

*50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome*  
Youth Summit “Your Europe – Your Future. Youth debates for tomorrow's Europe” Rome, Italy, 24–25 March 2007

*Guiding notes for the national debates*

Introduction

Only two months separate the pre-Summit, which took place in Brussels on 18–20 January, from the Youth Summit in Rome on 24–25 March. Such a high-visibility Youth Summit alongside the European Council Summit in Berlin is a great opportunity to add a youth perspective to the debate on the future of the European Union. However, this short timeframe also poses a challenge for the National Youth Councils in the EU Member States, who have the role to coordinate national debates involving a broad range of young people.

This document aims to give some short but clear guidelines for these national debates and outline the drafting process of the conclusions of the Rome Youth Summit.

For an overview of the entire process and access to the related documents, please visit the Youth Summit web page (<http://www.youthforum.org/youthsummit.htm>) and the concept paper in annex.

Participants in the national debates

As outlined in the concept, one of the objectives of the national debates is to “involve young people from different social, economic, educational, cultural, ethnical and religious backgrounds and who are not necessarily members of youth organisations”. National Youth Councils are invited to ensure the broadest participation possible from their Member Organisations (and beyond if feasible) within the short timeframe provided.

Expected outcome of the national debates

National debates, certainly if they are well organised and achieve a broad input, can yield extensive results. However, in order to make a synthesis of all the outcomes possible, a concise document will need to be submitted to the general rapporteur of the Youth Summit:

- **Maximum two pages (1000 words)**
- Language: English or French
- Providing feedback on one or more of the six sections of the discussion document (the annexed guiding questions can be used for this) and a clear message to the EU Institutions and national governments
- Structure of the contribution:

- Short introduction on the national debate
- Body of the text with feedback on one or more of the six themes of the discussion document/questions
- Short conclusion including the main message the participants in the national debate wish to pass to the EU leaders.

The deadline for submitting the contributions is **10 March**. However, the organisers of the Youth Summit would like to get an overview of what is happening in the Member States in advance. To this end, the European Commission prepared a template for a brief activity description, to be sent in by **13 February**. This report will not only be used to get an overview of the national debates, but also to report on the process on the Commission's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary website (<http://www.50.europa.eu/>).

### Support for the national debates

The European Commission representations have been asked to provide support to the debates at national level leading up to the Youth Summit. The representations could support the logistics and the promotion of planned activities and – if possible – assist financially. Also the European Parliament's national information offices will be briefed on the process and can provide assistance. Likewise, the National Agencies for the Youth in Action programme are aware of the Youth Summit and might be willing to contribute. If you have not already done so, it would be useful to get in touch with these offices in your country.

### Participants in the Rome Youth Summit

In total, there will be 200 participants in the Rome Youth Summit. There will be 6 participants from each Member State (2 NYC representatives and 4 representatives from the national debate), plus 30 representatives of INGYOs (selected by the European Youth Forum).

National Youth Councils should ensure gender balance in the national delegation (3 men, 3 women) and the broadest possible representation of the national debate. The deadline for the nomination of NYC delegates is 14 February. Representatives from national debates can be nominated until 25 February.

### What will happen in Rome?

The Rome Youth Summit will in the first place be a visibility event, to highlight the results of the consultation process and to give visibility to the interaction between youth representatives and the EU Institutions. Therefore, most of the work on the Summit's conclusions will be done beforehand, the Summit itself will mainly serve to wrap up the discussions and present the results.

For this to work, it is important that the contributions from the national debate are sent in on time and strictly follow the format outlined above (deadline 10 March).

If the contributions are received on time, there will be sufficient time to analyse them and produce draft conclusions ahead of the meeting.

The Youth Summit will broadly consist of three parts:

- **Friday 23 March: technical meeting (hotel)**
  - The General Rapporteur presents the main points from the national debates and the INGYO inputs and the draft conclusions for the Rome Youth Summit
  - Plenary session with statements from the different delegations
- **Saturday 24 March: finalising the conclusions (University of Rome)**
  - Official opening of the Youth Summit
  - Opening speeches
  - Key note speech (tbc)
  - 12 working groups (6x2 groups, with the same themes as the pre-Summit) will examine the draft conclusions and make changes if needed. The rapporteurs of these twelve working groups (one rapporteur per group) will – on the basis of their working groups' input – finalise the conclusions together with the General Rapporteur. There will be two working group sessions, each between 1,5 and 2 hours.
  - Presentation and adoption of the conclusions in plenary
- **Sunday 25 March: Presentation of conclusions (Campidoglio)**
  - TV-link with Berlin
  - Web-streamed panel debate
  - Briefing on the outcome of the Berlin Summit

The draft programme of the Rome Youth Summit, with more details, will be available soon.

### Deadlines

- Send overview of planned activities for the national debate to the YFJ Secretariat (see annexed form): **13 February**
- Nomination of new or additional NYC delegates: **14 February**
- Nomination of representatives of national debates: **25 February**
- Submission of the contribution from the national debate: **10 March**

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### Annexes

0116-07 Questions for the national debates  
0117-07 Form planned activities  
Concept paper Youth Summit  
Discussion document for the national debates