

EU Parliament Written Declaration on devoting more attention to youth empowerment in EU policies

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is an EU Parliament written declaration?

A written declaration is a short text (not more than 250 words) which a group of up to five MEPs can prepare and present to the Parliament to launch or relaunch a debate on a subject that comes within the EU's remit.

2. What are the benefits of proposing and presenting a written declaration?

It allows us to promote our policy that the needs, interests and voice of young people should be taken into account in all policy areas, and not just in traditional youth policy fields within the EU Institutions. The written declaration gives us an opportunity to engage with a large number of MEPs gives them the opportunity to demonstrate their support. It supports us in raising the profile and awareness around the need to involve young people in the decision making process.

3. What political and legal force does the written declaration have if passed?

The written declaration does have political weight as it demonstrates that the EU Parliament strongly supports the principle of youth proofing. The written declaration calls on the other EU institutions to act and although they are not legally obliged to implement the recommendations, the political weight of the Parliament and our lobbying will require them to respond to our call (either by agreeing to take the matter forward, or explain why they will not).

4. What is the process?

We must secure the support of 1–5 MEPs in order to table the declaration. Once the declaration has been presented to the Parliament, we have 3 months to secure the support and signatures of 393 MEPs (i.e. 50% + 1).

5. Can the MEPs sign the written declaration in their office or back in their country of origin?

No, the MEPs must sign the written declaration at the entry of the plenary in Strasbourg and Brussels, or in a specific room assigned for this purpose in the parliament building in Brussels. We would expect most MEPs to sign during the plenary sessions and will concentrate our lobbying around these times.

6. What can Member Organisations do?

Member organisations can provide volunteers who would be willing to physically attend the plenary sessions to speak with MEPs and get signatures. But most importantly, we would also need MOs to personally contact MEPs, by email or phone, or during an arranged visit, asking them to promote, support and sign the declaration.