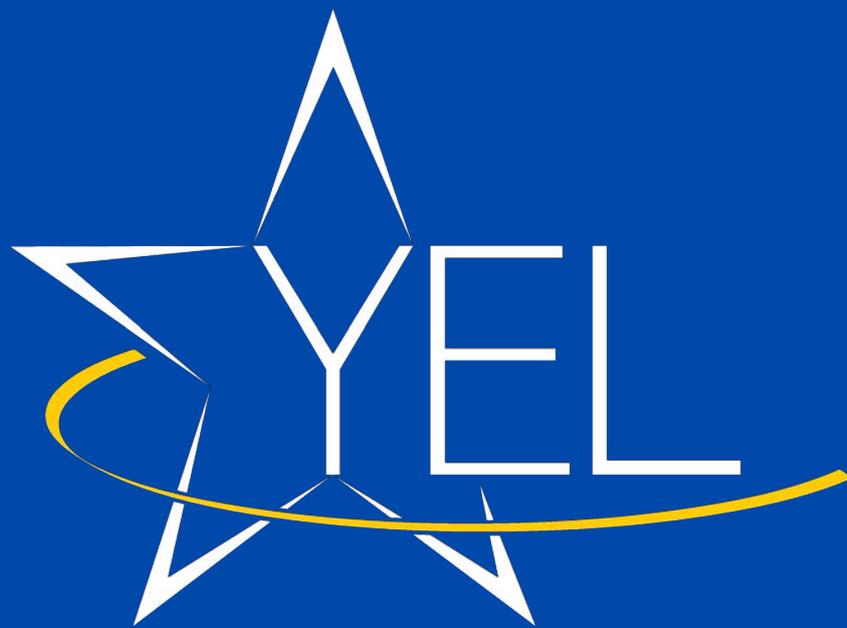


Final Communiqué

Young European Council 2015



Migration and Home Affairs

How can the EU tackle present and future migration and security challenges in a comprehensive approach combining internal and external policies?

1. We suggest implementing the following short-term solutions:

- Extend Frontex's mandate and increase the European Parliament's oversight over Frontex Joint Operations to ensure their transparency and accountability.
- Encourage Member States to fulfil their commitments to support Frontex Joint Operations by providing further personnel and equipment.
- Create new internal 'hotspots' in order to relieve the current pressure at specific entry points at the external borders of the European Union.
- Encourage asylum seekers to participate in community service, thus yielding social gains for their host country and fostering their future integration.

2. We suggest implementing the following long-term solutions:

Security:

- Establish a stand-by European force of border guards (opt-out for non-Schengen members).
- Assess the migratory impact of its action or absence of action, in the exercise of its competence under the Common security and defence policy.
- Consider appropriate means and funding.

Return Policy:

- Encourage Member States to pool their diplomatic resources together to strengthen the EU's bargaining power by:
 - Negotiating EU bilateral agreements on return policy with third countries.
 - Facilitating returns of third country nationals who do not qualify for refugee status.
 - Giving priority to such EU agreements over bilateral agreements previously negotiated by single Member States.
- Ensure that Member States guarantee the fundamental rights safeguarded in the EU Charter when dealing with asylum seekers and irregular migrants and when returning third country nationals.
- Improve the identification of third country nationals previously returned (fingerprints, improved biometric and IT system) to prevent them from re-entering the EU.

Migration and Home Affairs

Legal Migration:

- In order to stop tragedies in the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas, Member States propose the easing of legal migration procedures for asylum seekers and refugees:
 - Create extraterritorial processing centres in refugee camps, to conduct Refugee Status Determination outside of the EU, before refugees enter a European relocation scheme. Cooperate with relevant international organizations (e.g. UNHCR, IOM) to ensure transparency and accountability.
 - Member States may enter the relocation scheme on a voluntary basis.
 - Member States may decide how many refugees they wish to take in under the relocation scheme.
 - Family reunification will be taken into consideration while allocating refugees to the hosting state.

Funding:

- Encourage Member States to provide more funding and material aid to refugee camps in Syria and its neighbourhood. Contributions to the UN World Food Programme should be prioritized. In this way the EU will be able to perform more efficiently one of its paramount duties in light of the ongoing conflicts in the MENA region.
- Amend the Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020) to tackle the migration crisis: encourage Member States to increase (through re-allocation) the share of commitments dedicated to the heading 'Security and Citizenship' compared with the total budget.

Energy Union and Climate Action

How can the Energy Union lead Europe to a sustainable energy system?

1. Increase energy security, diversify the energy mix and include more suppliers by

- a. Creating a voluntary framework, dealing with negotiations of external gas suppliers for member states to opt-in as to increase bargaining power and economies of scale;
- b. Increase security of supply through EU investment infrastructure and fast-track projects of common interest pertaining to gas interconnections, including LNG terminals, in order to increase independence;
- c. Providing a roadmap of affordable, decarbonised base load, by means of modern nuclear power, energy storage solutions, Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS) and an integrated, pan-European, electricity grid.

2. Take action for the climate by:

- a. Decarbonising baseload to meet the emission reduction targets as a matter of urgency, stressing that nuclear power is the only zero-emission baseload alongside hydro, that GenIV plants' passive safety & recycling features makes them suitable and acknowledges that an integrated EU grid allows countries to opt out of nuclear power;
- b. Joining the Electromobility & GreeneMotion programs by a project supporting the electrification of the vehicle fleet combined with suitable infrastructure, supplied by a European smart grid, that seeks to incentivise the purchase of electric cars and green transportation system in Europe;
- c. The creation of financial instruments, which favour investments in low carbon projects.

3. Increase European energy cooperation by:

- a. Stressing the importance of a cross-border electricity infrastructure, smart grids and interconnectors through transnational investment mechanisms, especially in peripheral regions of the EU to achieve a pan-European grid;
- b. Creating a funding add-on programme on top of HORIZON2020 relating to research in energy storage, renewable & nuclear energy and new information technology, with special emphasis on affordability, accessibility, commercialisation, optimisation, security and waste issues;
- c. Taking a current percentage of the `Connecting Europe Facility programme and investing in renewable energy infrastructure and research;
- d. Promoting the uptake of low carbon technology and supporting entrepreneurial initiatives for young professional via enlargement of the European Energy Research Alliance, include the private sector and make it a permanent institution;
- e. Enhancing public awareness on energy issues and promoting educational exchanges between students, entrepreneurs and energy experts by informative campaigns.

Education to Employment

To address the current skills mismatch and youth unemployment issues, we suggest to European institutions the following:

1. To close the employability gap between employers' expectations and job seekers' employability by

- Creating an interactive online platform to match young people's competences to the skills required by the labour market;
- Extending the EU Careers Ambassadors Scheme to include schools and vocational educational institutions to support young people towards underrepresented career fields and development opportunities;
- Addressing the skills mismatch in the labour market by closing the wage gap between apprenticeships, traineeships and unskilled labour by attracting young people into skilled roles;
- Creating an Ombudsman for Youth Rights which would help inform young people of their rights and advocate for youth across the European Union;
- Welcoming the Youth Guarantee and the Youth Employment Initiative. We recommend that further strengthening of both programmes should take place in all Member States.

2. To build a supportive and accessible education system preparing youth for work by

- Creating guidelines and teacher trainings to encourage Member States to develop course content, teaching, and assessment methods which would enhance transferable skills to increase employment prospects;
- Reviewing the Bologna process ensuring simple accreditation of courses and degrees, providing for free choice of degrees within requirements to allow for individualized education;
- Creating an online communication platform for in-class usage to connect students of all ages internationally and enable them to enhance their communication skills and introduce language education from a pre-school level.

3. To foster a culture of entrepreneurialism and internationalisation within youth by

- Creating a business risk guarantee for young start-ups, limiting the personal financial risks and allowing for reconstruction of the business, i.e. following the US Chapter 11 example;
- Increasing efforts towards developing the practical competencies necessary for scale-up entrepreneurship through further investing in initiatives such as Startup Europe Partnership;
- Creating a new programme that will bring together youth and experienced individuals to create new intergenerational and sustainable businesses in Europe;
- Simplifying and reducing of EU red tape with the aim of decreasing the lengthy administrative, compliance and regulatory burdens on SMEs;
- Targeting the promotion of EURES (European Employment Passport Scheme) to student career services to spread awareness and connectivity to the European jobs market;
- Increasing the support for Erasmus to meet higher demand, and respond to the exchange-participation deficit in Science and Engineering subjects.

Annex: Migration and Home Affairs: Legal Migration: Legal Refugee Intake

- After 2 years (this is subject to change for individual cases at Member States' request) from being granted refugee status and being transferred to the receiving country, the refugee should be given a Refugee Card, allowing him or her to move freely and work within the Schengen zone (including Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania). This would give Member States enough time to apply integration measures such as providing classes to the said refugees in the national languages of the Member States hosting them.
- Encourage EU Member States to tackle the issue of ghettoization, racism and radicalization in their territories, possibly with funds from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and taking into account the best practices in this field on part of other Member States. This would help solve two problems: a) it would curb the progressive radicalisation of second and third-generation migrants who are EU nationals and live largely in parallel societies; b) it would also provide incentives to Member States to grant asylum and refugee status to more victims of forced resettlement outside EU borders, particularly in the MENA region.

Annex: Energy and Climate Action

How can the Energy Union lead Europe to a sustainable energy system?

1. Energy Security

a.1. In respect of solidarity provided by Article 194 of the TFEU, Member States can decide to enter into a binding agreement, transferring competence for negotiations for gas supply with non-EU States and public and private undertakings to a supranational body within the scope of EU law. The parties of the agreement have to determine a date for the start of binding obligations;

b.1. Renew the Northern Dimension Policy to export Canadian natural gas to Finland, via the Atlantic Gateway and Trade corridor. EU investment in infrastructure and fast-track projects, focusing on member states with high reliance on single energy suppliers. Projects of common interest including the Baltics, the countries of Eastern and Central Europe;

b.2. Renew the Northern Dimension Policy, and within this framework extending relations via the Atlantic Gateway and Trade Corridor to export Canadian natural gas to Finland, who is currently 100% reliable on Russian natural gas. The NDP includes Scandinavian countries, EU and Russia. Canada currently has own sovereign arctic policy. Developed in 1999, renewed in 2007 (8 years difference). 2015 (another 8 years later) this it is time to renew it once again, this time with Canada joining as originally intended;

b.3. Natural gas is cheap and a viable alternative to fossil fuels. LNG terminals on Canada's Atlantic coast and ship to Spain, since it is geographically closest. Once LNG is in Spain, internal connectors will be used to transfer gas throughout EU;

c.1. Modern nuclear power encompasses Generation III, III+ and IV fission reactor concepts, as well as nuclear fusion power when this technology comes of age;

c.2. Energy storage solutions, including pumped storage and batteries, will address the fluctuation of renewable energy sources and, eventually, allow for this to be exported;

c.3. Carbon Capture & Storage is envisaged as a short-term solution before fossil fuelled energy sources are phased out, in line with EU emission targets;

c.4. An Integrated electricity grid between member states would allow for shortfalls/surpluses in the electricity grid to be addressed by allowing for cross-border import/export.

2. Climate Action

- a.1. Nuclear power includes fission and fusion concepts;
- b.1. The efficiency of this project is dependent on a decarbonisation of baseload;
- c.1. Not technically specified, but supporting all types of low carbon projects, including nuclear, wind & solar etc.

3. European cooperation

- a.1. Smart focused electric connections to solve energy isolation, poverty and dependence. Creation of mechanisms in favor of regional cooperation. Regional plans, such as BEMIP & the proposed North Sea grid, should be prioritised;
- c.1. Current budget is 1.14 billion;
- d.1. Increase the attractiveness of the “research to market” studies and develop workable solutions through the entrepreneurial initiatives for young professionals from and in between different countries in EU. The European Energy Research Alliance should be enlarged to include more nations.

Final Communiqué
Young European Council



Signees to the Final Communiqué

Mr. Clément Diot
Chair Panel *Migration and Home Affairs*

Ms. Emma Wiesner
Chair Panel *Energy Union and Climate Action*

Mr. Gary Paterson
Chair Panel *Education to Employment*

Young European Council

The Young European Council (YEC) is an annual event, conceptualised and implemented by Young European Leadership. The YEC convenes three delegates from each of the 28 European Union Member States. The outcomes of the conference aim to be practical in order to inform European policymaking. The YEC 2015 focuses on three pressing topics for Europe's future and the future of young people: *Migration and Home Affairs*, *Energy Union and Climate Action*, and *Education to Employment*. The YEC also features *Eat & Meet*, a successful program of YEL implemented in several European cities, connecting aspiring and experienced leaders in an informal environment over dinner. The outcomes of the negotiations are directly communicated to relevant European and international decision makers. In addition participants visit central European Union institutions, e.g. the European Committee of the Regions, the European Commission and the European Parliament.

Speakers and Guests to the YEC 2015

- Mr. Markku Markkula, *President of the European Committee the Regions*
- Mr. Ambassador Torbjørn Frøysnes, *Council of Europe Head of the Brussels Liaison Office*
- Mr. Henri Malosse, *Former President of the European Economic and Social Committee*
- Ms. Ambassador Laura Thompson, *Deputy Director of the International Organization for Migration*
- Mr. Michel Servoz, *Director General of the DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (EMPL) at the European Commission*
- Mr. Alexandre Paquot, *Head of Unit Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of the DG CLIMA at the European Commission*
- Ms. Jean Lambert, *Member of the European Parliament*
- Mr. Ryan Heath, *Senior EU Correspondent and Associate Editor at POLITICO*
- Mr. László Andor, *Former Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*
- Ms. Iverna McGowan, *Acting Director of Amnesty International EU Institutions Office*
- Ms. Ulrike Storost, *Team leader of the youth employment team in the Commission's DG Employment European Commission*
- Ms. Kavita Ahluwalia, *Manager at EU Representative Office at E.On*
- Ms. Valeria Ronzitti, *Secretary General European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services (CEEP)*
- Ms. Marie Donnelly, *Director in DG Energy at the European Commission*
- Mr. Rodrigo Ballester, *Member of Cabinet of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport at the European Commission*
- Mr. Gabriele Sospiro, *Director of European Centre for Economics, Policy Analysis and Affair*

Young European Leadership (YEL) is an international non-profit and nonpartisan organisation dedicated to empowering young leaders and future decision makers from Europe and beyond. YEL aims to inspire these leaders from all backgrounds to shape the future of Europe, fostering innovative solutions to local and global challenges. YEL provides aspiring leaders with innovative forms of engagement to directly connect with experienced decision makers from all sectors. One of the responsibilities of YEL is to recruit and train the delegations of the European Union to the annual Y20 Summits, the official youth outreach of the G20 Summits. Other activities include the C20 Summits and delegations to international conferences, e.g. the UNFCCC / COP, OECD Forum, European Development Days, or Nuclear Knowledge Summit.