

## Introduction

The national consultation addressed to young people in general in Spain has been organised by the Spanish Youth Council (CJE) together with the European Commission Representation in Spain. CJE elaborated the contents of the questionnaire and the Commission provided its support to make it available on its web and with an on-line format.

The questionnaire was prepared taking into consideration the different levels of knowledge and interest that young people may have in the European Union, so depending on that level they were addressed to different range of questions.

Due to the short time given for all the preparations and execution, the amount of answers to the questionnaire is not very high, though it is still on-line to allow more young people giving their view.

This synthesis gathers those opinions more shared at the sight of the answers of the questionnaire and grouped under the themes of the discussion.

At the end of this document, the “Conclusions” reflect not only those coming from the questionnaires but also those from the contributions gathered by the Spanish Youth Council through other debate activities organised in order to know what young people think about the European Union. These activities have allowed deeper discussions on the issues object of the questionnaire.

## The future of the Constitutional Treaty

Most of the answers given regarding the institutional framework of the European Union lead to a common opinion about the need of a new impetus based on a more simplified legal basis in the way of a Constitution adopted by means of a European Referendum. It is also seen as necessary to reform the institutions and the decision making processes. Decisions should be adopted by majority.

## Building democracy and civil society in Europe

There is also a clear consensus among those answering the questionnaire regarding the need to increase the communication between the citizens and the European institutions. The use of information technologies seems to be one of the favourite tools to achieve this improvement. For those more important questions that need a direct answer from citizens, Referendum is the most chosen option.

## The social and economic model

See Note<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> It was decided not to include any question in this theme because its importance is such that it would be necessary to develop an specific questionnaire just for it

## Sustainable Development

Participants in this consultation agree on the importance for the European Union to have a strong Environment policy that include the compulsory fulfilment of certain criteria such as the increase of the use of renewable energies and the reduction of industrial pollution.

## Youth and Education

Housing, employment and education are the three issues that more concern arise among young people.

Regarding education, the Bologna Process is seen as a very positive measure that should be amplified to the rest of education levels in order to create a real European education space.

## The EU in a globalising world

The answers to the questionnaires share the opinion that a common foreign policy is essential for a strong European Union at the international scenario and also that its role in the defence of human rights in the world should be reinforced.

## Conclusion

Despite the different levels of knowledge of the participants in the consultation through the questionnaire, it is possible to come to the same conclusions that those reached in other discussion and debate spaces organised by the Spanish Youth Council in order to know the opinion of young people about the European Union and that can be summarized by saying that **“a lot has been done but still a lot has to be done”**. And it has to be done with young people and not only for young people. Youth organisations as part of civil society, made by and for young people, should play a more active and acknowledged role in those European processes that affect young people.

Initiatives such as the White Paper on Youth and its development through the Open Method of Co-ordination and the European Youth Pact were seen by young people as positive signs showing a good will from the political side but all of them need of a more concrete and material support that can make into reality the political will. Youth can not be just a target group for certain measures. Youth is not just the future of Europe. Young people have the right and the duty to build not only its future but also its present. So that would be our message for EU leaders:

“Let’s build Europe together, not you working for us, but all together working for a better Europe, more democratic, transparent and closer to its citizens”.