



# Report on the Youth Policy Dialogue with Magnus Brunner, European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration

Title of Youth Policy Dialogue: Youth Policy Dialogue with Commissioner  
Magnus Brunner

Date: 3 March 2025

Location: Laaerberg Gymnasium/GRG10 in Vienna, Austria



## Introduction

The Youth Policy Dialogue in Vienna brought together over 150 young people from Austria to discuss with European Commissioner Magnus Brunner topics such as 30 years of Austria in the EU, Schengen, drugs and their effects on young people, the growing threat of extremism in the EU, including anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim views as well as migration.

The dialogue took place on 3 March 2025 at the Laaerberg Gymnasium/GRG10 in Vienna and was moderated by Pamela Rath/NewWork. The topics were chosen in accordance with the portfolio of Commissioner Brunner, covering the main aspects of his mandate. Many of the pupils in Laaerberg Gymnasium have migration experience, hence the topics were very relevant for many of the youth panellists and the audience.

## Summary of the online preparatory meeting(s)

The contractor of the Representation in Vienna responsible for youth dialogues held several preparatory meetings with the director of the school and the designated teachers. They covered the selected topics and prepared, together with the Representation and the cabinet of the Commissioner, a catalogue of possible questions for the pupils to voice during the dialogue.

During the preparations, it became clear that the aspect of migration would be the most interesting for the pupils, hence the agenda of the dialogue allocated more time for that topic. Together with the Representation, the contractor briefed the moderator and made sure that she had all the necessary information about the school, the students, topics and structure of the dialogue.

## Summary of the Youth Policy Dialogue (In person-meeting)

The youth dialogue featured 6 youth panellists who were on the panel together with the Commissioner; each student prepared a 2-minute statement. Peers on the podium have the advantage of 'breaking the ice' and encouraging young people from the audience to become more active and ask questions. There were around 150 students in the audience.

The structure of the dialogue was as follows:

- Welcome by Director Karina Heerstraß
- Welcome by the Head of the European Commission Representation in Austria Patrick Lobis
- Opening statement by European Commissioner Magnus Brunner

- Introduction by moderator Pamela Rath
- Thereupon, each thematic priority was initiated by a 2-minute statement by the youth panellists, followed by statements and questions from pupils from the audience. Subsequently, Commissioner Brunner reacted to the statements and replied to questions. At the very end of the dialogue, Commissioner Brunner provided brief closing remarks and thanked the students and the school for the interactive debate.

## Topics of discussion

### **The topics were divided as follows:**

1) 30 years of Austria in the EU (15')

Opportunities for young people, especially Schengen

Ivana (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

2) Responsibilities of Commissioner Brunner

a) Migration (30')

Tim (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

b) Internal security: growing threat of extremism in the EU, including anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim views (10-15')

Nil Su (7<sup>th</sup> grade)

c) Fight against drug-related crime and its impact on young people (10-15')

Norhan (7<sup>th</sup> grade)

3) Expectations for the future of the EU (15')

Aya and Margarita (6<sup>th</sup> grade)

The youth dialogue raised the awareness among the young people present about the 30th anniversary of Austria's membership in the EU and the numerous benefits like freedom of movement, study, travel, and cultural exchange. On the specific portfolio of Commissioner Brunner, it educated and engaged young



people on the functioning, benefits and importance of the Schengen area. It promoted the benefits of Schengen for youth, such as freedom of movement, study, travel, and cultural exchange. Furthermore, students were informed about EU actions to fight drug trafficking and about the growing threat of extremism in the EU, including anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim views and EU actions to fight it. Finally, the discussion highlighted the migration-related challenges that the EU is facing and raised awareness about the Pact on Migration and Asylum.

One youth panellist stressed the need for an asylum policy in Europe which on the one side respects human rights, and on the other ensures internal security.

In the same context, another youth panellist shared her concern about the growing anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim sentiments in Europe, whereby entire communities get targeted and generalised in hate against them, becoming victims of hostility in their daily lives. She wishes that the EU helps to prevent hate, divisions and discrimination across the continent.

Lastly, in view of the challenging geopolitical circumstances such as the ongoing war in Ukraine, the second term of US President Trump and the rise of the far-right, youth panellists discussed how the EU could help in reinstating trust in democracy and deliver a prosperous future for all European people.

## Follow-up Activities

During the dialogue as well as the follow-up, the Representation covered the dialogue widely on social media. There were dedicated posts on the X account of the Representation before, during and after the dialogue, likewise amplifying the posts of Commissioner Brunner during the dialogue. There was a dedicated youth dialogue entry on the [DG HOME events page](#) as well as [European Youth Portal](#) and included in the [February newsletter](#).

## Annex

Official photos: <https://www.apa-fotoservice.at/galerie/39095>

Video recording: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/f5YVKEH7Eds?si=R-fvibmnLe7Hu9bM&controls=0>

Announcement on the website of the Representation: [https://austria.representation.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-kommissar-brunner-am-montag-wien-diskussion-mit-schulern-und-veranstaltung-im-haus-der-eu-2025-02-28\\_de](https://austria.representation.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-kommissar-brunner-am-montag-wien-diskussion-mit-schulern-und-veranstaltung-im-haus-der-eu-2025-02-28_de)

Article on the school website: <https://www.grg10laaerberg.at/index.php/2025/03/18/die-europaeische-union-eu-das-un-bekannte-wesen/>

Instagram reel: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DGvXk07N8uN/?igsh=aXZvN2djcM01dDFk>