



YOUTH FOR PLANET PROTECTION: A CALL TO ACTION

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

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

SPEAKERS

Martin Hojsík

Vice-President of the European Parliament



Martin Hojsík is a Slovak member of the European Parliament for Progresívne Slovensko part of the Renew Europe group. He is a Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and vice chair of Committee of Inquiry on the Protection of Animals during Transport (ANIT) as well as substitute in Committee on Budgets (BUDG) and Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). In the European Parliament, his work focuses among others on chemical policies, including pesticides, pollinators protection, climate and biodiversity financing. Hojsík has a longstanding experience in matters of environmental protection and climate change.

Over the past 25 year, he worked in a number of international organizations. He led national and international campaigns against toxic substances and waste in Greenpeace. He was a member of the board of FOUR PAWS International where he led the programme on animal protection. He remains the main environmental expert in the Progressive Slovakia.



Gianluca Esposito Director General

Gianluca Esposito has been Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe since 1 August 2024.

He was previously the Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Prior to this, he served as Executive Secretary of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), Head of the Crime Problems Department, and Head of the Equality and Human Dignity Department.

Gianluca started his career at the Council of Europe in 1995 where he was involved in the negotiation of several conventions and other legal instruments, in the areas of nationality, anti-corruption, cybercrime, the efficiency of justice, combating trafficking in human beings, money laundering, terrorism and its financing. From 2005 to 2009, he was an adviser in the Private Office of the Council of Europe's Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General. Gianluca served as the Council of Europe's first Ethics Officer.

From 2009 to 2015, Gianluca was as a Senior Counsel in the Legal Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, DC.



Nina Grmuša Chair, Advisory Council on Youth

As Chairperson of the Advisory Council on Youth, Ms. Grmuša leverages her extensive experience in fostering inclusive environments and collaborating with youth civil society organizations. With a background as a youth worker and trainer for the European Federation for Intercultural Learning, she promotes active citizenship, interculturalism, diversity, inclusion, and sustainability in the youth sector. Ms. Grmuša holds academic qualifications in intersectional gender studies, anthropology, indigenous studies, and environmental studies, and is pursuing a second master's in Globalization, Environment, and Social Change. Her education at various prestigious universities has provided her with a deep understanding of complex social, political, and environmental issues. She is dedicated to amplifying youth voices in decision-making processes, and under her leadership, the Council adopted its first Recommendation on Young People and Climate Action. Advocating for youth civil society's role in driving social change, Ms. Grmuša is active in developing a CoE Reference Framework for integrating youth perspectives in the Organization and member states.



Linus Dolder

Co-founder of Climatestrike Switzerland

Linus Dolder co-founded Climatestrikes in Switzerland in 2018, igniting local climate actions and shaping national movement structures. As the first spokesperson for Fridays for Future in Switzerland and later in Germany, he co-organised key events, including the inaugural international strategy summit and a federal conference with over 1,500 participants. From 2021, he led communications and campaigns at the federal level in Germany and represented the movement at major international conferences like COP25 and COP26. Mr Dolder's political experience includes roles as Head of Digital Campaigns for MP Bruno Hönel and Political Advisor to MEP Michael Bloss. He holds degrees in Political and Communicational Sciences from FU Berlin and Sciences Po Aix.



Féris Barkat

Banlieu Climat France

At 22 years old, Féris Barkat is a major figure in climate and social activism in France. Originally from Strasbourg, he left the London School of Economics to educate his generation about climate issues. As co-founder of the association Banlieues Climat, he advocates for an emancipatory ecology and brings a new social perspective to climate challenges, reaching audiences that are typically overlooked in these struggles: young people from working-class neighbourhoods and, more broadly, marginalized minorities.

Mr Féris is working to build a more just world through various means: popular education with the opening of a school in Saint-Ouen, as well as through culture. He combines art and political messaging, as evidenced by his recent actions: the mural projected on the National Assembly (between the two rounds of the recent legislative elections) and the mobilization of a 3-meter canvas with 50 mothers at the Palais de Tokyo, where he has been appointed to the board of the endowment fund. Féris also champions his causes on social media, rallying a community of over 219,000 followers.

Celebrated in the press (Le Monde, Konbini, Quotidien, etc.), recipient of numerous awards and recognitions (30 under 30 Vanity Fair, Talent of Tomorrow Konbini, 30 Leaders LesEchosStart, etc.), Mr Féris has established himself as an influential and credible voice for creating a new narrative around engagement.



Jeremy Moakes

Head of Digital Communication and Editorial Division, Directorate of Communications, Council of Europe

Communications professional with a strong background in human rights, rule of law, and international cooperation. With over thirty years of experience, he managed projects in emerging democracies, including four years in Moscow for the European Commission, and has worked on cooperation programming with Council of Europe member states and their partners. Since 2006, Jeremy has managed key areas of the Council of Europe's communications activities, including web/online and social media communications, audiovisual production, media relations, and public relations. A German/British national, fluent in Russian and French, he has an MPhil in European law, history and politics and a post-graduate diploma in European Community Law.