



## **Report on the Youth Policy Dialogue with Kaja Kallas, High Representative/Vice- President of the European Commission**

Title of Youth Policy Dialogue: Ally with Youth in EU Foreign Policy

Date: 6 March 2025

Location: House of European History, Brussels, Belgium



## Introduction

Under the title, “Ally with you in Foreign Policy”, the Youth Policy Dialogue with the HR/VP brought together 25 young people from both EU and non-EU countries for a three-day programme in Brussels, culminating with the dialogue with HR/VP Kallas on the 6th of March. The programme featured participatory workshops with EU policymakers, thematic sessions, community-building activities, visits to EU institutions and a joint session with the participants of the Youth Policy Dialogue of Commissioner Sikela. The Dialogue with the HR/VP was built around the following topics: i) human rights and democracy, ii) global and climate diplomacy, iii) the EU and its geopolitical strategies, and iv) peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

The participants were chosen to reflect a balance in terms of geography<sup>1</sup>, gender<sup>2</sup>, age, socio-economic standing and rural-urban balance. The selection process was conducted in close coordination between the EEAS and Service for Foreign Policy Instruments as well as other Commission DGs (INTPA, ENEST) and EU Delegations, tapping onto flagship youth initiatives and established networks such as the Arctic Youth Dialogue, EU-UK Youth Dialogue, #OurVoiceOurFuture and the Africa-Europe Youth Core Group. The House of European History was chosen as the venue due to its strong connection with the EU, suitable facilities and accessible location.

The content of the programme was co-created with the participants based on two online preparatory meetings organised on 7 and 19 February. Giulia Tariello (European Union Youth Delegate to the United Nations) and Astrid Begenyeza (member of the Youth Advisory Council of the EESC and project manager of Molenbeek European Capital of Culture 2030's bid) accompanied the group in the process, facilitated the preparatory session and moderated the dialogue. Sabine Gressel-Soedar, a flow-architect, helped visualise the discussions.

## Summary of the online preparatory meeting(s)

Two online preparatory meetings were held on 7 and 19 February 2025 in two-hour morning and afternoon sessions to accommodate for the time difference for participants around the world. The main objectives of the preparatory meetings were to establish familiarity with and between the participants, to introduce the organisers, provide information on EU decision-making processes and foster a co-creation spirit with the participants to plan the content of the programme in Brussels.

Before the preparatory meetings, the participants were asked to fill out a questionnaire to describe their interests and backgrounds. The responses were presented to the group in visual form, and they gave direction to the discussions and planning. Key areas of interest included youth representation in democratic processes, cross-border relations and unity, sustainability and the climate, and security and defence. In the second preparatory meeting on 19 February, the final four main thematic clusters for the dialogue were identified: i) human rights and democracy, ii) global and climate diplomacy, iii) the EU and its geopolitical

---

<sup>1</sup> 19 non-EU (Argentina, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Syria, South Africa, South Korea, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Uzbekistan) and 6 EU participants (Austria, Belgium, Germany [US-dual nationality], Hungary, Italy).

<sup>2</sup> 13 female participants and 12 males.



strategies, and iv) peacebuilding and conflict resolution. A digital collaboration platform was used to brainstorm ideas together with the participants and continue the preparations in the run-up to participants' arrival in Brussels.

Key concerns and questions expressed by the participants mainly related to the concrete outcomes of the dialogue and whether their input would truly be incorporated in the policy-making process. Overall, the participants were excited for the opportunity to have the chance to present their ideas to the HR/VP and demonstrated commitment and engagement with the programme.

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

The dialogue was the culmination of the three-day programme (see attached in Annex) organised between 4 and 6 March 2025. The programme ensured the participants were equipped with the institutional knowledge and advocacy skills needed to present targeted proposals to the HR/VP with expertise and confidence.

In the days building up to the dialogue with HR/VP Kallas, the participants engaged in team-building exercises, policy-making workshops and meetings with EU experts, as well as a working exchange with the Global Youth Sounding Board from DG INTPA in Brussels for the Youth Policy Dialogue of Commissioner Síkela. They were welcomed at the high political level by the EP Vice-President Esteban Gonzalez Pons, the FPI Head of Service Peter Wagner and the EEAS Stratcom Director Aude Maio-Coliche. EEAS Secretary-General Belén Martínez Carbonell also met with the participants during the workshop with policy makers. The participants visited the European Parliament Hemicycle and had a guided tour of the House of European History. In addition, EEASS organised specific sessions on foreign information manipulations and interference / fact checking and climate diplomacy to support the capacity development of the participants.

The dialogue itself was held on the morning of 6 March in the House of European History. The participants welcomed the HR/VP at the entrance stairs for a [group picture](#) and walked together into the building. After a brief introductory group in a circle, the participants divided themselves into four groups according to their main topic of interest and stood at their respective tables, with the HR/VP taking 10 minutes to have a discussion with each group. After the *tour de table*, the groups reconvened in the circle for final words from representatives of each group and the HR/VP. The dialogue ended with an [informal photo-taking session and discussions](#) between the participants and the HR/VP.

The interaction and discussions between the participants and the HR/VP appeared effortless and the atmosphere during the dialogue was constructive. The participants later remarked that the HR/VP listened intently and took notes of their comments, which gave them a sense of being heard. The group also had a positive dynamic between them, and many noted in their final remarks that they were going home with a stronger network and a feeling of empowerment.



## Topic(s) of discussion

As described in the earlier sections, the participants were divided into four thematic groups based on the co-creation process and discussions during the preparatory meetings. The four topics and related discussions were as follows:

**Human rights and democracy** – What are the biggest challenges to human rights (including gender equality) and democracy today, and can young people be part of the solution? The importance of youth participation in democratic decision-making received particular attention within this topic. Participants stressed the need to encourage inclusive youth dialogues by involving young people from diverse backgrounds, beyond just those with international relations or policy-related experience, to ensure a broader range of perspectives and voices are represented.

**Global and climate diplomacy** – How do you think we can better partner on the global stage to defend universal values and ensure a sustainable future? Discussions emphasized the urgency of stronger international cooperation on climate action, with calls for the EU to lead by example in implementing ambitious green policies and supporting climate-vulnerable regions. Several proposals came up during the discussions: ensure meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes, empower young people with intergenerational mentorship programmes, increase access to information on funding and equal opportunities for all youth, provide Institutional, technical, and financial resources to relevant youth organizations, to ensure that future leaders play an active role in decision / policy making at both local and global levels.

**The EU and its geopolitical strategies** – How do you see the EU compared to other global actors? What should the EU do better in the world? Given the current geopolitical climate, a key message from this group was a call for the EU to step up as a democratic leader in the world and fill in the gaps left by other international players in alliance with young people.

**Peacebuilding and conflict resolution** – What can we do to ensure that peace prevails? Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine was a key topic within this theme, with lively discussion around how Europe's defence should be organised, ensuring youth perspectives are reflected. The role of the EU in building a lasting peace in the Middle East was also highlighted.

To conclude, HR/VP Kaja Kallas encouraged the young participants to take advantage of the initiatives offered to the youth to build communities and networks all over the world. She encouraged exchanges and learning from each other. She emphasised the importance to call out disinformation. In particular, young activist can set up fact-checking platforms and make sure that facts win.

A final set of conclusions is being prepared by the young participants and will be published in the coming weeks.

## Follow-up debate on the Citizens' Engagement Platform

### *Proposal 1:*

- Title: Inclusive Youth dialogues: new platforms for engagement



- Explanation: Underrepresented young people (indigenous communities, migrants, youth with vocational training) are often absent in decision-making processes despite their vital role in preserving cultural heritage and advocating for environmental social justice and human rights. This discussion explores how new platforms, both digital and institutional, can enhance inclusive youth participation in policymaking at **local, national and international levels**. How can the EU support the creation of dedicated spaces for Indigenous / ALL voices, and how can these platforms ensure meaningful, long-term engagement rather than token representation?

#### *Proposal 2:*

- Title: Supporting democracy worldwide: how can the EU ally with young people to help budding democracies in post-authoritarian countries?

Explanation: Building democratic institutions in post-authoritarian states is a complex and fragile process, requiring long-term support. The EU has a range of tools, from electoral assistance, governance reforms, civil society funding, to economic partnerships or mediation facilities which can help emerging democracies establish transparent, inclusive accountable, and resilient institutions. What strategies should the EU prioritise to ensure its involvement is effective, welcomed, and tailored to the specific needs of transitioning societies? Which role can young people play to fight against disinformation and hate speech? How could Art, Culture and content creation contribute to engage youth better on global issues such as geopolitics, democracy and Human Rights?

### Follow-up Activities

The work has started to follow up on the dialogue.

#### **1) Continue to listen to young people:**

- One of the participants attended the Council United Nations Working Party (CONUN) on Wednesday 12 March to share her experience with the Member States. Further cooperation with EU Member States is explored in a Team Europe approach.
- The participants will send a document collecting reflections from the Dialogue and presenting some first proposals to the HRVP. This living document will be the basis for further consultations and youth involvement (thanks to EU Delegations, EU Survey, local youth dialogues, EYE, Young Activist Summit, or other events)

#### **2) Keep the community alive:**

participants are invited to join several EU/EEAS initiatives to continue networking with peers: #OurVoiceOurFuture, EU Visitors Programme, EU Alumni platform, regular meetings, engage in social media (SoME) and keep the conversation going in the WhatsApp group created.

#### **3) Participation and sharing experience in upcoming events and initiatives:**

A workshop on the 'Youth Policy Dialogues and EU Foreign Policy' will be organised in Strasbourg at the European Youth Event (June 2025) in partnership with the European Parliament and the EU Delegation. A participation to the Young Activist Summit (taking place in Geneva in November) is also explored with the



EU Delegation to the UN. The objective is to introduce the first dialogue, present the first conclusions, collect additional input and engage with more young people interested in view of future dialogues.

#### **4) Reflection on broader strategy for youth engagement in EU foreign policy**

Coordination with other DGs (ENEST, INTPA, MENA, ECHO) will be strengthened to address the first Youth Policy Dialogue conclusions, in line with the implementation of the Youth Action Plan. This includes coordination with other dialogues from RELEX DGs, but also local initiatives such as the Artic Youth Dialogue, EU-UK dialogue or local youth dialogues organised by EU Delegations. A note to the EEAS management on how to continue the dialogues with Youth on EU Foreign Policy will be proposed in the coming weeks.

#### **Communication**

When it comes to communications, the dialogue was thoroughly covered and disseminated in the FPI, EEAS and HR/VP Kaja Kallas social media channels, as well as in the European Commission [Press Corner](#). Most notably, [a wrap up video](#) was published<sup>i</sup> 24hs after the event highlighting some key moments between the participants and the HRVP and one of the participants shared her experience in [an interview](#). The Dialogue was also featured in a Brussels Times [piece](#).

#### **Annexes**

- Annex 1: Event programme, including the Dialogue.
  - Annex 2: Summary of the proposals from the youth (visual form)
  - Annex 3: SoMe statistics (EEAS and FPI accounts)
-



WITH HR/VP KALLAS

Ally with Youth in  
EU Foreign Policy

## PROGRAMME

The programme content was co-created with the young participants

### Monday 3 March

Arrival of participants (stay in Hotel Ibis, Sainte-Catherine)

### Tuesday 4 March

Venue: House of European History

**Aim of day 1:** Ice breaking / community building and getting basic knowledge on the EU / EU foreign policy

**09.00 > 09.30** Registration of participants

**09.30 > 10.30** Official welcome facilitated by Giulia and Astrid

**1. European Parliament Vice-President (Esteban GONZÁLEZ PONS):** Welcoming words

**2. European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, Head of Service (Peter WAGNER) and EEAS.SG.STRAT Director (Aude MAIO-COLICHE):** Scene setter and objective of the dialogue

**3. House of European History's Director (Constanze ITZEL):** Introduction and presentation of the Museum

**10.30 > 12.00** Interactive guided tour of the House of European History on the theme of 'Democracy'

**12.00 > 13.00** Crash course on EU policy making / EU foreign Policy - Q&A  
Mercedes GARCIA PEREZ (EEAS.Global, Acting Director)

**13.00 > 14.00** Lunch at the House of European History

**14.00 > 15.30** Working session facilitated by Giulia and Astrid

**Ice breaking**

**Community building**

**Peer-to-peer**

**15.30 > 16.00** Break

**16.00 > 18.00** Working exchanges with the Global Youth Sounding Board from DG INTPA (venue: Comet)

Evening programme with the Global Youth Sounding Board from DG INTPA





WITH HR/VP KALLAS

Ally with Youth in  
EU Foreign Policy

## PROGRAMME

### Wednesday 5 March

Venue: House of European History

**Aim of day 2:** Meet EU policymakers, discuss concrete examples of EU Foreign Policy and draft key messages for the dialogue

---

**09.00 > 10.30** Interactive game on fact checking and media literacy, organised in collaboration with EEAS SG.STRAT.4

---

**11.00 > 12.30** Visit to the European Parliament Hemicycle

---

**12.30 > 13.30** Lunch at the House of European History

*The afternoon will be facilitated by Giulia, Astrid and Sabine – the aim is to finalise work on the first set of conclusions and the choreography of the dialogue.*

---

**13.30 > 14.15** Working session with facilitators

---

**14.15 > 16.30** Welcoming words from EEAS Secretary - General (Belén MARTINEZ CARBONELL)

Participatory workshops with EEAS/FPI/EU policy-makers, to discuss EU foreign policy on the 4 selected themes and address key messages for the dialogue with HR/VP Kaja Kallas

**1. Human Rights  
and democracy**

**2. Global and  
Climate Diplomacy**

**3. Peacebuilding,  
and conflict  
resolution**

**4. The EU and its  
geopolitical  
priorities**

---

**16.30 > 18.00** Working session with facilitators to prepare the dialogue

---

Social evening programme with EEAS/FPI/EU/House colleagues available





WITH HR/VP KALLAS

Ally with Youth in  
EU Foreign Policy

## PROGRAMME

### Thursday 6 March

Venue: House of European History and EEAS Press Room

**Aim of day 3:** Dialogue with EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission Kaja Kallas

**08.00 > 9.30** Gather on the stairs to welcome HR/VP Kaja Kallas – Family Picture  
**Dialogue with HR/VP Kaja Kallas** (with breakfast)

**09.30 > 10.00** Break

**10.00 > 12.00** Finalise the set of conclusions and follow up actions

**12.00 > 13.15** Lunch at the House of European History

**13.30 > 15.00** Meetings with Geos (bilaterals)

Introductory words: Andrea Matteo FONTANA (EEAS SG.STRAT.3, HoD)

**15.00 > 16.00** Meeting with Anthony AGOTHA, Principal Adviser - Special Envoy for Climate and Environment Diplomacy / Q&A

Introductory words: Marika LAUTSO-MOUSNIER (FPI.5, HoD)

**16.00 > 17.30** Meeting with facilitators to conclude the event

Free evening

### Friday 7 March

Departure of participants

## Youth Policy Dialogue (04 → 06/03/2025) – Social Media Performance

### 1. Explainer (15/02/2025)

- a. [Instagram](#)
  - i. 488 likes
  - ii. 27 087 views
  - iii. 15 158 accounts reached
  - iv. + 43 followers
- b. [Facebook](#)
  - i. 42 likes
  - ii. 3181 views
- c. [LinkedIn](#)
  - i. 151 likes
  - ii. 18 534 views
  - iii. 22 reposts
- d. [Twitter](#)
  - i. 24 likes
  - ii. 3710 views
  - iii. 17 reposts
- e. [Threads](#)
  - i. 13 likes
  - ii. 787 views
  - iii. 1 repost
- f. [Bluesky](#)
  - i. 8 likes
  - ii. 1 repost

### 2. Teaser video (03/02/2025)

- a. [Instagram](#)
  - i. 442 likes
  - ii. 42 069 views
  - iii. 28 032 accounts reached
  - iv. + 54 followers

### 3. [Instagram stories](#)

- a. (04/03/2025)
  - i. 3 091 views
- b. (05/03/2025)
  - i. 6 355 views
- c. (06/03/2025)
  - i. 9 797 views

### 4. Wrap-up photo (06/03/2025)

- a. [Instagram](#)
  - i. 984 likes
  - ii. 31 592 views
  - iii. 17 212 accounts reached

- iv. + 49 followers
- b. [Threads](#)
  - i. 36 likes
  - ii. 1 049 views
  - iii. 7 reposts
- 5. Wrap-up video (07/03/2025)
  - a. [Instagram](#)
    - i. 484 likes
    - ii. 41 082 views
    - iii. 30 918 accounts reached
    - iv. +49 followers
  - b. [Facebook](#)
    - i. 51 likes
    - ii. 2 696 views
  - c. [LinkedIn](#)
    - i. 211 likes
    - ii. 9468 views
    - iii. 24 reposts
  - d. [Twitter](#)
    - i. 63 likes
    - ii. 9,720 views
    - iii. 30 reposts
  - e. [Bluesky](#)
    - i. 16 likes
    - ii. 2 reposts

## **FPI Social Media Performance ([Twitter](#))**

### **1. Explainer (15/02/2025):**

- i. 5 likes
- ii. 541 views
- iii. 2 reposts

### **2. Opening tweet (04/03/2025)**

- i. 8 likes
- ii. 642 views
- iii. 3 reposts

### **3. Second tweet for the opening (04/03/2025)**

- i. 6 likes
- ii. 504 views
- iii. 2 retweets

### **4. Tweet on the workshop (05/03/2025)**

- i. 9 likes
- ii. 4 retweets
- iii. 414 views

### **5. Tweet on the dialogue with HR/VP (06/03/2025)**

- i. 19 likes
- ii. 7 retweets
- iii. 1996 views

### **6. Interview with Dialogue participant (06/03/2025)**

- i. 8 likes
- ii. 2 retweets
- iii. 484 views

### **7. Wrap-up video (07/03/2025)**

- i. 8 likes
- ii. 2 retweets
- iii. 484 views