



YOUTH FOR PLANET PROTECTION: A CALL TO ACTION

The Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) have been increasingly active in environmental governance, recognising the link between human rights and a healthy environment. PACE has called for stronger legal protections, urging member States to implement ambitious climate policies and uphold environmental democracy. The event aims to engage young leaders in shaping sustainable policies, promoting accountability and legislative action for a greener, more sustainable Europe.

Date: Thursday, 20 March 2025 from 9:45 - 10:45

Venue: Room 11, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg

Objectives

1. Empower young voices to champion environmental policy, showcasing the Council of Europe and Parliamentary Assembly's environmental standards and action;
2. Promote meaningful youth engagement in shaping policies for a sustainable future.

Themes

- ▶ **Youth Influence on Policy:** Empowering young people to envision their role in policymaking.
- ▶ **Council of Europe Standards:** Showcasing how existing frameworks can be activated by youth to drive environmental change.
- ▶ **Action & Accountability:** From ideas to action – how youth can impact real policy for a sustainable Europe.



Program

A. Inspiring Talk – Why protecting the planet matters for future generations

- ▶ **Martin Hojsík**, Vice-President of the European Parliament

Followed by reactions/interventions from the audience

B. Spotlight on Standards: “Environment & Rights”

- ▶ **Gianluca Esposito**, Director General, Council of Europe Directorate General: Human Rights and Rule of Law

C. Youth-Led Panel: “Our Planet, Our Policy”

- ▶ **Nina Grmuša**, Chair of the Council of Europe Advisory Youth Council
- ▶ **Linus Dolder**, Co-founder of Climatestrike Switzerland
- ▶ **Féris Barkat**, Banlieues Climat France

D. Interactive Debate/Exchange: “If I Were a Parliamentarian...”

■ Exchange with audience participation: panellists propose policies to protect the environment if they were in office. Audience reacts to proposals.

E. Closing Pledge/or Call to Action: “Our Green Pledge”

■ Moderator summarises key takeaways and launches a “Green Pledge” challenge, encouraging young participants to drive local action and policy impact.

Moderator

- ▶ **Jeremy Moakes**, Council of Europe

