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

'Youth Policy Dialogue with Commissioner Brunner in Vorarlberg'

8 May 2025

ORF-Landesfunkhaus, Vorarlberg - Austria

Introduction

On 8 May 2025, the Youth Policy Dialogue with European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, Magnus Brunner, was held at the ORF Vorarlberg Landesfunkhaus in Dornbirn, Austria. The event brought together more than 120 high-school students from multiple schools across Vorarlberg to engage in a structured discussion on a variety of EU-topics - such as Commissioner's current priorities, his role within the EU framework, the current challenges stemming from an evolving security landscape or the local impact of migration. The dialogue was moderated by Christiane Schwald-Pösel (ORF Vorarlberg) and supported by the Austrian Society for European Politics (ÖGfE) and EUROPE DIRECT Vorarlberg.

Summary of the Youth Policy Dialogue (In-Person Meeting)

The Youth Policy Dialogue in Vorarlberg brought together more than 120 high school students from across the region. The structure of the dialogue was as follows:

- Opening remarks by European Commissioner Magnus Brunner on his role and priorities as EU Commissioner for Migration and Internal Affairs.
- Moderated Q&A session between Commissioner Brunner and the students, guided by moderator Christiane Schwald-Pösel from ORF Vorarlberg.

The students addressed a broad range of topics relevant to EU policy and youth interests:

(1) Role and work of an EU Commissioner

Students demonstrated strong interest in understanding the Commission's mandate and Commissioner Brunner's professional trajectory, including his duties as Commissioner responsible for EU internal affairs and migration.

(2) Migration and Asylum Policy

In line with the Commissioners' responsibilities, the central part of the dialogue focused on migration: students asked how many migrants Europe should accept, the EU's approach to irregular migration, and the Commission's broader efforts to manage migration in a balanced manner. Commissioner Brunner responded by emphasizing the complexities of migration management, including differences in Member States' border situations. Questions further circled around cooperation among Member States and secondary migratory movement.

(3) Internal Security and Schengen Cooperation

Discussions included the role of the EU in ensuring internal security and maintaining the functionality of the Schengen Area. Students expressed curiosity about how the EU manages border control and security within the bloc's framework of free movement.

(4) Enlargement

Whilst not part of the Commissioners' portfolio, some students posed questions about EU enlargement and which countries might accede the Union in the future. Commissioner Brunner highlighted the Western Balkans as a focus area for future integration efforts, stressing the importance of stability in the region.

(5) Personal and Civic Engagement

Beyond policy specifics, students were interested in political processes and how young people can engage with EU decision-making. Commissioner Brunner encouraged active civic participation and highlighted the importance of political education.

The full discussion was recorded and published on ORF ON for two weeks available on-demand listening.

Additional resources and useful links

European Youth Portal event webpage:
https://youth.europa.eu/events/youth-policy-dialogue-commissioner-magnus-brunner-1_en

European Commissioner Magnus Brunner's post on Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/reel/DJcWcTsILmw/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==

Austrian Society for European Politics (ÖGfE) website:
https://www.oegfe.at/projekte/europa-club-vorarlberg-frag-den-kommissar-jugenddialog-mit-eu-kommissar-magnus-brunner-2/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

ORF News-item: https://vorarlberg.orf.at/studio/stories/3303661/


European
Commission


WEU
TALK