

The May issue looks at:

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### **(1) The big picture**

The United Kingdom Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers will draw to an end on 23 May 2012 when Albania will take over as Chair of the Committee of Ministers until November 2012. The events organised during the Albanian Chairmanship include a youth peace camp, a regional youth conference (in the framework of the partnership with the European Commission) and the 2012 “Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue”.

The Committee of Ministers adopted a Recommendation on the protection of human rights with regard to social networking services ([CM/Rec\(2012\)4](#)). The text contains several demands to protect children and young people against harmful content and behaviour, such as the setting up of easily accessible mechanisms for reporting inappropriate or apparently illegal content or behaviour.

In its April part-session, the Parliamentary Assembly adopted [Resolution 1874 \(2012\)](#) on the promotion of active citizenship in Europe. The Assembly calls on the member states of the Council of Europe to put in place, in so far as possible, “independent statutory or informal youth councils in connection with their local and national decision-making bodies, with a view to ensuring the possibility for young people to have a say in decisions affecting them”.

During the session, the PACE Committee of Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development held an exchange of views on “The young generation sacrificed: political, social, economic and other consequences of the financial crisis” (rapporteur: Mr Luca Volonté,

Italy). Preliminary comments have been submitted by Sergio Belfor, AC Vice Chair. Final AC comments will be sent in time for the adoption of the report at the PACE session in June.

The June part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly will contribute to the celebrations of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Europe youth sector by an open meeting and debate involving prominent youth personalities on “a vision for the future”.

## **(2) Youth Department update**

In April a first meeting involving youth representatives was held to prepare the “Youth Assembly 2012”, planned to be held just before the 2012 “Strasbourg World Forum for Democracy” on 8-11 October. The youth event will look at “Youth and Democracy: the young generation sacrificed?”. A second preparatory meeting will be held in June.

The youth policy review in Ukraine kicked off to a good start by a first visit of the expert team on 16-22 April concentrating on the northern part of the country. The next visit will take place in September 2012 and will focus on the southern part of the country. Results will be presented during a national hearing towards the end of the year.

In May, the Bureaus of the European Steering Committee for Youth ([CDEJ](#)) and the Advisory Council on Youth ([CCJ](#)) will meet in Strasbourg (23-24 May). A meeting of Senior Officials will meet on 22 May in Strasbourg to prepare the 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of Ministers responsible for youth (St. Petersburg, 23-25 September 2012). The conference will be preceded by a Youth Event on 22-23 September 2012.

The training course for young bloggers and on-line activists, part of the project “On-line Human Rights Defenders”, originally scheduled to be held in May will now be held in June.

Events in May include:

- Preparatory meeting for the Youth Peace Camp (EYCB, 5-9 May 2012)
- Minorities of Europe (MoE) on “Minority Rights Protection – 20 Years On”(EYCB, 6-13 May)

- Training seminar for specialists on youth work of state authorities and representatives of non-governmental youth organisations from the Russian Federation (“50/50 training”) (EYCS, 7-13 May 2012)

Looking further ahead:

A symposium on the well-being of young people in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, organised in the framework of the EU-CoE youth partnership, will take place in Georgia on 11-12 June 2012. The call and application form is available on the [partnership website](#).

The Council of Europe has launched a call for participants for the 4th International Youth Camp “Dialogue 2012”, to be held in Kaluga Region, Russian Federation on 11-15 July 2012. Information will soon be available on the [CoE youth website](#).

A call for expression of interest was sent out regarding the 2012 “CDEJ Summer University” to be held in Georgia on 28 to 30 August 2012 thanks to the kind invitation of the Georgian authorities. On 27 August, the Summer University will be preceded by an optional information day on the Council of Europe youth policy, programmes and structures.

Latest staff movements include the arrival of Ms Sarah Walters who replaces Ms Evelyne Caré-Colin in the financial unit of the Youth Department in Strasbourg.

### **(3) Other Council of Europe news**

On 2 May the Committee of Ministers decided to submit to the Parliamentary Assembly the names of the two candidates for the post of Deputy Secretary General in the 2012-2015 period. Both are well-known to the youth field: Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragnoni, currently Director General for Programmes (and for a long time Director General with responsibility for youth); and Mr Gérard Stoudman, currently Special Representative for Organisational Development and Reform. PACE will elect the new Deputy Secretary General at the end of June.

An Institutional Meeting on Africa Europe Youth Cooperation is being organised by the [North South Centre](#) on 26 May 2012 in Braga, Portugal (in the framework of Braga 2012 European Youth Capital). On 25 May the participants are invited to take part in the Seminar on

Africa Europe Youth Cooperation and the celebrations of the Africa Day in the European Youth Capital.

#### **(4) Other news**

In answer to their [open letter](#) to UN Secretary General regarding the appointment of a UN Special Advisory on Youth, ICMYO members were received by Assistant Secretary General Rachel N. Mayanja who [commented](#) on their recommendations and expectations.

A report on “The youth employment crisis: Time for action” is now available for discussion by delegates at the 101<sup>st</sup> International Labour Conference of the [ILO](#) (Geneva, 30 May to 15 June 2012).

An official Rio+20 event, the “[Youth Blast](#) Conference of Youth for Rio+20” will create a space in which youth, who have been working together from across the planet, can assemble and create a unified youth vision for the future of sustainable development and inclusive policy will be organised on 7-12 June to prepare for the UN Conference on sustainable development (Rio+20) on 20-22 June.

#### **(5) Publications**

The Council of Europe has just published a collection of essays on “[1989 - Young people and social change after the fall of the Berlin Wall](#)” The collection examines the circumstances of young people in eastern Europe before and after 1989 from a variety of angles: their transition to adulthood; their living conditions; the scope they have for social participation; the way in which they construct their identities and constitute and represent current social realities; their cultures and genders; and the interplay of continuities and discontinuities around this historic watershed.

Best regards

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Abbreviations:

CCJ: Advisory Council on Youth  
CDEJ: European Steering Committee on Youth  
CM: Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe  
CMJ: Joint Council on Youth  
CoE: Council of Europe  
Congress: The Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities  
DDCP: Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation of the Council of Europe  
DG: Directorate General  
EuroDIG: European Dialogue on Internet Governance  
EYCB: European Youth Centre Budapest  
EYCS: European Youth Centre Strasbourg  
EYF: European Youth Foundation  
ICMYO: International coordination meeting of youth organisations  
ILO: International Labour Organisation  
PACE: Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

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