



MEP BSR Manifesto for Europe

The European Union as a uniting force for the future



The European Union has since its inception functioned as a uniting force for the citizens of Europe, but that force is slowly fading away. We believe that it is paramount that the EU strives to unite European citizens, and with only a quarter of European youth participating in EU elections, the EU should strive to increase youth democratic participation. We believe this can be done by uniting Europe through policies relating to education, the environment, as well as ensuring that the future of European technological development further improves and, placing more trust in the EU to help European integration.

- 1. Erasmus+ and Education** - Erasmus+ is an instrumental project that brings European citizens together and helps a cultural exchange between youth, which is largely beneficial for helping Europeans across different states feel more united. In times of isolationism and fake news, the importance of communication to better understand one another is immeasurable. The Erasmus+ project also provides the opportunity of studying, working and volunteering abroad to millions of Europeans. This number could be further increased due to the fact that 89 million youth in Europe could qualify for such programs. The EU is currently funding a large number of educational programs, such as the MEP, which helps to increase youth participation in the EU, and so we heavily encourage further funding of these programs. Even beyond these programs, Erasmus+ also aims to motivate adult citizens to better their education by additional studies or by learning new skills that are valuable to the labour market. Because of this, we believe that it is crucial for Erasmus+ and other projects like it to continue after 2020.
- 2. Environment** - The environment is the surroundings in which we live, and the source of life itself. Unfortunately, it is taking a turn for the worst, and as the environment's quality deteriorates, so does our way of life. Seeing that the climate affects all EU citizens, and does not take physical borders between states into consideration, the question of climate change can be an issue all citizens of Europe can rally behind. In light of the School Strike for Climate, we can see without a doubt that the youth, and so the future of the EU are highly prioritized with saving the climate. That is why we believe it is of utmost importance that the EU takes great strides to achieve lower greenhouse gas emissions across all of Europe as well as verifying that the key EU targets for 2030 are met, and are followed by all EU member states.



- 3. Digital Single Market** - The single market is the core of European cooperation and for future generations to fully benefit from the established function of free movement, we believe that the EU must expedite its efforts towards a fully implemented digital single market. There needs to be an abolishment of barriers when using online tools and services. This is not only important to foster further economic growth but also for connecting youth across the whole of Europe. We believe that this could be a tool for youth to understand and appreciate member states' different cultures, and ultimately nurture European unity. Moreover, even major nations like France and Germany are lagging behind in terms of technological advancement. In light of this, we believe that cooperating in establishing further telecommunication infrastructure can connect Europeans across the continent.

- 4. Trust, Isolationism and the Future of the EU** - The rise of isolationist forces and the lack of trust in the EU have increased substantially in the last decades, inevitably posing a threat to the EU as we know it today. To safeguard the EU as a force of unification, we believe that we need to reconcile the opposing ideas of further European integration and that of member states' sovereignty. As youth, we need to embrace the concept of each member state being unique and irreplaceable in European cooperation, and finding a common consensus on issues and policies is the only way that the EU can act efficiently as a global force. Otherwise, the debate will make the union stagnant and eventually fragmentize.

To further enhance youth citizens' trust in the European institutions, we believe that the EU needs to sincerely address and take action on the legitimate political concerns brought forward by isolationist forces and parties, while not approving of their often discriminatory rhetoric. To listen and act upon citizens' real concerns about the EU is the only way to decrease the existing divides among voters and ensure that future generations maintain and advance the liberal order which the European Union was founded upon.

If the EU is able to work towards the goals within these four areas of interest set forth by this manifesto, it could revitalize its position as a uniting force for the future.

On behalf of the MEP BSR Seminar in Copenhagen – April 27th 2019,
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