

INFORMATION NOTE

from :	Secretariat
to :	Convention
Subject :	Youth Convention

In his introductory speech on 28 February, the Chairman of the Convention said he hoped that a "Convention for the Young People of Europe" might be organised on the model of the Convention itself. This proposal received wide support and many requests or proposals have been made. Preliminary information was provided by the Chairman at the meeting on 21 and 22 March.

The Secretariat, in cooperation with the Commission and the European Parliament, has drawn up a detailed proposal which was approved at the meeting of the Praesidium on 27 March:

1. General presentation

The organisational and operational arrangements will be modelled as closely as possible on those of the Convention (interpreters, premises, etc.). They will encourage exchanges between young people and the members of the Convention.

The total number of Youth Convention members has been fixed at 210, broken down as follows: 168 chosen by the full and alternate members of the Convention representing national Parliaments or governments (6 per country), 32 by the representatives of the European Parliament, 4 by Commission representatives and 6 by the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen. The lower age limit has been set at 18 (legal majority), the upper limit at 25. No distinction will be made between full and alternate members within the Youth Convention.

As regards the appointment of Youth Convention members, the adult Convention members representing the national Parliaments and governments will take account of the proposals submitted by youth organisations active at national level. They may make this choice individually or in cooperation with the other Convention members from the same country.

The Convention members representing the European Parliament and the Commission, as well as the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, will take account of the proposals submitted to them by the organisations operating at European level.

In making their choice, the Convention members are asked to respect an overall balance in order to ensure representative diversity within the Youth Convention: age, sex, occupational status, rural/urban areas, members/non-members of associations, etc.

2. Timetable

The Youth Convention will be held in Brussels from 9 to 14 July on the premises of the European Parliament:

- Tuesday 9 July, late afternoon: opening, followed by welcome dinner;
- Wednesday 10 July: Youth Convention discussions;
- Thursday 11 July, morning: further discussion and adoption of conclusions;

- Thursday 11 July, afternoon: the adult Convention takes note of the proceedings of the Youth Convention and welcomes the participants to join it (European Parliament hemicycle) / alternative: the Youth Convention continues its discussions;
- Friday 12, morning: continuation of the Convention / alternative: presentation of the Youth Convention's discussions to the adult Convention;
- Friday 12, afternoon: the Youth Convention draws up a report of its discussions and engages in an exchange of experiences, possibly followed by a closing dinner;
- Sunday 14: departure.

3. Projected budget

The estimated cost of this event is EUR 150 000. This estimate covers 5 nights in a hotel (EUR 40 per person in double rooms), air travel costs, meals and the other organisation costs (especially the Youth Forum).

The Commission is prepared to contribute EUR 120 000. The remainder, i.e. EUR 30 000, will be covered by the Convention budget. Interpreting costs and the provision of rooms are not included in this budget and will be borne directly by the European Parliament.

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Convention members are asked to forward to the Secretariat (for the attention of Alessandra Schiavo or Etienne de Poncins), by Wednesday 5 June, the names of the young people selected, together with a brief curriculum vitae and their contact details.

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