



SEEN, HEARD, AND IN CHARGE: OUR ROLE IN ACTIVELY EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

Venue: Grand Hotel Excelsior Malta, the Grand Ballroom

Date: Friday, 23 May 2025 from 16:30 - 18:00

Parliamentary Round Table organised by the PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division in collaboration with the Maltese Delegation to PACE

Background

Young people across Europe are demanding a greater say in the decisions that shape their future. From climate activism to civic engagement and digital innovation, their energy, ideas, and commitment are already revitalising democratic life. Yet too often, they remain excluded from formal decision-making spaces. This Round Table builds on ongoing efforts by the Parliamentary Assembly to place youth more centrally in its activities. In its Resolution 2553 (2024) on [“Strengthening the youth perspective in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly”](#), PACE recognised the importance of mainstreaming youth concerns across its work and committed to enhanced cooperation with youth representatives. Furthermore, PACE is currently preparing a dedicated report on [“The Role of Youth in Revitalising Democracy”](#). This work builds on previous resolutions and recommendations, aiming to identify how political institutions can go beyond consultation to foster real co-decision making with young people. The Round Table further reflects this commitment by creating a space for intergenerational dialogue and concrete collaboration between parliamentarians and young changemakers.

Parliaments play a central role in enabling this shift, from adapting procedures to ensure youth voices are heard, to using their convening power to embed young people in policy design and oversight. This Round Table seeks to highlight concrete steps parliamentarians can take to actively empower youth by supporting youth-led initiatives, removing barriers to political participation, and institutionalising youth engagement in legislative processes. With insights from both institutional leaders and youth representatives, the discussion will focus on bridging the gap between commitment and practice: making “seen, heard, and in charge” a democratic norm, not an exception.



PARLAMENT TA' MALTA



Presidency of Malta
Council of Europe
May - November 2025
Présidence de Malte
Conseil de l'Europe
Mai - Novembre 2025



Draft Programme

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- ▶ **Hon Angelo Farrugia**, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malta
- ▶ **Mr. Theodoros Rousopoulos**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Thematic Session

- ▶ **Institutional innovation**: How national parliaments can better integrate youth voices
- ▶ **Youth policy frameworks** and opportunities for co-creation with parliaments
- ▶ **Youth perspectives**: What real empowerment means in political spaces

Speakers

- ▶ **Hon. Clifton Grima**, Minister for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation
- ▶ **Ms. Cherise Sultana**, President of the Maltese National Youth Council
- ▶ **Ms. Yevheniia Kravchuk**, Chairperson of the PACE Sub-Committee on Youth and the Society of the Future
- ▶ **Ms. Miriam Teuma**, Chair of the European Steering committee for Youth (CDEJ) and Vice-Chair of the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ)

Discussion

Conclusions

- ▶ **Ms. Naomi Cachia**, Chairperson of the Maltese Delegation to PACE
- ▶ **Ms. Despina Chatzivassiliou**, PACE Secretary General

Moderator

- ▶ **Ms. Naomi Cachia**, Chairperson of the Maltese Delegation to PACE