

European Youth Convention

Brussels, 9 to 12 July 2002

Practical information

In his introductory speech on 28 February, the Chairman of the Convention, Mr Giscard d'Estaing, said he hoped that a **"Convention for the Young People of Europe"** might be organised on the model of the Convention itself, as set up by the Heads of State and Government at the Laeken European Council.

This event will be held in Brussels from 9 to 12 July on the premises of the European Parliament. It will bring together 210 young Europeans from the 28 Member and candidate States participating in the Convention. The participants, who will be appointed by the adult Convention members, taking account of the proposals submitted by youth organisations, will be asked to prepare together and to express to the Convention their vision of the Europe in which they would like to live in 25 or 50 years' time. The young people will meet to draw up their plan, then within the forum of the Convention alongside the adult Convention members to present and discuss it. They will conclude with an overall evaluation.

This information note supplements CONV 15/02, which is available on the Convention website <http://european-convention.eu.int>, and replies to the following questions:

1. **Who are the organisers of the event?**
2. **How will participants be appointed and how does one express interest in being a candidate?**
3. **What will be the programme of the event?**
4. **What provisions have been made for covering participants' costs?**
5. **How can information be obtained on the Convention and the public debate on the future of the Union?**

Who are the organisers of the event?

The Youth Convention is an initiative of the Convention on the future of the European Union and was approved by the latter at its meeting on 15 and 16 April. It also falls within the context of the European Commission White Paper on youth adopted in November 2001.

It is organised by the Convention Secretariat with the cooperation of the European Youth Forum (<http://www.youthforum.org>), a network comprising many associations active at European and national level.

It is funded jointly by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Convention Secretariat.

How will participants be appointed and how does one express interest in being a candidate?

Young people must be aged from 18 to 25 years.

It is planned to have two categories of participants:

(A) Country representatives (Member or candidate States):

168 young people (6 per country) will be appointed before 5 June by the full and alternate members of the Convention representing national Parliaments or governments. Members may make their choice either individually or in consultation with the other Convention members from the same country. They have been asked to take account of the proposals submitted by youth organisations active at national level and to respect an overall balance among the young people (age, professional origin, sex, rural/urban areas, members/non-members of associations, etc.).

To participate in this category, an application (with CV and contact details including telephone number and, if possible, e-mail address) should be forwarded:

- either by contacting direct the Convention members representing their country, the list of whom is given on the following website:
<http://european-convention.eu.int>
- or to the national youth organisations, by 16 May at the latest: details of those organisations affiliated to the European Youth Forum may be found at the following Internet address: <http://youthforum.org/organisation/members.html>. Youth associations which are not affiliated may also forward their proposals direct to the Convention members or via the National Youth Council of their country.

(B) Representatives of persons appointed at European level:

32 young people will be chosen by the Convention members appointed by the European Parliament.

4 young people will be chosen by the Convention members appointed by the European

Commission.

6 young people will be chosen by the Chairman, Mr Giscard d'Estaing, and the two Vice-Chairmen of the Convention, Mr Amato and Mr Dehaene.

In appointing these young people, the proposals submitted by organisations active at European level will be taken into account.

To participate in this category:

- the international youth organisations should be contacted before 16 May: the details of those affiliated to the European Youth Forum may be found at the following Internet address: <http://youthforum.org/organisation/members.html>; these organisations will forward applications to the European Youth Forum, which in turn will submit proposals to the Convention members concerned.
- applications should be sent, by 16 May at the latest, to the Secretariat of the European Parliament delegation within the Convention, at the following e-mail address: ep-youthconvention@europarl.eu.int

What programme is planned for the event?

Tuesday 9 July, afternoon:

Young people arrive in Brussels, assembling at the European Parliament.

Introductory and preparatory meeting, adoption of working methods and welcome dinner.

Wednesday 10 July:

Morning: Formal opening of the Youth Convention, then plenary working meeting.

Afternoon: Working session (possibly in groups).

Thursday 11 July:

Morning: further discussions of the Youth Convention.

Afternoon: opening of the European Convention session. Some of the young people attend alongside the adult Convention members. Further discussions of the Youth Convention in the afternoon.

Friday 12 July:

Morning: resumption of the European Convention. Official presentation by the young people of the outcome of their discussions, followed by a debate in which young people and adult Convention members participate.

Late morning: press conference of youth representatives

Afternoon: overall evaluation of the Youth Convention, possibly followed by a closing dinner.

Saturday 13 July:

Free day

Sunday 14 July:

Return journey for young people travelling by air.

What provisions have been made for covering participants' costs?

The precise details of how participants' expenses will be covered have not yet been determined. However, they should include:

1. Return travel expenses between the country of origin and Brussels by plane or train, depending on the distance and according to arrangements allowing for use of APEX fares.
2. Accommodation costs in Brussels from Tuesday evening, 9 July, until Sunday morning, 14 July, in double rooms in hotels reserved by the European Youth Forum.
3. Meals on Tuesday evening, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday lunch-time, which will be provided.

No daily allowance will be paid in addition to these expenses. It is essential that candidates do not proceed to make their own transport reservations without having received written confirmation of their participation from the Youth Forum.

How can information be obtained on the Convention and the public debate on the future of the Union?

The following Internet sites may be consulted:

Convention: <http://european-convention.eu.int>

Futurum: <http://europa.eu.int/futurum>

Forum: http://europa.eu.int/futurum/forum_convention/index_en.htm

European Parliament: <http://europarl.eu.int/europe2004>

It could also be useful to consult the "Laeken Declaration":

http://europa.eu.int/futurum/documents/offtext/doc151201_en.htm
