

## YOUTH DEBATE PARTNERS

### College of Europe ([www.coleurop.be](http://www.coleurop.be))

The College of Europe is a highly specialized institute for postgraduate European studies. Its origins stem from the historic Hague Congress of 1948 where the idea of establishing a unique and innovative bilingual European College came about. This was to be an institution where graduates across the entire continent and further afield could live, study and think together in a truly European microcosm. The College has two residential campuses, one in Bruges (Belgium) and one in Warsaw-Natolin (Poland).

The College of Europe offers a one-year Master's Degree in European Studies for postgraduate students in Law, Politics and Administration and Economics (campus Bruges) and in European Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies (campus Natolin). The academic programme is taught in English and French, and includes lectures, research seminars, simulation exercises, weekend workshops and meetings with invited professionals.

The College of Europe is more than just a college. Since the very creation of what is now the European Union it has been a major centre of European thinking whose alumni include European commissioners, MEPs, diplomats and a host of senior European civil servants in the EU institutions.

### European Youth Forum ([www.youthforum.org](http://www.youthforum.org))

The European Youth Forum is the international organisation established by national youth councils and international non-governmental youth organisations to represent the interests of young people from all over Europe. It is the youth platform in Europe representing youth organisations in its contacts with international institutions - mainly the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations. Since 1979, it serves to channel the flow of information and opinions between young people and decision-makers. The European Youth Forum has 93 members made up of national youth councils and international non-governmental youth organisations, which are federations in themselves, bringing together tens of millions of young people from all European countries.

The European Youth Forum works to empower young people to actively participate in the shaping of Europe and the society in which they live. Through our member organisations and our representative role we want to improve the living conditions of young people as European citizens in today's world.

### The European Commission: A political cooperation and a community action programme

(<http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth>)

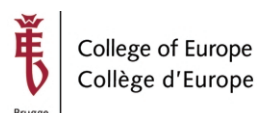


Youth policy in the European Union has gained momentum in the last few years, thanks to policy initiatives taken by the European Commission in consultation with young people as well as other stakeholders, beginning with the adoption of the *White Paper – A new impetus for European Youth* in November 2001. The *White Paper* gave the basis for a new framework for European co-operation in the youth field, under which Member States work together with the aim of developing coherent and sustainable youth policies in Europe.



This political cooperation is complementary to the Commission's existing "*YOUTH*" programme (2000-2006) which promotes voluntary activities, intercultural dialogue and the active participation of young people in society through support to projects for and by young people. A good political cooperation at European level indeed helps create the conditions for new initiatives that can be developed and supported through the "*YOUTH*" programme. The success of the programme in turn stimulates the political will to further develop cooperation in the youth field and design policies fostering initiatives for and by young people.

2004 is an important milestone for Youth. The Commission has evaluated the first cycle of the cooperation framework, and this evaluation will be a basis for proposals on new orientations for this policy cooperation. It has also adopted a new "*Youth in Action*" programme covering years 2007-2013. The proposal for a new action programme is inspired by recent developments in the youth field, including the new constitutional Treaty which has reinforced the existing legal basis for European action in the field. Member States will also take account of these developments when considering their priorities for continued political cooperation in the youth field.



# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Committee of the Regions

Wednesday 17 November 2004



**YOUTH DEBATE**  
(Belliard CoR building)

**PLENARY SESSION**  
(European Parliament, Hemicycle)



Programme

# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Committee of the Regions

## Wednesday 17 November 2004



### “A genuine partner for the European Institutions”

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all those participating in the Youth Debate, during the official celebrations to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Committee of the Regions (CoR). And what a decade it's been.

The Committee's consultative role, originally set out in the Maastricht Treaty, was greatly expanded by the subsequent Amsterdam Treaty, with the result that our members are now consulted on a whole range of policy areas, from economic and social cohesion to employment and the environment. Our input is critical, because it's the local and regional level where the majority of EU laws are implemented.

The progress achieved during the presidencies of my five predecessors has allowed the Committee to ensure that the views of a “Europe of regions, cities and local authorities” have remained at the forefront of the EU agenda.

But the next few years will continue to present us with challenges. We must ensure that the representatives of the ten new Member States are properly integrated in order to play their full part in the decision-making process. Their citizens have huge expectations of Europe. We must not let them down.

We must promote efficient decentralisation and encourage the development of a Europe which is capable of acting in a united way, but which also respects its regional and local features - “united in diversity”, as the saying goes.

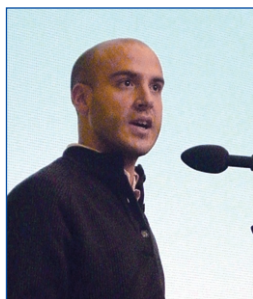
The EU Constitutional Treaty has greatly strengthened our role: it gives the Committee a key responsibility for monitoring the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, as well as the right to launch proceedings at the European Court of Justice if we believe that an EU law has been enacted without respecting the powers of regional and local authorities, or if the institutions fail to consult us in the areas where they are Treaty-bound to do so.

But the Treaty must be ratified and the CoR will play a leading role, as part of the “1000 debates for Europe” initiative, to ensure that politicians at the regional and local level do their bit to explain the Treaty to the general public.

The CoR is committed to creating a competitive Europe of solidarity, as envisaged at the Lisbon and Gothenburg Summits, based on the realistic budget envisaged by the European Commission for 2007-2013.

I am proud of the recognition that CoR has received from the European institutions and Member States alike and believe that the Committee will continue to be the most effective representative of the regions and cities in the European Union.

**Peter Straub**, President of the Committee of the Regions



### “Cultural diversity”

The Committee of the Regions is one of the few institutions of the European Union that has swiftly and firmly established itself as a strong point of reference and real political partnership. It has provided an indispensable bridge to bring citizens and European politics closer to each other by connecting regions and municipalities to the European level.

The Committee of the Regions plays an important role as an intermediary between young people at local and regional levels and the European Union defending their interests and concerns.

Solutions to issues such as youth unemployment, an ageing population and educational systems under pressure require a concerted effort at local, regional, national and European level - which gives the

Committee of the Regions a unique opportunity to play a role for youth policy. As President of the European Youth Forum, I am looking forward to seeing the Committee continue this task in the future.

The newly enlarged Union has once again opened its doors to states with varied cultures and new energy. Young people from new member states do not only bring fresh ideas but also cultural diversity and are eager to participate in the construction of a new European Union.

The richness of our different cultures and identities cannot be embodied in any better institution than in the Committee of the Regions. Not limited to government ministers or European civil servants, the Committee personifies the European idea of unification in diversity by connecting our regions and municipalities. The Youth Forum congratulates the Committee of the Regions, its President and its members for a successful decade worth celebrating by all Europeans.

**Giacomo Filibeck**, President of the European Youth Forum

# Programme

## Wednesday 17 November 2004

### 1. YOUTH DEBATE

#### A) 11.30 – 13.00 – Workshops (CoR building, Rue Belliard 101)

Three parallel workshops, with the participation of representatives from the European Youth Forum and young elected people. The aim of these workshops will be to prepare the debates of the afternoon. They will concentrate on topics chosen and prepared by the participants prior to the event (social cohesion, role of the regions and cities, participation in political life and voluntary activities)

#### B) 14.30 – 17.30 – Youth Debate (room B52, CoR building, Rue Belliard 101)

**Youth debate** with the participation of all three involved groups (College of Europe, European Youth Forum and young elected people) related to the topics discussed during the workshops in the morning. The debate will be co-chaired by:

- **Henning Jensen**, Vice President of the EDUC Commission of CoR,
- **Giacomo Filibeck**, President of the European Youth Forum,

and moderated by professor **Robert Picht** from the College of Europe.

### 2. PLENARY SESSION

#### 17.45 – 20.00 – European Parliament Hemicycle (Paul-Henri Spaak Building)



Jacques Delors

Ode to Joy

Opening speech by CoR President, **Peter Straub**

Speech by former European Commission President, **Jacques Delors**

Interventions by rapporteurs from the Youth Debate:

- **Giacomo Filibeck**, President of the European Youth Forum
- **Marcus Pollard**, College of Europe, Bruges

Debate on “Regions and Cities – pillars of the new Europe”, moderated by **Hajo Friedrich** of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

- **Dora Bakoyannis**, Mayor of Athens (GR), EPP
- **Rudolf Bauer**, Head of Slovakian delegation to CoR, EPP, and President of the Košice self-governing region
- **Keith Brown**, President of the UEN-EA Group in the CoR and member of Clackmannanshire Council, Scotland (UK)
- **Flo Clucas**, Member of Liverpool City Council (UK), ELDR
- **Manfred Dammeyer**, Member of North Rhine Westphalia Regional Parliament (DE), PES, and CoR President 1998-2000
- **Isidoro Gottardo**, President of EPP group in the CoR and member of the Regional Parliament of Friuli Venezia Giulia (IT)
- **Kent Johansson**, President of the ELDR Group in the CoR and Member of the Regional Executive Board for Västra Götalands (SE)
- **Pasqual Maragall i Mira**, President of Catalonia Region (ES), PES, and CoR President 1996-1998
- **Catharina Tarras-Wahlberg**, Deputy Mayor of Stockholm (SE) and 1st Vice-President of CoR PES Group

Speech by **Loyola de Palacio**, Vice President of the European Commission

Conclusions by CoR First Vice-President, **Albert Bore**