

Confidence in Tomorrow

Statement by the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)

16 May 2024, Strasbourg

The youth event *Confidence in Tomorrow*, organised as part of Liechtenstein's Presidency of the Committee of Ministers and of the celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe, was held at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg from 14 to 16 May 2024. This gathering showcased the leadership and vision of young Europeans, whose active participation inspires us profoundly. The event underscored the crucial role of young representatives in steering our democratic institutions towards a vibrant future.

The discussions over the past three days highlighted the urgent need for youth empowerment mechanisms, not just as decision-makers but as architects of innovative solutions. The participants tackled complex issues such as climate action, digital rights, youthful institutions, democratic backsliding and inclusive governance with remarkable insight and determination, demonstrating their potential to advance our core values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

Reflecting on the origins of the Council of Europe, founded to unite a continent devastated by war under the shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, we recognise the ongoing challenges facing Europe. The spirit of unity and collaboration, however, remains strong. The Reykjavik Declaration's emphasis on promoting the youth perspective in democracy is a testament to our commitment to investing in our democratic future.

Confidence in Tomorrow was more than a celebration; it was a forward-looking initiative to harness young people's creativity, energy, and resolve to rejuvenate democracy and strengthen our human rights framework. The event provided a platform for young people to address pressing challenges and offer solutions, showcasing their readiness to reshape policies that will define the future of Europe.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the young leaders who contributed their visionary proposals, setting a course for a collaborative and vibrant future for Europe. The Council of Europe is committed to fostering environments where young people can fully and effectively exercise their leadership, ensuring they have the necessary tools and opportunities to do so.

As we reflect on the success of this event, it is evident that the legacy of the Council of Europe's 75th anniversary affirms the vital role youth leadership plays in the Organisation's work. We are excited to continue supporting young people as they

demonstrate that true leadership means making impactful changes for the benefit of society, not just holding positions of authority.

In the spirit of the Youth Sector Strategy 2030 and with our full support for the implementation of the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy, we reaffirm our dedication to a Europe where young people are not only inheritors of democratic values but active architects of their evolution. The Advisory Council on Youth is committed to this vision and supports initiatives that embody these ideals, ensuring that the Council of Europe's legacy remains vibrant and relevant for future generations.

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