



# Open letter to Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport, Glenn Micallef





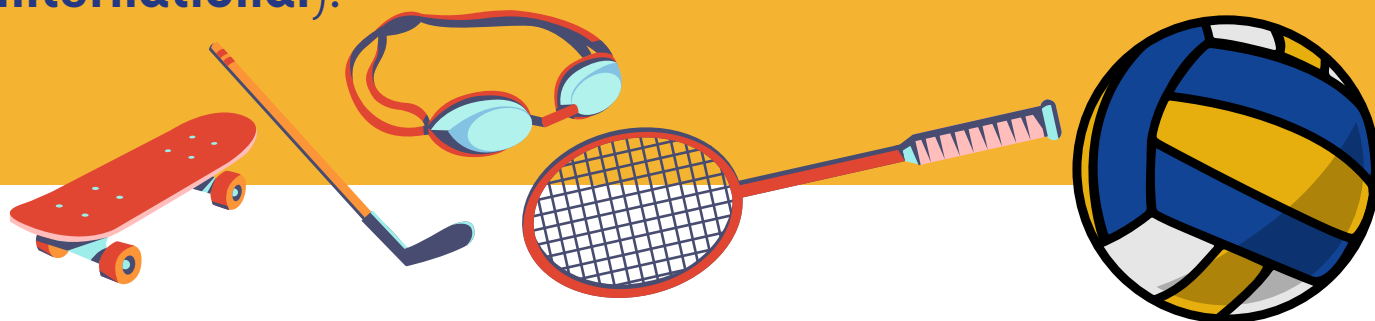
# Dear European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport, Glenn Micallef,

We, the undersigned members of the COMECE Youth Platform, are writing to express our **strong interest** in the establishment of the President's Youth Advisory Board and to **share** our reflections and **recommendations on its structure and effective functioning**, ensuring it truly represents and includes young people from diverse backgrounds across Europe.



In the spirit of ensuring broad participation, it is crucial that the Youth Advisory Board includes youth organisations active at the EU level that are not yet part of any stakeholder or expert group run by the European Commission.

We encourage a diversified spectrum of youth representatives, encompassing not only civil society but also youth associations and sections of organisations that are often excluded from EU dialogue. We call for a **transparent** and **fair application process** that prioritises candidates from different backgrounds, ensuring representation across various geographical regions, social settings, and levels of engagement (**local, national, and international**).



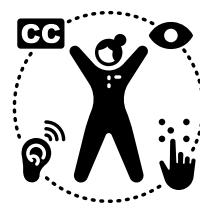
A genuine inclusion within the Board is vital.

To achieve this, **accessibility measures should be guaranteed**, such as sign language interpretation for deaf participants, when present in meetings. We **highlight** the need to make the **Board accessible** also **for young parents**, recognising that individuals aged 18-30 may face unique challenges in balancing civic engagement with family responsibilities.

By considering age diversity and parental status, the board can better reflect the realities and needs of all young people in Europe.

Finally, **we recommend allocating 50% of the appointments to candidates who represent the interests of vulnerable groups**, such as young people with a migratory background, individuals with disabilities, citizens from rural areas or islands, and people at risk of poverty and social marginalisation.

In the fulfilment of its functions, the Board should embody EU core values, such as **solidarity, fundamental rights and civic engagement**, guaranteeing that each member represents the interests of their respective organisation or association, rather than their personal agendas.



As such, it is crucial that the Board fosters a spirit of **collaboration** and **collective decision-making** to prevent polarisation and ensures that members work together for the Common Good.

Additionally, the Board should embody the **principle of synodality**<sup>[1]</sup>, fostering active listening, mutual respect, and meaningful collaboration among youth representatives, **as inspired by the Apostolic Exhortation Christus Vivit**.<sup>[2]</sup>


These principles will ensure that the board remains a space for constructive dialogue and shared progress.



As recalled by its own title, it is essential that the Youth Advisory Board assures a **true** and **effective advisory process** to the Commission's President, involving its members in policy development of both **areas relevant to the Commission** and topics addressed in the **EU Youth Dialogues**.

[1] Pope Francis, Ceremony Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Institution of the Synod of Bishops, 17 October 2015.  
International Theological Commission, Synodality in the life and mission of the Church, 2nd March 2018.

[2] Pope Francis, Post-synodal apostolic exhortation 'Christus Vivit'  
[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20190325\\_christus-vivit.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20190325_christus-vivit.html)




To ensure a well-functioning structure based on the needs of **flexibility** and **formation** of young people, that is able to adapt to the new challenges of younger citizens, we recommend a **two-year-mandate**.

If, for any reason, a person might not be present for two years, another person of the same organisation or of the waiting list could be appointed until the end of the mandate period. This mandate shall not restrict the **inclusion of new organisations** but instead, encourage a dynamic and collaborative environment for the Board's future endeavours.

As such, the Board's role should extend beyond consultation, allowing **wider participation** of young people to meaningfully express their issues and solutions, encouraging visits to review how EU-supported youth projects and initiatives are performing and understanding what challenges might be faced at the grassroots level.

Overall, **the Board should represent a youth advocate**, amplifying concerns and opinions of their organisations and underrepresented groups, with insights from different communities with diverse cultural and religious backgrounds.



This includes **fostering intercultural and interreligious dialogue to enhance mutual understanding and respect**, in line with the Church's social teachings<sup>[3]</sup>, which should serve as a guiding principle in the Board's decisions and leadership.

**We demand that these actions are integrated in the current design and creation of the Youth Advisory Board.**

There is no better time to act than now for young people and next generations: **establishing strong foundations** this early in the process **will** definitely **set a benchmark** for future activities, ensuring that the EU Youth Advisory Board will become an essential platform **for genuine youth participation**, fostering a more inclusive and representative decision-making process.

The undersigned members of the COMECE Youth Platform stand ready to work together with you to make this happen through a constructive dialogue.

**We look forward to your feedback and to the opportunity to discuss these proposals with you further.**

[3] Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Compendium of the social doctrine of the Church, 2004

