Report on the Youth Policy Dialogue with Valdis Dombrovskis, European Commissioner for Economy and Productivity; Implementation and Simplification

Youth Policy Dialogue on **Economic priorities for the new European Commission mandate**

Date: 4th March 2025

Location: Visitors Centre of the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

Introduction

The Youth Policy Dialogue brought together **17** young Europeans coming from 17 EU Member States to discuss the **economic priorities for the new European Commission mandate** with European Commissioner **Valdis Dombrovskis**. The Youth Policy Dialogue took place on 4th March 2025.

The topics were chosen in collaboration with the Commissioner's cabinet on the basis on participants suggestions.

The **Visitors Centre** in the Charlemagne building was chosen as venue as it offered a modern and informal setting for the dialogue, what was seen as an advantage for meeting with young participants.

Selection of participants. We aimed to have geographical and gender balanced participation. The participants were selected among Young Europeans that have been part of DG EAC networks based on age (18-30) and knowledge or interest in economics or finance.

Summary of the online preparatory meeting

The **online preparatory meeting** took place on 13 February. The main objectives of the meeting were to meet the participants and discuss their topics of interest that they wished to address during the Dialogue as well as the choreography of the Dialogue. It also aimed to clarify questions participants might have had, including logistical aspects of the event.

The participants were encouraged to also share their suggestions, ideas and/or proposals in addition to their questions.

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

In order for the participants to make the most of their experience joining the Youth Policy Dialogue, they also had an opportunity to visit the **Experience Europe exhibition centre** and join an **information session on the work of the institutions** in the morning of the day of the dialogue. The information session was very much appreciated as it offered an overview of the work, political priorities and career opportunities in the institutions, and participants could exchange with the speaker in an open and informal way.

A networking **dinner** was organised the night before the dialogue, with the presence of colleagues from DG ECFIN and the Cabinet. That allowed the participants to get to know each other and meet and exchange with Commission colleagues.

The **dialogue** lasted 2 hours. It started with **welcome words from the Commissioner** where he underlined that listening and engaging with the young people of Europe is crucial for the future European

project. The **introduction was followed by the first "setting the scene" question by a participant**, about the 3 main challenges in the field of economy of the new Commission mandate.

The **dialogue was structured in 4 main blocks of topics, each having 4-5 questions from the participants**. After the questions there was time for Commissioner to reply and follow up to reactions of the participants.

The overall running of the discussion went very well. Participants were **well prepared** and **respected the allocated time**, so everyone had a chance to interact. The setting of the room offered a **relaxed and informal atmosphere**, what was highly appreciated. Participants thanked the EC for this opportunity to meet and interact with the Commissioner. They were also encouraged to share their feedback and suggestions on the Dialogue for future editions.

The day ended with a **networking cocktail** that allowed participants to network among them and with Commission colleagues and share their impressions of the experience. Some participants took part in a **short video interview** that has been published on our website and disseminated on social media channels. The Commissioner also recorded a short video in which he shared his view on the importance of Youth Policy dialogues.

Topic(s) of the discussion

-) Competitiveness, investment and sustainability

One of the main topics discussed was the implementation of the findings of the **Draghi report on the future of European competitiveness**, especially regarding the need to boost investments in the EU.

How to achieve **climate targets** while ensuring that European industries remain competitive and innovative on a global scale was also a topic of discussion. The urgency of phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies' as part of accelerating climate action was underlined by participants.

Another main topic discussed was how to **reduce productivity disparities** among Member States. The €650 billion **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF),** the centrepiece of **NextGenerationEU** is a key tool for reducing productivity gaps as they provide grants and loans to support key reforms and investments across EU countries.

-) Global order and Economic Security

Looking at the challenges faced by the EU economy in the current geopolitical context, another topic of the Dialogue was what the EU can do to counter the influence of **China and Russia**.

Another topic raised during the Dialogue was linked to the **EU investments in developing countries, especially in Africa**. Regular exchanges between the EU and African countries benefit all parties involved and ensures that no other actors fill the gap.

The role of **taxation** to encourage environmentally friendly practises by companies and industries outside the EU was also mentioned.

-) Digital Euro

Participants showed strong interest in the Digital Euro proposal, the timeline, the challenges and its benefits for the EU. The participants inquired about protection of personal data and impact of financial integration and inclusion.

-) Implementation and simplification

Given the challenge of balancing the need to meet environmental standards while enhancing the competitiveness of EU companies, simplification was identified by participants as a key way forward. Participants stressed the importance **to reduce bureaucracy and make it easier for young entrepreneurs and startups** to access funding, resources and market opportunities. They also found necessary that the **Green Deal** does not lead to financial difficulties for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Follow-up debate on the Citizens' Engagement Platform

1. Make sure that the digital euro contributes to financial integration and inclusion

Participants stressed the importance of **ensuring financial inclusion** as well as not jeopardising the availability of cash. Particular attention should also be paid to **privacy and security measures**. Participants suggested exploring measures to ensure that the digital euro is accessible both across all Member States and within Member States down to the less-digitised local communities in each country.

2. Achieving climate targets with ensuring that European industries remain competitive and innovative on a global scale

Suggestions in this area included the need to **address the productivity gap** among Member States as well as the phasing out **inefficient fossil fuel subsidies as part of accelerating climate action.** Tax measures could also be a mechanism to further discourage environmentally harmful companies and industries from operating within (and outside) the EU.

3. Provide easy to understand economic data for non experts

Participants recommended to reinforce Eurostat as a **trusted point of reference for economic data**, ensuring its statistics remain comprehensive, timely, and aligned with evolving economic realities. Suggestions included to make Eurostat's data more accessible and understandable for non-statisticians, through enhanced visualisations, interactive dashboards, or simplified insights; and to balance statistical rigor with broader usability for policymakers, businesses, and the public.

4. Reduce barriers for young entrepreneurs and start ups

Participants suggested to **simplify procedures** and make it easier for young entrepreneurs and startups to **access funding, resources and market opportunities**. It was also suggested to implement the

Green Deal in a way that does not lead to financial difficulties for small and medium-sized enterprises. The need to simplify regulatory frameworks without compromising oversight and security to make Europe a more attractive destination for IPOs and reversing the trend of companies preferring U.S. listings was also mentioned.

Follow-up Communication Activities

An **event webpage** was created including the participants photos and bios, the agenda of the day and a short description of the event.

Diverse **visuals with the corporate branding** were created to promote the dialogue, such as social media visuals, banner for the webpage, layout for the short videos, roll-ups to use to decorate the venue.

Short videos were produced, **one** to interview the Commissioner Dombrovskis on his view on the Youth Policy Dialogue initiative and **three** with the participants. The latter videos focused on their views on the following topics: (a) What do you think are the key economic issues that concern young people in Europe today? (b) what do you think of this European Commission initiative to organise Youth Policy Dialogues? (c) What was your highlight of the day? The videos are used in social media, to promote the Dialogue and also are published on the events webpage.

Photos were taken during the dialogue and are published on the events webpage.

AV service of the EC also produced a short atmospheric video.

Annex

Communication products

Link to DG ECFIN'S Youth Policy Dialogue 2025 - European Commission

Link to photos - European Commission

Link to Commissioner Dombrovskis video interview

Link to participants videos

Social media activity

A series of social media posts and videos were published on X, Facebook and LinkedIn before, on the day, and after the Youth Policy Dialogue.

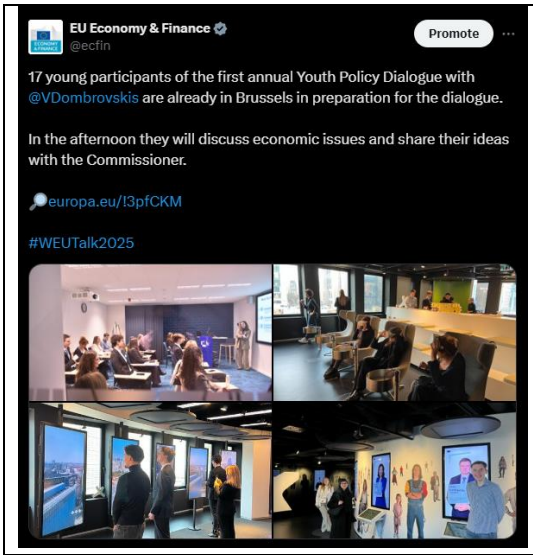
The posts focused on the

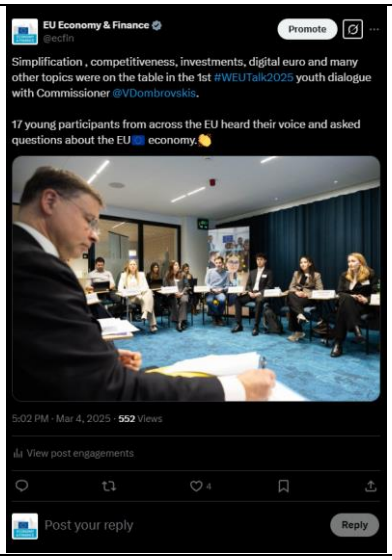
- Commissioner's main message
- Commissioner's evaluation of the encounters with youth
- Young participants's opinion and their main message

X

Most content was disseminated on X with 7 posts reaching a total of 5142 impressions.

Videos of the Commissioner and the young participants reached more than 1800 views. A few examples:



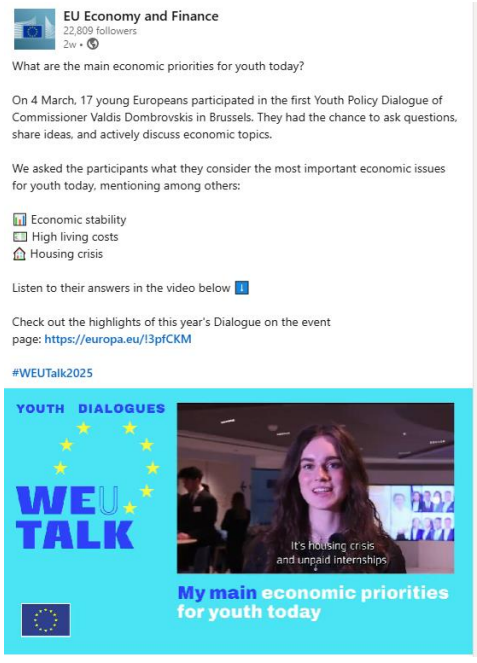


LinkedIn:

4 posts on LinkedIn with a total of 4543 impressions. We have registered 1245 views on the 3 videos we have posted. The messages have seen 77 likes, 14 reposts and 415 clicks.

3 videos have in total 1186 views. A few examples:

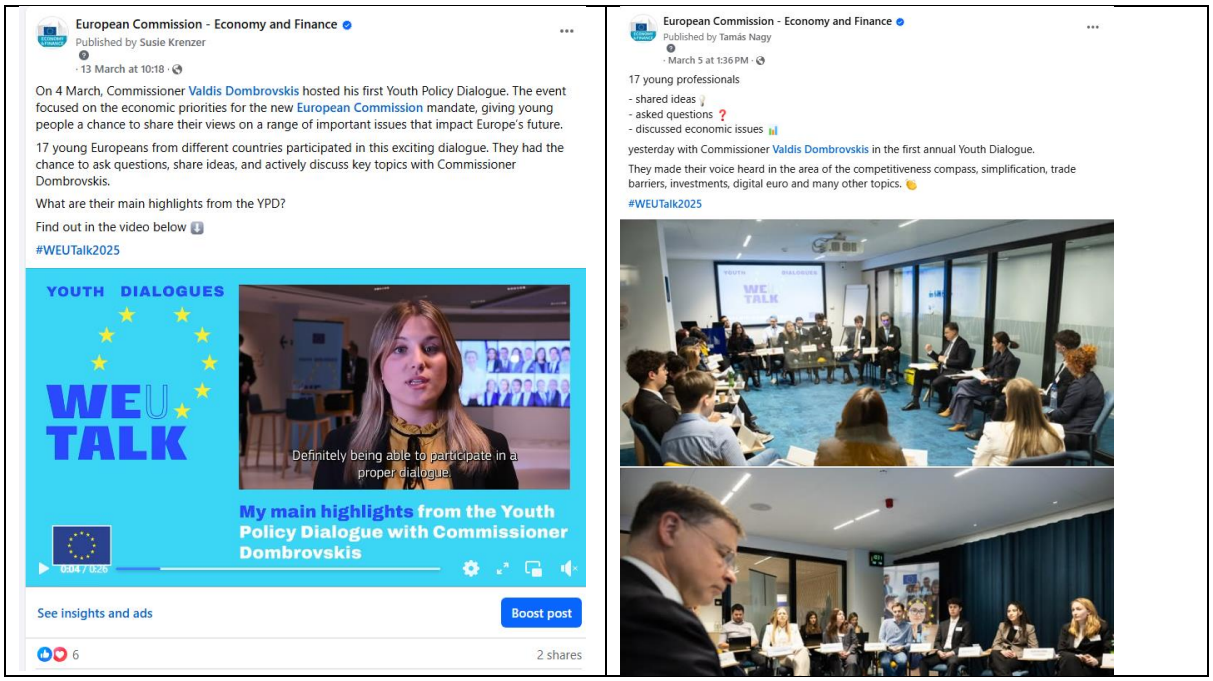




Facebook

4 posts on Facebook, 1 554 impressions, 54 interactions.

The 3 videos gathered 225 views in total. A few examples:



Commissioner Dombrovskis





vdombrovskis

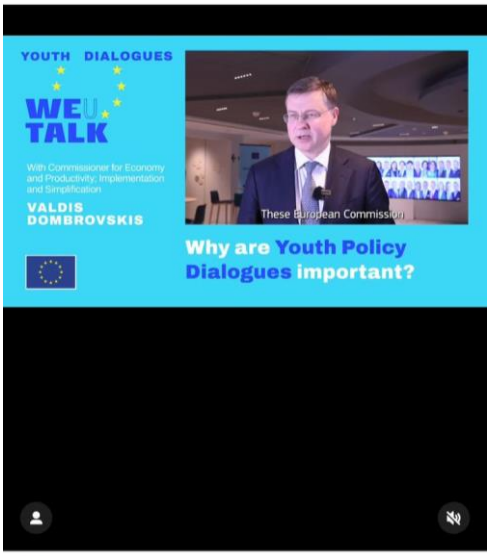


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vdombrovskis Today, I enjoyed the opportunity to engage with young people from across Europe on the economic priorities for the new @europeancommission mandate.

Through our Youth Policy Dialogues, we are giving young people a platform to share their views, discuss key issues, and help shape the policies that impact them.

Their voices matter, and now more than ever, it's crucial that they are heard.



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Gefällt **angela_ch_c** und **weiteren Personen**

vdombrovskis I recently enjoyed the opportunity to engage with young people from across Europe on key economic issues during my first Youth Policy Dialogue of this mandate.

Why are these @europeancommission events important?

@eu_eurostat #WEUtalk2025 #youthpolicydialogue

6. März · **Übersetzung anzeigen**