



Draft Resolutions

To be discussed at YES Bureau Meeting, 16-18/06/2023, Brussels, Belgium

1 **Fostering Youth Participation in the 2024 European Parliament** 2 **Elections**

3 4 **Submitted organisations/s: JSC Spain**

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6 A few days ago, it was published Elections to the European Parliament have been set for June
7 9th of 2024. This means we have work to do from YES, as it is crucial for youth in Europe to
8 vote in these elections, even though not all Member States have the same feeling and
9 percentage of participation. Some of them, like Spain back in 2014, had quite a low
10 participation percentage with just 43,81%¹.

11 Voting is a civil right that cost a lot of effort to acquire, especially for women, although it
12 gives power to the people to choose their own future. In terms of representation, voting allows
13 young people to have a say in shaping the policies and decisions that will affect their lives.
14 The European Parliament represents the voice of the citizens of the European Union, and by
15 voting, young people can ensure that their concerns, perspectives, and interests are
16 adequately represented.

17 The future of Europe is also at stake: the decisions made by the European Parliament have a
18 significant impact on the future direction of the EU. Issues such as climate change, digital
19 rights, education, employment, and social welfare are all influenced by the policies and
20 legislation passed by the European Parliament. By participating in the elections, young people
21 can help shape a Europe that aligns with their values and aspirations. Additionally, young
22 people often face unique challenges and have specific needs that require attention. These
23 include access to quality education, employment opportunities, affordable housing (an issue
24 which, in some Member States like Spain is a quite complicated issue nowadays due to the
25 inability to access housing), environmental sustainability, and social inclusivity. By voting in
26 the European Parliament elections, young people can support candidates and parties that
27 prioritize these issues and work towards addressing them effectively.

28 Addressing apathy and engaging in politics: Low voter turnout, particularly among young
29 people, is a concern in many democracies. By encouraging youth participation in the European
30 Parliament elections of 2024, we will ensure representation, to shape the future of Europe,
31 to address youth-specific concerns, to strengthen democracy, to combat apathy, and to
32 positively influence the EU's image.

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34 ¹European Parliament. (2019). *Turnout by year (%)*. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/election-results-2019/en/turnout/>



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35 For all these reasons and to raise all percentages of youth participation in all Member States
36 for the next European Parliament Elections, YES demands:

- 37 1. To conduct campaigns and awareness programs to inform young people about the role
38 and importance of the European Union and the European Parliament. This can include
39 organizing workshops, seminars, and panel discussions to engage youth in meaningful
40 discussions on EU policies, values, and decision-making processes.
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- 42 2. To mobilize and outreach: YES can actively engage with young people through
43 grassroots mobilization efforts. This can involve reaching out to universities, schools,
44 youth organizations, and local communities to promote the benefits of EU membership
45 and the impact of European Parliament elections on shaping EU policies. They can also
46 leverage social media platforms, create informative content, and encourage
47 discussions to reach a wider audience.
48
- 49 3. To design youth-centered campaigns: YES can develop targeted campaigns specifically
50 designed to resonate with youth. These campaigns should focus on issues that are
51 relevant to youth, such as climate change, social justice, employment opportunities,
52 education, and digital rights. By highlighting how the European Union and the European
53 Parliament address these concerns, they can motivate young people to actively
54 participate in the elections.