeunesse devrait tenir compte des besoins variables des décideurs politiques aux niveaux local et régional et que d'aucuns sont convaincus de l'importance de consulter et d'écouter les États membres et les citoyens pour connaître leurs véritables priorités.

Les jeunes eux-mêmes figurent parmi ceux qu'il faudrait consulter en premier lieu lors du réexamen de la stratégie de l'UE en faveur de la jeunesse¹. Bien qu'il ressorte clairement des conclusions du Conseil de mai 2017 que le "dialogue structuré" avec les jeunes – instauré par la résolution de 2009 – doit être amélioré, celui-ci constitue néanmoins un outil utile pour consulter les jeunes.

C'est dans cet esprit que le trio de présidences estonienne, bulgare et autrichienne ont, dans le cadre du 6^e cycle du dialogue structuré (juillet 2017-décembre 2018) intitulé "Quelles sont les prochaines étapes pour la jeunesse européenne?" – choisi un thème qui porte sur l'amélioration du bien-être de tous les jeunes grâce au développement de compétences de la vie courante. Les premières discussions dans le cadre du 6^e cycle ont eu lieu lors de la conférence sur la jeunesse de l'UE, organisée à Tallinn du 23 au 26 octobre 2017, la conférence européenne de la jeunesse, organisée à Sofia durant la présidence bulgare (du 17 au 19 avril 2018), constituant l'étape suivante. Les avis exprimés durant les consultations menées auprès de 50 000 jeunes Européens et les délibérations du comité directeur ont permis à la conférence de cerner 11 domaines thématiques, qui ont ensuite été traduits en un ensemble d'objectifs pour la jeunesse européenne (voir annexe). Ces objectifs représentent une contribution précieuse de la part des jeunes, en particulier de ceux qui s'investissent dans les organisations de jeunesse et y participent activement.

¹ Dans ce contexte, les déclarations des jeunes sur les futures priorités de l'Europe, faites en janvier 2018 dans le cadre de l'action "Un nouveau récit pour l'Europe", pourraient constituer une source d'inspiration. (cf. https://europa.eu/youth/have-your-say/new-narrative-for-europe_fr)

Comme annoncé dans la communication intitulée "Investir dans la jeunesse de l'Europe" (7 décembre 2016), la Commission préparera et présentera sous peu la révision de la stratégie européenne en faveur de la jeunesse pour la période allant au-delà de 2018.

Compte tenu de ce qui précède, la présidence bulgare invite les ministres de la jeunesse à débattre et à tenir un échange de vues sur les futures priorités de la coopération dans le domaine de la jeunesse. Afin de structurer le débat, la présidence souhaiterait que les ministres se concentrent sur les questions suivantes:

- 1. Quelles devraient être, de l'avis des États membres, les principales priorités de la future coopération européenne en matière de politique de la jeunesse?**
 - 2. Comment l'apport du dialogue structuré (les 11 objectifs pour la jeunesse européenne), ainsi que celui d'autres acteurs concernés, peuvent-ils contribuer à ces priorités?**
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The Youth Goals are the outcome of the Structured Dialogue with Youth 2017-18. They represent views of young people from all over Europe.



Read Youth Goals online!

1 CONNECTING EU WITH YOUTH

Foster the sense of youth belonging to the European project and build a bridge between the EU and young people to regain trust and increase participation.

An increasing number of young people lack trust in the EU, encounter difficulties in understanding its principles, values, and functioning. Democratic deficits in EU processes have also been identified as one of the reasons for rising euroscepticism among young people.

- Guarantee meaningful youth involvement and dialogue in all stages of EU decision making by improving existing participatory mechanisms and creating new ones.
- Ensure equal access to quality impartial and youth-friendly information about how the EU works, how to engage in it and what opportunities it offers.
- Introduce and increase education about Europe and the EU in formal and non-formal settings.
- Guarantee fair representation of all member states in political and administrative EU bodies, in line with the principle of equal citizenship.
- Increase the budget and the impact of the EU youth programmes.
- Build young people's trust in the EU project by addressing the democratic deficit, lack of transparency and visibility.
- Institutionalise the assessment of youth-friendliness, impact and effect of EU policies.

2 EQUALITY OF ALL GENDERS

Ensure equality of all genders and gender-sensitive approaches in all areas of life of a young person.

Gender-based discrimination still affects many young people, especially young women. Equal opportunities and access to rights need to be ensured for young people of all genders including non-binary and LGBTIQ+ young people.

- Tackle discrimination and ensure equal rights for all genders in cultural, political and socio-economical life.
- Achieve universal awareness of gender-based inequality and discrimination, particularly in the media.
- End gender-based violence by addressing and tackling it effectively in all its forms.
- Eliminate stereotypical gender roles and embrace diverse gender identities in education systems, family life, the workplace, and other areas of life.
- End gender-based structural discrimination in the labour market and ensure equal rights, access and opportunities.
- Ensure equal pay for equal work and the equal sharing of the responsibilities of care work.
- Ensure equal access to formal and non-formal education, and that the design of education systems follows gender-sensitive approaches.

3 INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Enable and ensure the inclusion of all young people in society.

One third of young people in Europe are at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Many do not have access to their social rights. Many continue to face multiple discrimination, experience prejudice and hate crimes. New migratory phenomena brought several social and inclusion challenges. Therefore, it is crucial to work towards the fulfillment of the rights of all young people in Europe, including the most marginalised and excluded.

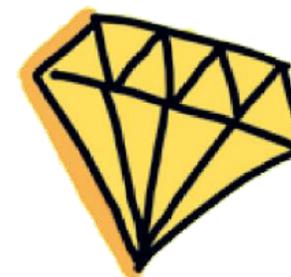
- Provide legal protection and enforce international legal instruments to fight against all kinds of discrimination and hate speech, recognising that young people are subjected to multiple forms of discrimination.
- Strengthen outreach of information to marginalised young people, to ensure they are aware of spaces, opportunities and experiences available to them.
- Ensure that all marginalised young people have equal access to formal and non-formal learning environments, addressing all the dimensions of inclusion.
- Strengthen the capacities of educators to work with marginalised young people.
- Provide more spaces, opportunities, resources and programmes to foster dialogue and social cohesion, and combat discrimination and segregation.
- Strengthen social support by implementing the right to a living wage, fair work condition, universal access to quality health care, and ensure specific measures for marginalised young people.
- Ensure that marginalised young people are participating in all decision-making processes and are key players, particularly in processes concerning their own rights, wellbeing and interests.

4 INFORMATION AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE

Ensure young people have better access to reliable information, support their ability to evaluate information critically and engage in participatory and constructive dialogue.

Young people experience difficulties to verify the accuracy and reliability of information. They need to be more adequately equipped to navigate the media landscape and to participate in constructive dialogue.

- Empower young people to be critical and responsible users and producers of information.
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- Ensure young people have the ability to recognise and report repeatedly misleading news and verify the accuracy of news sources used.
- Ensure young people have the ability to recognise and report hate speech and discrimination online and offline.
- Ensure young people can engage in respectful, tolerant and non-violent dialogue, online and offline.
- Ensure easy access to understandable youth-friendly information that follows codes of ethics and quality standards.



5 MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Achieve better mental wellbeing and end stigmatisation of mental health issues, thus promoting social inclusion of all young people.

A significant and increasing number of young people across Europe are expressing their concern at the prevalence of mental health issues such as high stress, anxiety, depression and other mental illnesses amongst their peers. Young people cite the immense societal pressures they face today, and express a need for better youth mental health provision.

- Encourage the development of self-awareness and less competitive mindsets by fostering appreciation for individual skills and strengths.
- Safeguard the rights to work and to study of people with mental health issues both during and after illness to ensure their ability to pursue their own ambitions.
- Develop an inclusive intersectional approach to mental health provision for all, especially marginalised groups.
- Provide all professionals working with young people as well as family and friends with quality mental health first aid training.
- Provide inclusive, respectful and well-funded treatment by incorporating high quality mental health provision across all medical institutions.
- Focus on prevention measures that ensure young people are equipped with the knowledge and the skills required for better mental wellbeing.
- Fight stigma about mental health issues by developing awareness programmes.

6 MOVING RURAL YOUTH FORWARD

Create conditions which enable young people to fulfill their potential in rural areas.

Despite the EU wide commitment to rural development and given the fact that by 2015 almost one third of the EU population were living in rural areas, prevailing differences exist between living in urban and in rural areas⁴. Therefore, it is important to ensure equality for young people in urban and rural settings.

- Ensure appropriate infrastructure in rural areas in order to provide equitable delivery of public services, data connectivity and housing opportunities for young people.
- Ensure that sustainable, high quality jobs, accessible to young people are created in rural areas.
- Ensure the decentralisation of different activities by, for and with young people in order to support their inclusion and to benefit local communities.
- Ensure that young people in rural areas are actively participating in decision-making processes.
- Ensure equal access to high quality education for young people in rural areas.
- Establish a positive image of rural areas.
- Ensure the protection of rural traditions.

⁴) http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Statistics_on_rural_areas_in_the_EU



7 QUALITY EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL

Guarantee an accessible labour market with opportunities that lead to quality jobs for all young people.

Young people are suffering from high youth unemployment, precarious and exploitative working conditions as well as discrimination in the labour market and the workplace. The lack of information and suitable skills for future employment are preventing young people to be fully integrated in the labour market. Thus measures need to be taken in order to ensure quality employment for all.

- Create quality jobs which guarantee fair working conditions, working rights and the right of living wage for all young people.
- Safeguard social protection and healthcare for all young workers.
- Guarantee fair treatment and equal opportunities for all young people in order to end discrimination in the labour market.
- Ensure equal opportunities for all young people to develop the necessary skills and gain practical experience in order to smoothen the transition from education to the labour market.
- Guarantee the recognition and validation of competencies acquired through internships, apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning, as well as volunteering and non-formal education.
- Ensure involvement of young people and youth organisations as equal partners in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of employment policies at all levels.
- Ensure equal access to quality information and adequate support mechanisms to prepare young people for the changing labour market and future of work.

8 QUALITY LEARNING

Integrate and improve different forms of learning, equipping young people for the challenges of an ever-changing life in the 21st century.

Education remains a key for active citizenship, inclusive society and employability. That is why we need to enlarge our vision about education for the 21st century, focusing more on transferable skills, student-centered learning and non-formal education to achieve a truly equal and universal access to quality learning.

- Guarantee universal and equal access to quality education and life-long learning.
- Ensure that all young people have access to adequately funded non-formal education at all levels, that is recognised and validated.
- Promote open-mindedness and support the development of interpersonal and intercultural skills.
- Create and implement more personalised, participative, and cooperative learner-centered methods in every step of the education process.
- Guarantee that education equips all young people with life skills such as money management and health education including sexual and reproductive health
- Incorporate methods within formal and non-formal education settings that enable the learner to develop personal skills including critical and analytical thinking, creativity and learning.
- Ensure that young people have access to citizenship education to provide them with solid knowledge on political systems, democracy and human rights, attained also through community-based experiences in order to promote active civil participation.

9

SPACE AND PARTICIPATION FOR ALL

Strengthen young people's democratic participation and autonomy as well as provide dedicated youth spaces in all areas of society.

Young people are underrepresented in decision-making processes which affect them although their engagement is crucial to democracy. They need access to physical spaces in their communities to support their personal, cultural and political development.

- Ensure young people can adequately influence all areas of society and all parts of the decision-making processes, from agenda setting to implementation, monitoring and evaluation through youth-friendly and accessible mechanisms and structures, ensuring that policies respond to the needs of young people.
- Ensure equal access to everyday decision making for all young people from different backgrounds.
- Increase youth participation and thus equal representation in the electoral process as well as in elected bodies and other decision-making organs at all levels of society.
- Provide youth-led physical facilities and infrastructures called youth spaces defined by being autonomous, open and safe, accessible to all, offering professional support for development and ensuring opportunities for youth participation.
- Ensure safe virtual youth spaces are accessible to every young person which provide access to information and services as well as ensure opportunities for youth participation.
- Ensure sustainable funding, common recognition and development of quality youth work in order to strengthen youth organisations and their role in inclusion, participation and non-formal education.
- Provide youth-friendly, relevant, comprehensive information, also developed by and with young people, in order to enable youth participation.

10

SUSTAINABLE GREEN EUROPE

Achieve a society in which all young people are environmentally active, educated and able to make a difference in their everyday lives.

Nowadays we consume in a way that our environment can't handle. Society needs to act against climate change and the growing environmental threats. But our society cannot solve a problem that it is not willing to acknowledge. That is why everyone including young people has to start taking responsibility for their actions, and impact on the life of future generations. Becoming sustainable is not a choice, it is an obligation.

- Ensure everyone including young people knows the effect of their actions on the environment.
- Empower the entire society especially young people to act as agents of change for environmental and sustainable development.
- Take into account the environmental impact of every policy and life decision while ensuring that young people are included in sustainable development policy-making on all levels.
- Increase international cooperation to eliminate environmentally harmful production and consumption.
- Support and strengthen opportunities for young people to volunteer in the environmental sector.
- Ensure everyone especially young people has access to eco-friendly infrastructure for living a more sustainable lifestyle.
- Expand research and innovation into eco-friendly solutions and technologies.



11

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

Ensure equal access for all young people to youth organisations and European youth programmes, building a society based on European values and identity.

Youth organisations and European youth programmes involve millions of young people to support their active citizenship and to develop their life skills. However, youth organisations and European youth programmes remain underfunded and lack recognition and accessibility.

- Ensure visibility and provide quality information on youth organisations and European youth programmes for all young people.
- Ensure sufficient resources from EU programmes for youth organisations to develop projects and access structural support to carry out their missions and to support their work.
- Ensure youth organisations and European youth programmes are better bridged with the educational systems and acknowledging them as actors fostering life skills and active citizenship.
- Increase the accessibility of European youth programmes, ensure a youth friendly administration process and provide support and quality information for all participants and applicants.
- Reach out to and support marginalised young people to be active in youth organisations, youth groups and EU youth programmes.
- Increase resources, and widen the variety of grants and diversity of initiatives available for youth organisations and youth groups.
- Ensure participation of young people in governance processes of European youth programmes.