

Report on the Youth Policy Dialogue with Dan Jørgensen, European Commissioner for Energy and Housing

Title of Youth Policy Dialogue: **Shaping a clean, sustainable, and fair energy future**

Date: 18 February 2025

Location: Berlaymont, Brussels, Belgium

Introduction

The Youth Policy Dialogue is part of the European Commission's wider commitment to offer young people greater role and responsibility within our societies and democracies. Young people have a stake in all our policies, and a distinctive contribution to make. Their engagement is also key for the clean energy transition. A just transition is a process that spans across generations. As such, it needs the support, acceptance, and skills of EU citizens, including the younger ones, to succeed. By actively involving young Europeans, the Commission seeks to ensure that its policies are reflective of the aspirations and concerns of the younger generation.

Commissioner Jørgensen's Youth Policy Dialogue brought together 29 young people coming from 19 different countries in Europe.

The Dialogue saw involvement from a diverse group of young people, with representatives from networks including the [Young Energy Ambassadors](#) (YEA) and the [European Youth Energy Network](#) (EYEN). The participants came from a wide range of backgrounds and interests, including research, industry, business, energy studies, youth advocacy and NGOs providing a rich and varied set of perspectives.

The main topics discussed during the Dialogue were issues identified in a set of [recommendations](#) drafted by the Young Energy Ambassadors for the Energy Commissioner. These topics were focusing on questions of particular importance to young people in the context of energy policy.

Summary of the online preparatory meeting(s)

Prior to the physical Youth Dialogue, two online preparation meetings took place on 12 December 2024 and on 31 January 2025.

The first preparatory meeting (12 December 2024) covered various points of relevance for the network of Young Energy Ambassadors, including a segment dedicated to the preparations of the Youth Policy Dialogue. The one-hour meeting covered the following points:

- An introduction of the **new Commission's political priorities** related to clean energy
- Updates about ongoing and upcoming calls for the **EU Sustainable Energy Week**
- Updates from the **Citizens' Energy Forum** where some members of the network took part
- Updates and insights from **COP29** where some members of the network took part
- Updates about the **Youth Policy Dialogue with Commissioner Jørgensen**
 - o ENER youth team explained the context and the purpose of the YPD

- To ensure continuity, it was proposed that we build on the set of [recommendations](#) that were drafted by the Young Energy Ambassadors for the Energy Commissioner in June 2024.
- 7 policy topics were identified based on these recommendations: 1) Just transition and inclusion of vulnerable groups 2) Renewables 3) Grids and infrastructure 4) Skills and education 5) Net-zero standards 6) Energy financing 7) Integration of electricity market
- To start active preparations and make sure that the views of all participants are reflected in the policy discussion, the participants were asked to a) freely select the policy topic they would like to work on b) gather into small groups around those topics and come up with 2 questions per group that they would like to discuss with the Commissioner.
- In addition, as part of the Youth Dialogue was dedicated to discussing how youth engagement can be most effective and how the future Youth Dialogues should look like, participants were asked to send in suggestions individually on these issues, that they wanted to put forward during the Dialogue.
- Participants had around 3 weeks to work with their groups and send their proposed questions and ideas to ENER youth team.
- Finally, once we agreed on the next steps and the deadlines, there was time dedicated to **questions and answers**.

The second preparatory meeting (31 January 2025) was entirely dedicated to the preparations of the Youth Policy Dialogue and to the introductions and discussion with the moderator, Biliana Sirakova, EU youth coordinator. The one-hour meeting covered the following points:

- ENER gave **updates on the state of preparations for YPD content**: how the questions were selected, how the input sent by the participants was processed and a proposed agenda for the Dialogue
 - **Introduction of the moderator**, Biliana Sirakova, EU youth coordinator and few words about Youth Dialogues in general
 - **Quick tour de table** – each of the 7 groups of young people spoke up (one person on behalf of the group) introducing the group and saying few words on their background/motivation – so that the moderator had an overview of the participants.
 - ENER gave **updates on the proposed full stay programme** for 17-18 February: the 2 days stay of the participants included a meeting with ENER Director-General, Ditte Juul Jørgensen, a workshop with policy experts, a networking lunch with ENER BlueBook trainees, a cultural visit to Experience Europe, and a kick-off meeting of a newly launched ENER mentorship scheme for young people, as well as a last rehearsal before the Dialogue the next day.
 - CINEA gave updates about ongoing and upcoming calls for the **EU Sustainable Energy Week**
 - Finally, there was time dedicated to **questions and answers**.
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Summary of the Youth Policy Dialogue (In person-meeting)

The physical Youth Policy Dialogue took place on 18 February 2025 in Berlaymont in Brussels and was moderated by Biliana Sirakova, EU Youth coordinator.

The structure of the Dialogue went as follows:

- The moderator **introduced the topic and the group and she set the scene** by referring to the policy [recommendations](#) drafted by young people for the Commissioner
- A one-minute-long video clip from the EUSEW 2024 closing session where EVP Šefčovič received the recommendations and reassured that they will be passed on to the new Energy Commissioner.
- Commissioner Jørgensen thanked the group for their work and for the recommendations. He delivered his **opening remarks and reacted to the recommendations**, highlighting some key ideas and mentioning that many are well aligned with the Commission's ongoing or upcoming policy work.
- The moderator introduced the **policy discussion**, handing over the floor to each of the young representatives who spoke on behalf of their groups, asking their questions on all of the 7 policy topics: 1) Just transition and inclusion of vulnerable groups 2) Renewables 3) Grids and infrastructure 4) Skills and education 5) Net-zero standards 6) Energy financing 7) Integration of electricity market
- After 2-3 questions were gathered, **Commissioner reacted** to the questions (see topics and main elements he emphasized in the next section below)
- As there was additional time in the first part of the Dialogue, the moderator asked whether there are **additional questions or remarks** and many of the participants raised their hands. It was a very dynamic and interesting exchange and an important opportunity for young people, as they could raise spontaneous questions and issues in addition to what was planned and prepared.
- **Commissioner reacted** to the issues raised, including on questions on the competitiveness of hydrogen, targets to be achieved by Member States, flexibility when it comes to electrification, financing of just transition etc.
- The final 30 minutes of the exchange were dedicated to **discussing how the future Youth Dialogues should look like** according to the young people and how youth engagement can be most impactful.
- The ideas presented by the young people included:
 - **Format**: work in focus groups, with different interactive activities and online/hybrid formats. In addition to the prepared questions, to have an open, unprepared discussion with Commissioner and policy experts, to brainstorm together.
 - **Participants**: group to be more diverse, to include both professionals working on the topic at high academic or professional level, but also young people active in initiatives at grassroots level and at National Regulatory Authorities/ energy operators/power producers/communities.
 - **Follow up suggestions**:

- Suggestion for a tangible framework for accountability and follow-up on the Youth Policy Dialogues.
- Setting up thematic working groups, based on the thematic groups set up for this current Youth Dialogue. These working groups could (1) develop more extensive youth policy proposals and (2) react to, and provide youth input to the Commission's ongoing policy work.
- Making the outcomes of the Dialogue publicly available. Fewer questions and more in-depth replies.
- **Accessibility and promotion:** making the Dialogues accessible to a wider audience via social media like Facebook live and others; Instagram take-overs with behind-the-scenes moments of the Youth Dialogue.
- **Commissioner listened to these suggestions and reacted** to them, adding that he thought the group was very interested and knowledgeable on energy topics and he hopes that people who are not this interested can also get involved in such conversations thanks to voices of young people who will bring back home their experience from Brussels.
- The Dialogue was closed by the moderator, followed by a group photo with Commissioner.

Topic(s) of discussion

The group highlighted their key priorities both in their [recommendations](#) and in the Dialogue with Commissioner Jørgensen. First, they emphasised the importance of **inclusion**, urging support for vulnerable groups and opportunities for citizens to become active participants rather than just consumers in the energy transition. Another major focus was **skills and education**, with a call to provide training on energy issues and career support for young people and workers moving into green jobs. Additionally, they stressed the need for stronger **electricity interconnections** to enhance energy security and flexibility across Europe. Young people also raised other important issues, such as the competitiveness of **hydrogen** or the **financing of the just transition**. Finally, they highlighted the importance of **energy affordability** for consumers while phasing out fossil fuel subsidies.

In his reactions, the Commissioner reaffirmed the EU's commitment to the **green transition**, stressing the need for more ambition despite the global challenges. He emphasised **Europe's strengths**, including democracy and social models, and underlined the need not to lower standards. He agreed with the importance of **investing in skills** development and the need for rapid **electrification** and improved energy grid **interconnections** to meet future energy goals and enhance system flexibility.

In addition to discussing energy policy, the event also included a segment dedicated to looking at how future Youth Policy Dialogues might be structured, with the aim of making these dialogues as impactful as possible for those involved.

Follow-up debate on the Citizens' Engagement Platform

Once the Youth Policy Dialogue has taken place, the Commission's Citizens' Engagement Platform (CEP - <https://citizens.ec.europa.eu>) will be used as an **online interactive and deliberative hub** for continuing the debate, reaching out to citizens beyond the invited participants of the Youth Policy Dialogues and attracting their contributions.

This follow-up debate will be held on the basis of the outcomes of the Youth Policy Dialogue. Therefore, it is important that you summarise **at least three** concrete ideas, recommendations, suggestions, takeaways, and/or findings that young people made during the Youth Policy Dialogue. Ideally, these outcomes should trigger lively debates on the platform. They should therefore be formulated in such a way that they stimulate discussion. For example, by describing a problem that the young people have identified and various solutions that they have proposed. Please present your ideas in the following way:

- Title of the idea (150 characters max)
- Explanation of the idea (1500 characters max)

Title	Explanation
EU-wide strategy to tackle workforce challenges in the energy sector	<p>As the EU and Member States make significant investments in green technologies and infrastructure, it is imperative to address the human element of this transition. There is a pressing need for a specialized workforce, and many countries are already experiencing shortages in key areas. At the same time, the success of the European Green Deal depends on the ability of citizens to understand and adopt new technologies and practices. Young people are urging the EU Commissioner for Energy to come up with an EU-wide strategy to tackle workforce challenges in the energy sector. They suggest this strategy should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and manage the phasing out of certain roles, acknowledging not all can transition to green jobs; • Ensure adequate training capacity in specialized high schools, universities, and vocational institutions; and • Accurately forecast the number of green jobs required to meet the EU's 2050 climate goals
Supporting the most vulnerable consumers to take part in the energy transition	<p>Achieving the principles of a just transition requires strong implementation. One of the most critical gaps lies in addressing financial, administrative and informational barriers that prevent vulnerable energy consumers from accessing residential sustainable technologies, such as solar PV, heat pumps, EV charging stations, and housing insulation. Ensuring equitable participation in the energy transition is essential so all consumers, including low-income and youth, can benefit, for instance, through revenue-sharing schemes or becoming prosumers. However, financial thresholds often exclude these groups from joining</p>

	community energy projects, as seen in countries like Poland. Young people are asking the Commission to streamline effective Just Transition principles across policy areas and governance levels while aligning a future performance-based budget with a territorial approach to address the localized nature of the energy transition and efficiently support the most vulnerable.
Strengthening electricity interconnections in the EU	The 15% interconnection capacity target for 2030 is a crucial objective of the Energy Union , as outlined in the EU's electricity interconnection targets , thereby ensuring the resilience and cost-competitiveness of the European energy market. Given the average planning time of nine years for transmission lines in Europe, it is already evident that many countries may not meet the 2030 target, with around 40% falling behind . Young people want the Commission to ensure that strengthening electricity interconnections remains a strategic priority across Member States, particularly in light of growing national energy policy preferences that risk undermining the full implementation of a European Energy Union.

Follow-up and dissemination Activities



Influencer Dissemination

@sofiapasotto

Italian sustainability influencer and Climate Pact Ambassador

32.3K followers

A series of **Instagram stories documenting the YPD in real-time**. These were **reposted by the European Commission** (986K followers), the **Commissioner** (17.3K followers) and the **Danish EC REP** (3.9K followers) → combined **1.039.500 followers**

A **sit-down interview with the Commissioner** tackling climate/energy misconceptions. Reel **reposted by the European Commission** (986K followers).



Influencer Dissemination



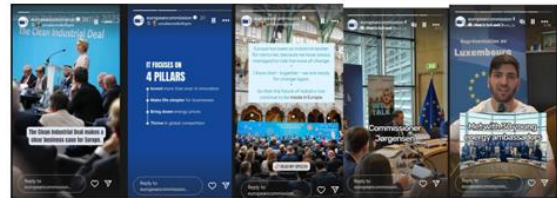
[@ivanlealmartins](#)


Luxembourgish EU/youth advocate and influencer

5.6K followers

A **Behind The Scenes Instagram reel** of the YPD. Posted in collaboration with the EC Luxembourg Rep (10.7K followers) and wecitizens_lu (800 followers), the European Documentation Center of Luxembourg City.

Shared on the **European Commission's Instagram**, alongside stories on **Clean Industrial Deal** (986K followers). → combined **1.003.000 followers**







16 posts →

Dissemination by participants on LinkedIn

Devesh: 30K followers	All have 500+ connections
Monica: 5.3K followers	
Joshua: 5.4K followers	Total of around 1500 likes





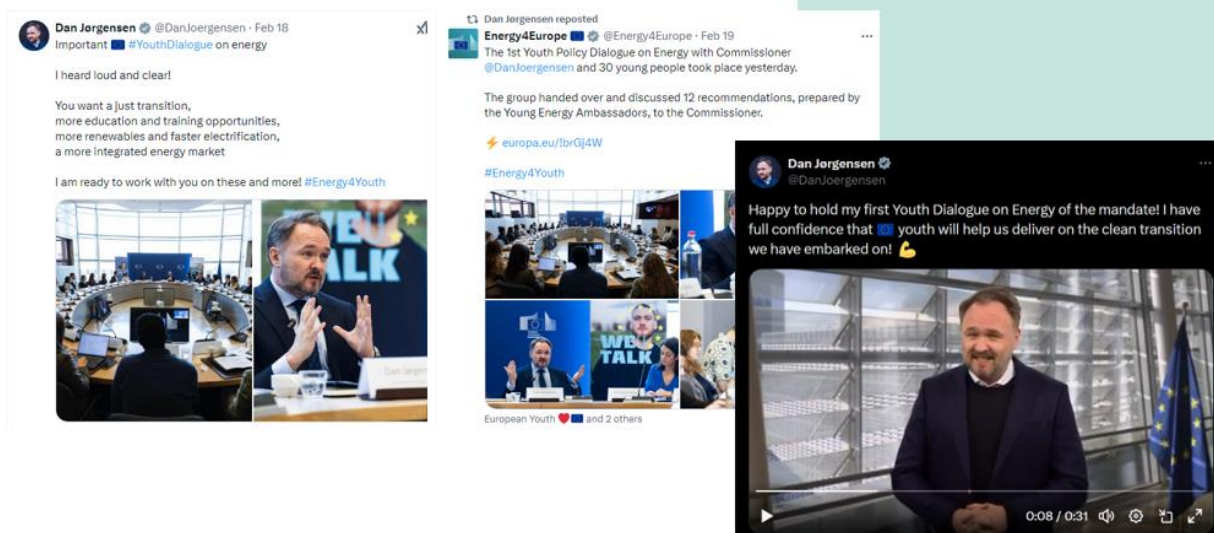
Organic, external dissemination



Cecile Philibert, working for the **City of Strasbourg**, organiser of the **European Energy Transition Conference**.
Came to Brussels to listen to our YPD.

She shared a **LinkedIn post** about it with her **1.7K followers**.
She is **inviting representatives of our Energy Ambassadors** to Strasbourg in June.

Commissioner promoting YPD on X



Youth Policy Dialogue on ENER Website

YPD event page

3rd most visited event page in February
8.668 page views



This first Youth Policy Dialogue on energy is part of the European Commission's ongoing commitment to involving the younger generation in shaping a competitive, clean, and fair energy transition.

YEA recommendations page

Highest visit rate on the page the day after the YPD. 26% from LinkedIn links

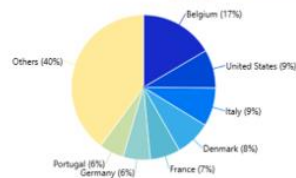
Young Energy Ambassadors Recommendations

The [Youth Policy Dialogue on Energy 2024-2025](#) will part in a workshop during the 2024 European Sustainable Energy Week in that a role with their recommendations for the energy transition. These 12 recommendations are the outcome of their discussion.

1. Supporting the participation of vulnerable groups in [renewable energy communities](#)

With almost 75% of the EU population living in rural areas, particularly in mountainous and less developed regions, it is essential to ensure that the energy transition is inclusive and that all citizens have access to the benefits of a clean energy system. This includes supporting the participation of vulnerable groups in renewable energy communities, ensuring a higher share of renewable energy resources, and promoting green digital skills.

These recommendations serve as a platform for discussing energy-related issues and contributing to the future of Europe's clean energy transition. The Youth Policy Dialogue is part of the European Commission's broader commitment to empowering youth in shaping policies that affect their future.



News item on Youth Dialogue

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT | 18 February 2025 | Directorate-General for Energy | 12 min read

Youth Policy Dialogue with Commissioner Jørgensen: Shaping a clean, sustainable, and fair energy future



On 18 February 2025, a Youth Policy Dialogue with European Commissioner for Energy and Housing, Dan Jørgensen, took place in Brussels, marking a significant step in integrating the voices of young people into the European Union's energy policies.

The event gathered 30 young participants from across the EU, offering a platform for discussing energy-related issues and contributing to the future of Europe's clean energy transition. The Youth Policy Dialogue is part of the European Commission's broader commitment to empowering youth in shaping policies that affect their future.

[Link here](#)



#Energy4Youth on ENER X

Some of the best performing posts for ENER X account

Between 1 Jan - 25 Feb 2025 for #Energy4Youth on X

19 365 impressions

324 interactions



Energy Youth Dialogue on other DG's websites

Energy YPD event page by DG EAC



Energy YPD event page by DG COMM

Youth Activities

The EU wants young people to engage and become active citizens involved in democracy and society.

Youth Policy Dialogues

The main objectives of Youth Policy Dialogues are to encourage young people to express their views on EU policy initiatives by interacting with Commissioners and to integrate youth views in the EU's political agenda.

The dialogues foster open discussions, share insights, and build connections with young people on pressing issues and empower young people by fostering their active engagement in democratic life. Youth Policy Dialogues enable young people to better understand the choices behind policy decisions and their impact.

Youth Policy Dialogues were first held during the [European Year of Youth 2022](#), where each member of the College of Commissioners invited 12-15 young people to Brussels to take part in a policy dialogue.

And more recently, during the [European Youth Month 2024](#) the Vice-president of the European Commission Margaritis Schinas and the Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Iliana Ivanova held 2 Policy Dialogues during which they gained insights into the perceptions and aspirations of European youth.



Next steps:

- Series of **'Meet an Energy expert'** workshops for Young Energy Ambassadors, March-June 2025
- Work on the **Youth Check** – new Commission impact assessment tool
- Work with Young Energy Ambassadors to feed into **Citizens Energy package**, April-June 2025
- **European Youth Energy Day (EYED) 2025** at EUSEW in Brussels: a series of youth activities, including a roleplay game at the European Parliament, EUSEW youth session, closed door workshop with experts, side activity on jobs and skills, side activity on grids etc.
- **European Youth Event (EYE) 2025** in Strasbourg: the biggest youth event in Europe. Collaboration with the City of Strasbourg
- Selection and start of the **3rd Young Energy Ambassadors cohort**: June 2025

Annex

- News: [Youth Policy Dialogue with Commissioner Jørgensen: Shaping a clean, sustainable, and fair energy future - European Commission](#)
- Tweet: <https://x.com/Energy4Europe/status/1892181603352211478>

- EbS wrap up video: <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/video/I-267190>
- EbS pictures: <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/reportage/P-065625>
- Commissioner video message: <https://x.com/DanJoergensen/status/1891738517887180970>
- Following the Dialogue, the [Young Energy Ambassadors Recommendations](#) were published
- LinkedIn posts by the participants after the YPD:
 - o Nelson: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/nelson-lu%C3%ADs-b401955a_energy-housing-activity-7298050553232658432-wRqI?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAC50U5gBezrPxL CVSabpgONSQ-0cC36IqYM
 - o Blanka: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ugcPost-7298090315133935616-SyMc?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAC50U5gBezrPxL CVSabpgONSQ-0cC36IqYM
 - o Guste: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/gust%C4%97-gur%C4%8Dinait%C4%97-600439129_youthpolicydialogue-energized-lithuanian-activity-7297964768299036672-FnQG?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAC50U5gBezrPxL CVSabpgONSQ-0cC36IqYM
 - o Eliza: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/eliza-barnea_youngenergyambassadors-dgener-youthpolicydialogue-activity-7298036536879595520-9lK ?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAC50U5gBezrPxL VSabpgONSQ-0cC36IqYM
 - o Devesh: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/devesh-mishra2812_euabryoungabreenergyabrambassadors-youthabrinvovement-activity-7297981021688414208-qGU0?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAC50U5gBezrPxL CVSabpgONSQ-0cC36IqYM
 - o Hendrik: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/activity-7297880160182132736-uecp?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAC50U5gBezrPxL CVSabpgONSQ-0cC36IqYM
 - o Cecile: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/cecilerufphilibert_youthpolicydialogue-energy-eusew2025-activity-7297597871988658176-trh7?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAC50U5gBezrPxL VSabpgONSQ-0cC36IqYM
 - o Marion: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/marion-revest-799052247_youthpolicydialogue-dgenergy-activity-7298317832101023744-

[o2HU?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAC50U5gBezrPxLCVSabpgONSQ-0cC36lqYM](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/monica-troilo_youngenergyambassador-eusew2025-activity-7298608639500505089-dWC?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAC50U5gBezrPxLCVSabpgONSQ-0cC36lqYM)

- Monica: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/monica-troilo_youngenergyambassador-eusew2025-activity-7298608639500505089-dWC?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAC50U5gBezrPxLCVSabpgONSQ-0cC36lqYM
- Ela: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ela-me%C5%A1inovi%C4%87-9b05b317a_energy-youth-citizenparticipation-activity-7298463579584798720-VOaV?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAC50U5gBezrPxLCVSabpgONSQ-0cC36lqYM
- Joshua : https://www.linkedin.com/posts/joshua-steib-1ba648218_111-billion-thats-how-much-eu-countries-activity-7298345861242146818-bxHt?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAC50U5gBezrPxLCVSabpgONSQ-0cC36lqYM
- Jiri: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/jiri-bim-b2888b82_energy-housing-czechia-activity-7300610866872274944-JOSj?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAC50U5gBezrPxLCVSabpgONSQ-0cC36lqYM
- Agnieszka: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/agnieszka-szostok-b0a34a1a8_dgabrener-activity-7300083946241888256-bY1B?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAC50U5gBezrPxLCVSabpgONSQ-0cC36lqYM
- Marco: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/marco-gervasi1_energy-housing-energytransition-activity-7298027910479724544-Zkv6?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAC50U5gBezrPxLCVSabpgONSQ-0cC36lqYM