

The Youth Intergroup

MEPs Damien Abad, Franziska Branter, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Ramona Manescu, and Pablo Zalba Bidegain

Are pleased to invite you to a public hearing

Towards a Young European Social Network? - Revamping the European Youth Portal -

**September 20, 2011
13h - 16h30
Room PHS 4B001
European Parliament, Brussels**

Gregory Paulger - Director Youth and Sport, European Commission

Anja Ruhland - Director, Eurodesk

Richard Allan - Institutional and Public Affairs for Europe, Facebook

Lorenz Bogaert - Founder and CEO, Netlog Inc.

Jeremy Millard, Researcher on e-participation, Danish Technological Institute

Jörg Hladjk - European Data Protection and Privacy, Hunton & Williams Law

Social networks play a major role in the daily life of young people today. Their content goes beyond simple interactions, or personal matters as these past years have shown that their impact on social and political life can be determining.

The European Youth Portal (www.europa.eu/youth) is an online information database for young people living and working in Europe; giving advice on studying, travelling, youth rights, and active citizenship. As the European Commission is reviewing the existing portal, we, the Youth Intergroup in the European Parliament would like to take this opportunity to involve different actors in the revision.

Our hope is that the improvements will lead to an interactive platform that will enhance communication between young Europeans. In the likes of a social network, the new European Youth Portal would enable direct exchange in a safe environment.

Panellists will cover all steps of the review, the legal framework guaranteeing respect of personal information, best practices of social networking, the opportunities of e-participation, as well as a user perspective from youth activists.

You can follow the event live on <http://greenmediabox.eu/live/youthportal/>

PROGRAMME

13h00-13h10

Welcome - Franziska Brantner, MEP

Welcome of the panelists, participants in the room and on the web stream.

13h10-13h30

Gregory Paulger - Director Youth and Sports, European Commission
N.N. - Member State representative, Hungarian Presidency

M. Paulger will introduce the Youth Portal and the Commission's plan and timeline for revision. Mr. N.N. will present the [paper](#) published during the Hungarian presidency on youth participation and focus on Member State approach.

13h30-14h45

Panel I - What hopes for the revision

Franziska Brantner - Vice President for Mobility, Youth Intergroup
Richard Allan - Institutional and Public Affairs for Europe, Facebook
Anja Ruhland - Director, Eurodesk
N.N. - Youth Activist

Chair: **MEP Eider Gardiazabal Rubial**

Eurodesk will present results of the survey they have been conducting on the Youth Portal. Richard Allan will talk about the possible social network objectives of the Portal and the complementarily with Facebook. Youth Activist will bring a user perspective, and put forth the importance of an easy to use and attractive website to ensure that young people visit the portal. Ms. Brantner will discuss her vision and recommendations for the revision.

14h45-15h50

Panel II - How to implement the change?

Lorenz Bogaert - Founder and CEO, Netlog

Jeremy Millard - E-Participation researcher, Danish Technological Institute

Jörg Hladjk - European Data Protection and Privacy, Hunton & Williams Law

Chair: **MEP Ramona Manescu (TBC)**

This panel will discuss the implementation options discussed in the first panel, from privacy and information protection necessities to the best practices for online participation.

15h50-16h

Closing Remarks - MEPs of the Youth Intergroup

Don't hesitate to forward this invitation to your networks.

If you wish to attend, please register with your full name, date of birth, nationality and passport number at franziska.brantner@europarl.europa.eu