

EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS: '40 UNDER 40'



Winter 2011

With the support of



Crédit Mutuel ARKEA

EADS



Media partner

Europe's World



EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS: '40 UNDER 40'

Report of the three-day seminar
part of an annual working programme

co-organised by EuropaNova and *Friends of Europe*

with the support of the French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs,
the European Commission's Europe for Citizens Programme,
the French Ministry of Culture,
General Electric (GE), Crédit Mutuel ARKEA and EADS

and with media partner *Europe's World*

Winter 2011

Paris

The views expressed in this report are the private views of individuals and are not necessarily the views of the organisations they represent, nor of EuropaNova, *Friends of Europe*, their Board of Trustees, members and partners.

Reproduction in whole or in part is permitted, provided that full credit is given to EuropaNova and *Friends of Europe*, and provided that any such reproduction, whether in whole or in part, is not sold unless incorporated in other works.

Rapporteur: Robert Marino

Publisher: Geert Cami

Project Directors: Thomas Houdaille & Nathalie Furrer

Project Managers: Corinne Gastaldi & Jacqueline Hogue

Photographers: Guia Besana and Bruno de Maistre

Design & Layout: Kramik

This report is printed on sustainably produced paper

Table of contents

PREFACE	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EU'S CURRENT STATE OF PLAY	7
TOWARDS A EUROPEAN RENEWAL	11
BUILDING EUROPE THROUGH CRISIS	17
LEADING BY EXAMPLE	23
BRIDGING THE GAP WITH EUROPEAN CITIZENS: THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA	30
HOW TO REINVENT OUR ECONOMIC MODELS?	33
FINANCE VS POLITICS: WHAT CAN EUROPE DO?	41
HOW CAN EUROPE FIGHT THE RISE OF POPULISM AND NATIONALISM?	47
WHAT ROLE FOR EUROPEAN CULTURE?	53
ON BEING A YOUNG EUROPEAN LEADER	57
ANNEX I - Programme	59
ANNEX II - European Young Leaders 2011-2012	64
ANNEX III - About Us	77

PREFACE

Among its many challenges, the lack of a collective vision remains one of the main obstacles to an effective and sustainable Europe. The European Young Leaders '40 under 40' programme, led by EuropaNova and *Friends of Europe*, aims to promote a European identity by engaging each year 40 of the European Union's brightest minds in initiatives that will shape Europe's future.

The objective of this programme is to develop a dynamic community of European leaders, sharing knowledge and good practices. This will, in turn, foster cooperation between all Europeans, and create a valuable and cohesive network of young European leaders. The '40 under 40' programme this year took place under the patronage of two important European actors – [Daniel Cohn-Bendit MEP](#), Co-President of the Greens/European Free Alliance, and [Vaira Vike-Freiberga](#), former President of Latvia and former Vice-Chair of the Reflection Group on the Future of Europe.

The first seminar of the programme was held in Paris on 8-10 December 2011, at a time of economic and social crisis to which the most recent European summit of 8-9 December failed to deliver credible solutions. The three day seminar gave the Young Leaders the opportunity to share their opinions on key European issues during both interactive and "out of the box" sessions, as well as during informal chats with high-level decisionmakers and experts.

Prior to the second seminar, which will take place in Brussels on 7-9 June 2012, this report presents a summary of the discussions and outcomes that resulted from the three-day event. It also illustrates that despite the on-going crisis, the impressive individuals that comprise the '40 under 40' give every reason to be hopeful. As Giles Merritt, Secretary General of *Friends of Europe*, noted: "if we can get these people at the helm of European life and European policy-making, then there is rather less to worry about than one might think."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Think European and work transnationally, but also look beyond Europe's borders: this was the main message of the European Young Leaders seminar.

Coinciding with the European Summit on the debt crisis, this seminar allowed the Young Leaders to reach a clear consensus that a breakup of the Eurozone is neither an option nor a solution to Europe's problems. Most agreed, however, on the necessity of rethinking – or at the very least repairing – Europe's economic and social models. With the pressures of the financial crisis, new ways of stimulating growth and competitiveness have to be explored, with some participants calling for greater fiscal federalism and others suggesting a reinforcement of the Single Market.

Many participants also pushed for a greater focus on corporate social responsibility and 'green growth', although others underlined that these models could only be sustainable if they made good business sense. Furthermore, it was emphasised that corporate social responsibility and 'green growth' would only be viable in the long-term within a context of global reciprocity, and by avoiding the damaging effects of over-regulation.

A desire for more decisive European leadership was expressed, as was the necessity for greater European integration. The Young Leaders particularly stressed the need for a truly common foreign policy, which seems to be sadly lacking during the Arab Spring, in spite of the newly-created European External Action Service (EEAS).

Faced with a rise in populism and nationalism, and to counter the influence of extremist movements, it was suggested that greater attention be paid to local populations and communities. Moreover, in order to avoid marginalising minorities, the Young Leaders pointed to the need for forging a veritable European identity – one inclusive enough to assemble all the diverse aspects of what it means to be European.

Social media was put forward as a way to increase democratic participation and to bridge the gap between citizens and their leaders, with the divide between the

elite and the people identified as a problem that clearly needs addressing. New technologies, the Young Leaders argued, could better be exploited to keep the public engaged with Europe and with European ideals.

The Young Leaders also called for a broadening of our horizons, wishing to see a Europe more open to its neighbours, and to the rest of the world. The important role that culture can play in achieving this objective was emphasised, with many pointing to culture as a powerful and fundamental lever that is too often overlooked. Culture, the Young Leaders stressed, serves as a window onto our values and allows us to share these with others.

The seminar concluded with the Young Leaders reaffirming their commitment to Europe, because although many changes undeniably need to be made, the European project was never called into question. We need to keep on building Europe, the Young Leaders enthused, and we are motivated to do this.

A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EU'S CURRENT STATE OF PLAY

The European project is being severely tested by the European Union's collective failure to tackle the many elements of the profound economic and financial crisis that began in 2008. In addition, Europe faces long-term sustainability crises of climate, energy security and resource scarcities. It could also be argued that European citizens are starting to lose faith in the EU's capabilities and are increasingly being drawn towards the easy rhetoric of populist anti-EU parties. If Europe wants to win back citizens' support it will need a fundamental renewal.

At this critical juncture, the message to the '40 under 40' Young Leaders could not have been more clear and direct: you are the future of Europe, and we want



you involved in making it function better. As [Giles Merritt](#), Secretary General of *Friends of Europe*, underlined, the aim of these discussions is “to try and synthesise ideas from the Young Leaders for a Europe that has lost its way.”



“The aim is to try and synthesise ideas from the Young Leaders for a Europe that has lost its way.”

[Giles Merritt](#), Secretary General of *Friends of Europe*

Merritt opened the session with a discussion on the Eurozone crisis, explaining how it had been compounded by short-term electoral considerations. “This has



From left to right: Young Leaders Sofi Oksanen, Cédric Villani, Mathieu Vedrenne and blogger Jon Worth

been a major problem when trying to reach agreement between the Eurozone governments," he stated, "but that's democracy." He expressed his hope that the '40 under 40' seminar might point to ways in which the European Union could reconcile policy with popularity because, he declared, 'the two don't seem to go very well together.'

Yet while many people think of the euro crisis as a political crisis rather than an economic one, Merritt said he viewed it as being symptomatic "of a much more serious structural problem." He urged the Young Leaders to reflect on issues such as growth during times of austerity; the ageing population; better education as a means to tackling unemployment; being more competitive in global markets; and being aware that the globalisation "we are propagating and creating around the world as a vehicle for our own economic well-being" has "two sides to it, and we're beginning to suffer."

"We have few people thinking large, thinking European."



Guillaume Klossa, President of EuropaNova

Guillaume Klossa, President of EuropaNova, spoke about his inability to find any sort of European young leadership programme like those that exist in the United States. Getting no support in his quest from politicians in his own country – France – he decided to create one instead. "The idea," he explained "is to think together how we can invent our common future, and combine our nationalities and our identities for Europe's common good." Europe's leadership crisis, Klossa made clear, is a collective one, because in the public sphere, in politics and in media, there are "few people" with a broad European vision.



TOWARDS A EUROPEAN RENEWAL

Though the session's first topic of discussion may have been "Which Europe do we want?", the upcoming European Summit on the Eurozone crisis prompted the moderator, [Ulysse Gosset](#), Deputy Director for France Télévisions, to ask a far more pertinent question: "Is this Europe going to survive or not?"

"Europeans, especially young Europeans, lack confidence."

[Sandro Gozi](#), a Member of the Italian National Parliament and of the Spinelli Group, as well as former Advisor to European Commission Presidents Romano Prodi and José Manuel Barroso

Speaker [Sandro Gozi](#), a Member of the Italian National Parliament and of the Spinelli Group, as well as former Advisor to European Commission Presidents Romano Prodi and José Manuel Barroso, took a rather dim view. Having just arrived in Paris from eight days in India, he said he was "even more convinced that this Europe isn't going



Speakers and Young Leaders interact during coffee breaks and other pauses. In the centre of this photo from left to right: Riccardo Maraga, Young Leader and Mayor of Amelia, and speaker Sandro Gozi, Member of the Italian National Parliament and of the Spinelli Group

anywhere.” He called for greater European leadership and greater independence from public opinion, stating that if the Founding Fathers had followed public opinion there would have been no Schuman declaration, no German reunification and no German decision to give up the Deutsche Mark for the euro.

“Europeans, especially young Europeans, lack confidence,” he said. “The contrast between the confidence and hope that you find in a country like India, or even China, is amazing.” In order to build this confidence, Gozi suggested, “we need to build up the transnational dimension of civic participation, democracy and politics,” which in his view is the missing link.

Gozi also called for the Europeanization of political parties, for direct elections of a single European president, for a focus on a common EU foreign policy –



From left to right: Young Leaders Lindsey Nefesh-Clarke and Souad Mekhennet, blogger Jon Worth, moderator Ulysse Gosset and speaker Sandro Gozi

which he noted was conspicuously absent in North Africa during the recent Arab uprisings – for a common immigration policy, for a common social policy, and for greater cohesion between the members of the Eurozone's Euro Group.

Speaker [Jon Worth](#), a Londoner who blogs about European politics, began by noting that his very presence, as a blogger, “probably says something about the change in generations.” Nonetheless, he too saw the need for renewal, urging that the future political direction of the European Commission be determined by the outcome of the European Parliament elections. “That's possible to do under the treaties as they currently stand,” he held.

“The fact that there is even a blogger making a presentation at this event probably says something about the change in the generations.”

[Jon Worth](#), Blogger on European politics

“The fact that there is even a blogger making a presentation at this event probably says something about the change in the generations.” Jon Worth, Blogger on European politics

Furthermore, like Gozi, Worth also saw the need for better leadership, suggesting a president “who can give the European Union a decisive direction.”

Gosset then remarked that 10 countries are still waiting to become members of the European Union and solicited the Young Leaders and other participants for their opinion: “Do you believe that this Europe is dead?”

This question elicited a wide range of views from the participants, with some displaying resolute optimism and others being decidedly more critical. Most, however, opted for a balanced perspective, identifying positives but seeing the need for change. As [Geert Cami](#), Co-Founder and Director of *Friends of Europe*, succinctly put it: “Europe is here to stay but it needs a complete overhaul.”

This point of view was echoed somewhat by [Lindsey Nefesh-Clarke](#), Founder and CEO of Women's Worldwide Web, and a UK citizen living in Paris. “I'm stubbornly and profoundly optimistic,” she said, “I like to think of the current crisis rather as growing pains.” Nonetheless, she added, in order to circumvent

inertia “we have to reframe and rethink our social, economic and leadership models.”

[Vessela Tcherneva](#), Spokesperson and Cabinet Member for the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, agreed about the need for change. “It’s very fashionable to talk about the decline of Europe,” she shared, yet “decline is when you try to keep the status quo.”

[Christian Mandl](#), Austrian owner and Chairman of Maporama Solutions in Paris, called for a bottom-up construction of Europe. “Europe is the laboratory for transnational democracy,” he explained. “What is dead is a Europe where the source code of Europe is owned by only Germany and France.”

[Souad Mekhennet](#), a German journalist of Turkish and Moroccan descent, added to this. “I don’t think it’s dead,” she said of Europe, “but it needs to change, and maybe it’s also time for Europe to think about opening up a little bit towards other countries and other regions, especially North Africa and the Middle East.”

The conversation then turned to the subject of political parties, with Giles Merritt referring to them as “captives of the national political system.” Europe, he added, “is sick”, with a hardening of “its political arteries.”

This brought the conversation to the rise in nationalism, with Finnish-Estonian author [Sofi Oksanen](#) sharing her concerns. “I’m especially worried about populistic and conservative views that are gaining more support,” she imparted, “as well as the negative feeling about immigration.”

A more positive note was introduced by [Valerie Casey](#), an internationally recognised designer and Founder of the Designer’s Accord and of Necessary Projects. She argued for Europe’s continued relevance, stating that “It is still relevant because it’s a marking-off point for China and India to gauge their success.”

Nonetheless, in the wake of the financial crisis, [João Meneses](#), Head of the Lisbon City Hall department in charge of urban rehabilitation and social

development of Mouraria, 'GABIP Mouraria', suggested that "we will have to lower our material expectations. Alternate ways of producing wealth are needed, and innovation and creativity should be applied to generating wealth with social balance and sustainability."

However, a more optimistic outlook was embraced by [Tomas Sedlacek](#), Chief Macroeconomic Strategist at ČSOB bank and a Member of the Czech National Economic Council. "Europe is more alive than ever," he insisted, pointing to the relative stability of both the euro and inflation. "The problem," he put forth, "is lack of fiscal federalisation." With greater fiscal federalisation, Sedlacek argued, fiscal responsibility would move upwards to Europe and downward to the regions. "This," he proposed, "might eventually lead to Europe being much closer to the people."





BUILDING EUROPE THROUGH CRISIS

Giles Merritt noted that his generation had created the Single Market, the Erasmus student exchange programme, the “wider Europe that brought East and West together” and the euro. But, he went on to say, “we never imagined how vulnerable, how narrow, how shaky the base was going to be.” His generation, he told the European Young Leaders as he opened the public debate as co-moderator, “sleepwalked through this crisis.”

“How badly constructed is the European Union?” he asked. “How poor is our communication between the European centre – Brussels – and the European people? How inappropriate are national politics to the European project? How limited are the EU institutions in the way they communicate political issues, and how attainable is the goal of restructuring the EU so that it is really democratic, so that it is no longer seen as an elitist and distant construction? I think the answers to these questions will determine whether we can reshape our economic model so that in a world dominated by Asia, in a world of so many hungry mouths, we can continue to enjoy the well-being that we now enjoy.”



[Kalypso Nicolaïdis](#), Director of the European Studies Centre at Oxford University and former Member of the Reflection Group on the Future of Europe, added to this. Whilst calling herself “relentlessly optimistic” and likening Europe to “a big dysfunctional family”, she nonetheless warned against a Europe that is losing touch with its people. “Why do great civilisations fall? They get cut off from their neighbours, they become exclusive rather than inclusive, and the elites become divorced and separated from the people. They are in their bubble. This is what is happening in Europe today.”

“We want Europe to have quality growth based on innovation, technology, science, education, culture – assets that Europe has.”

Young Leader [Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou](#), a Member of the Hellenic Parliament and Deputy Head of the Environmental Policy Sector in the New Democracy Party



Young Leader [Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou](#) and co-moderator [Giles Merritt](#)

Young Leader [Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou](#), a Member of the Hellenic Parliament and Deputy Head of the Environmental Policy Sector in the New Democracy Party, suggested that the way forward for Europe was through “rapid but sustainable development” that employs technology and services rather than the exploitation of natural resources. “We want Europe to have quality growth based on innovation, technology, science, education, culture – assets that Europe has,” she said.

With the European Summit vote on the Eurozone fast approaching, the financial crisis also dominated a good part of the session. “This is a debt crisis, not a monetary crisis,” said Tomas Sedlacek. “We can't solve a debt crisis with monetary means. If we break the Eurozone down into 27 different currencies, nothing will change, things will get worse.”

“We couldn't have anticipated this crisis,” Sedlacek continued, “but we should have, during the good years, made provisions – not believed that we would grow all the time.” Creating budget surpluses, he explained, would have helped in times of difficulty.

“We can't solve a debt crisis with monetary means.
If we break the Eurozone down into 27 different currencies,
nothing will change, things will get worse.”



Young Leader [Tomas Sedlacek](#), Chief Macroeconomic Strategist at ČSOB bank and a Member of the Czech National Economic Council

Sedlacek also warned against taking on more debt to stimulate growth, though this point was challenged by Giles Merritt. “In the real world,” Merritt advanced,

“we have young people to feed and educate.” Avgerinopoulou agreed with Merritt, insisting that economic policies cannot be undertaken “at the expense of the welfare system.”

Christian Mandl wondered whether nations should pay their debts “at any price”, or whether it might be better to go bankrupt. A member of the French Ministry of Economy in the audience, however, replied that going into bankruptcy does not solve the issue of lack of competitiveness.

Nicolaïdis evoked that evening's European Summit on the Eurozone by criticising what the Spinelli Group had characterised earlier in the day as a French-German “coup des chefs d'états” that bypassed European institutions in favour of an intergovernmental pact. She said, and Daniel Cohn-Bendit MEP agreed, that “markets are not reassured by government deals that are not embedded into civil society, into a broader sustainable contract.”



From left to right, Guillaume Klossa, President of EuropaNova, Daniel Cohn-Bendit MEP, Co-President of the Greens/European Free Alliance, Thomas Houdaille, Secretary General of EuropaNova, and Young Leader Cédric Villani, Director of the Henri Poincaré Institute in Paris and 2010 winner of the Fields Medal

João Meneses then brought the discussion to Europe's ageing population, and said that keeping the welfare state would require 6 to 7 percent average growth a year. Meneses asked whether this was feasible, to which Sedlacek answered that he thought not.

“The only way to deal with our ageing population is to bring more people into Europe.”



Kalypso Nicolaïdis, Director of the European Studies Centre at Oxford University and former Member of the Reflection Group on the Future of Europe

“The only way to deal with our ageing population,” Nicolaïdis intervened, “is to bring more people into Europe.” She explained that by the year 2030, Europe will need 18 million new people to sustain retirement pensions. In order to achieve this, and in order to counteract “brain drain”, she suggested a system of “circular migration” which would allow people to return to their own countries with assurances that they will be let back into Europe.



Panellists from left to right (centre): speaker Jean-Michel Severino, moderator Thomas Klau and Young Leader Franziska Bratner MEP

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Following the result of the European Summit vote on the Eurozone crisis, European competitiveness played a major part in the discussion, which also covered Europe's relationship with the nations of the recent Arab uprising, the expansion of the EU, nationalism and green growth.

Jean-Michel Severino, Chairman of Investisseurs et Partenaires pour le Développement (I&P) and Former Director General of Agence Française de Développement (AFD), opened the session by explaining that the recently agreed fiscal pact – made by European leaders in order to calm the financial markets – will likely suppress growth in the short-term. We therefore “need keep an eye on the core task of the Union, and probably of the world,” he said, “which is bringing growth back from zero.”

Severino then went on to add that “there is no solution to the major macroeconomic imbalances the world is entering into without bringing to the table the billions of people who fall outside our thinking, outside our solutions, outside our internal processes.”

“There is no solution to the major macroeconomic imbalances the world is in going into without bringing to the game the billions of people who are outside our thinking, outside of our solutions, outside of our internal processes.”



Jean-Michel Severino, Chairman of Investisseurs et Partenaires pour le Développement (I&P) and Former Director General of Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

“2011,” he continued “is going to be the first year in history in which the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of non-OECD countries is going to be higher than the GDP of OECD countries.”

Much like the United States, Severino explained, Europe tends to look inwards. Europe therefore needs to change its trade policies, its development assistance, its direct investment, its macroeconomic regulations, and its customs regulations. Revamping those, he declared, is “going to be a major part of our return to competitiveness.”

He also suggested that Europe work with the United States vis-à-vis the rest of the world, rather than seeing it as a competitor. Furthermore, added Severino, Europe should look to the US for solutions, especially in how it creates growth through devaluation, monetary expansion and low credit; “things we refuse to do in Europe.”

Young Leader [Benedek Javor](#), a Member of the Hungarian National Assembly, responded by saying that his country's prime minister, Viktor Orbán, is concerned “that Europe is a sinking ship” and is looking beyond the EU for solutions. Hungary has massive trade surpluses, Javor explained, but the country is deeply in debt. “It's not enough to have a positive trade balance.”

Prime Minister David Cameron came under heavy criticism for blocking Europe-wide rules on stricter financial oversight. Moderator [Thomas Klau](#), Editorial Director and Head of the Paris Office of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), called the Briton's demands for a special protocol to protect London's financial community both “outrageous” and “deranged”.

[Franziska Brantner MEP](#), a German Member of the European Parliament, agreed with Klau, calling Cameron's position “crazy”. However, [Jens Spahn](#), a Member of the German Bundestag, defended Cameron, noting that the prime minister had domestic concerns to consider.

Brantner then spoke of her recent four-day visit to Libya, and said that before the NATO military intervention there, Europe had focused on its fear of refugees. “For me that was shameful,” she said. She talked with irony of her own country's reluctance to intervene in Libya, yet of how quickly it sent its economy minister after the fall of Tripoli.

Souad Mekhennet added to this, suggesting that it was arrogant of Europeans to tell nations of the Arab uprising to implement democratic systems that might not

work for them. "Wouldn't it be better to talk about values, human rights, equality of men and women, freedom of speech, freedom of the press?" she queried.

Sarah Joseph, CEO and Founding Editor of Muslim lifestyle magazine *emel*, then introduced a new question. "How can we use the diverse populations within Europe," she asked, "to further engage with the wider world?" She noted the large populations from the Indian subcontinent living in the United Kingdom, and the important diasporas from North Africa and Turkey in France and Germany.

In his company, Severino said, about half the investments are being made by Africans in Europe who are willing to invest in their home countries. Having so many diverse populations is "incredibly good news" for Europe's relationship with the rest of the world, he emphasised.

The session also coincided with the news that the EU had postponed until the spring of 2012 a date for accession talks with both Montenegro and Serbia.



Young Leader Jens Spahn, a Member of the German Bundestag, and Dominik Risse, Global Head of Marketing at LANXESS AG, a specialty chemicals group

Brantner said she didn't understand the reluctance to set a date for Montenegro, but on Serbia "there might be good reason."

Spahn, however, disagreed with Brantner, believing that Montenegro still has too many internal problems to open accession talks. Noting Romania and Bulgaria's entries in 2007, he said "I'm not too sure if we are really able to cope with more member states right now. Perhaps in 5, 10 or 15 years."

Yet not all Young Leaders agreed with this assessment, and [Farid Tabarki](#), Founding Editor and Presenter for Coolpolitics and Founder of Studio Zeitgeist, warned against "developing tunnel vision." Brantner also cautioned against



Young Leader Sarah Joseph, CEO and Founding Editor of Muslim lifestyle magazine *emel*

embracing an “us-versus-them” mentality when it comes to Europe’s external relations, explaining that “there are temptations to recreate internal unity within the European Union by finding external enemies.” This, however, runs counter to her philosophy of working together “to all be better off.”

“There are temptations to recreate
internal unity within the European Union
by finding external enemies.”

Young Leader **Franziska Brantner** MEP, Member of the European
Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs



Referring to the many crises facing Europe and the rest of the world – economic and financial, hunger in some parts of Africa, and climate change – she noted that the green growth model is increasingly taking hold in the worlds of academia and business.

“Europe’s role,” she opined, “is to help shape and manage those crises, together with others, in a way that we can all sustain our livelihoods – and if possible improve them in many parts of the world.”



The 2011-2012 European Young Leaders, or “40 under 40”, and some of the programme partners at the Maison Jean Monnet during the Paris Seminar



BRIDGING THE GAP WITH EUROPEAN CITIZENS: THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The technology-savvy '40 under 40' Young Leaders were reminded by the session's facilitator, Farid Tabarki, of the media transformation where "we as individuals are increasingly important and have the power to voice our ideas, our criticisms and our concepts, by using social media."

"How," he questioned, "can we use new technology, new ways of citizenship, to increase the awareness and the commitment of people to the European project – which itself is in transformation?"

"How can we use new technology, new ways of citizenship, to increase the awareness and the commitment of people to the European project – which itself is in transformation?"



Young Leader **Farid Tabarki**, Founding Editor and Presenter for Coolpolitics and Founder of Studio Zeitgeist

This prompted panellist Jon Worth, one the best-read bloggers on European affairs, to note that he only has a "relatively small" readership of 10,000 to 12,000 monthly views. In the realm of political debate, he cautioned, "networking online has not yet come close to replacing traditional media" because it requires "journalistic intervention" to present issues to the public. Whilst reporting on politics through social media is important, he advocated, it is not yet "a silver bullet for European communications." Worth then clarified that where social media

works better is in creating transnational campaigns for social, environmental or human rights issues.

“Networking online has not yet come close to replacing traditional media.”

Jon Worth, Blogger on European politics



The real or perceived power of social networking elicited much enthusiasm from the Young Leaders however, with many reporting specific ways in which they use tools such as Facebook and Twitter. Some offered cautionary tales about the reliability of information on social networks, and others offered examples of how social media can be used to increase democratic participation.



Young Leader João Meneses, Head of the Lisbon City Hall department in charge of urban rehabilitation and social development of Mouraria, 'GABIP Mouraria'

João Meneses, for example, spoke of a Lisbon City Hall project that uses social media to engage people in decision-making. His city sets aside 5 million euros a year in a participatory budget scheme that lets citizens use social media to suggest projects that are then put to a vote.

Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou also explained how social media often allows her constituents to bring up issues that are not on any official agenda. Moreover, she elaborated, using social media to interact with her constituents gives her a greater understanding of their everyday concerns.

Souad Mekhenet spoke in favour of social media as a “great tool” for raising awareness, but warned of its dangers too. “In certain states, some people seem to take as true everything that appears on YouTube, Facebook or Twitter.” She recounted how a video clip purporting to show Syrian soldiers beating protesters was in fact a video of the Iraqi Army 20 years earlier. “There is no awareness that people sometimes use these tools for disinformation,” she said.

Participatory use of social media could also be aided by greater horizontal communication, rather than just vertical communication, Christian Mandl proposed. He suggested that politicians could use the tools to exchange best practices, and that a “Wiki-Europe” could be set up to allow citizens to review documents before they go to Parliament. “Open up the whole lobbying industry to citizens,” he recommended.



Young Leader Vessela Tcherneva, Spokesperson and Cabinet Member for the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

HOW TO REINVENT OUR ECONOMIC MODELS?

Opening the session, moderator [Stéphane Cossé](#), Associate Professor at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris and former Senior Economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), spoke of the conflict between what he called the Anglo-Saxon model – competition – and models that look at values other than remuneration.

This brought the debate onto whether or not Europe needs to rethink its economic model, with panellists [Hendrik Bourgeois](#), Vice President of European Affairs for General Electric, and [Andreas Schwab MEP](#), Member of the European Parliament Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, largely agreeing that it does not.

“Pressures on our economic model will, in the future, be much greater than we see today.”



[Andreas Schwab MEP](#), Member of the European Parliament Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

They both spoke of the necessity to adapt to the pressures the economic model is facing, however, with Schwab evoking the challenge of how Europe can move forward “when we can't expect high growth rates as in the past.” Putting forward a five-point plan, his key recommendations included greater labour-market flexibility; getting other parts of world to open up their markets, as Europe has done; raising the European budget, which he acknowledged would meet resistance in member state parliaments; strengthening Single Market governance so that trade laws are applied the same way all across Europe; and rethinking whether GDP should be the only measure of growth. “Pressures on

our economic model will, in the future, be much greater than we see today," he concluded.



"If you assume that growth is a good metric for prosperity and for a good standard of living, then the Single Market has been, and continues to be, an incredibly important tool for Europe to grow."

Hendrik Bourgeois, Vice President of European Affairs for General Electric

Hendrik Bourgeois, for his part, considered the benefits of the Single Market, and urged increased openness as a way to stimulate growth. "If you assume that growth is a good metric for prosperity and for a good standard of living,



then the Single Market has been, and continues to be, an incredibly important tool for Europe to grow.” Dismissing the idea of reinvention, he emphasised that “we need to reinforce what is missing.” For example, he said, a recent study calculated that if Europe had single markets for energy, telecommunications and services, growth would increase by 2 percent, “which is basically creating a market the size of Argentina.”

Young Leader Lindsey Nefesh-Clarke, however, posited that common business practices are no longer acceptable. Furthermore, she added, the financial crisis gives Europe an opportunity “to rethink our economics models,” with corporate social responsibility at their core. Consumers – or pro-sumers, as she calls them – are increasingly calling for increased regulation. “We want to see the ethical content of companies from which we buy our products and services,” she explained.

“We want to see the ethical content of companies from which we buy our products and services.”

Young Leader **Lindsey Nefesh-Clarke**, Founder and CEO of Women's Worldwide Web, a web-based philanthropy platform



Nefesh-Clarke, referring to the European Social Business Initiative launched by the European Commission in November, described how there has been a shift away from traditional corporate philanthropy towards what she called the “cutting edge of sustainable business, which is really about corporate social entrepreneurship.”

“It's a different definition of value creation,” she elaborated, “it's a return on investment that aims to generate returns not just for the owners and shareholders of the company, but also for all stakeholders and society at large.”

Young Leader **Dominik Risse**, Global Head of Marketing at LANXESS AG, a chemicals group, said he agreed about the importance of social responsibility and sustainability, but was concerned with what he saw as overly strict rules



Interview with Nani Beccalli Falco, Chief Executive Officer of GE Europe and North Asia

What Europe do you think we need?

Europe is at a critical juncture in its history. While I don't believe the European project is in danger of imploding I do believe that the current economic and monetary crisis has once again put into sharp focus its shortcomings caused in part by a lack of direction and collective leadership.

We need much greater integration and cohesion across Europe both politically and economically. That means that we need to act collectively and in some cases that will mean governments surrendering some powers to Europe but it does not mean that the cultural diversity, which is a real strength, needs to be in anyway diminished.

Our political leaders need to understand there is no turning back – our fortunes are inextricably linked and it is a case of 'united we stand, divided we fall'. Mario Monti, Italy's Prime Minister and Economy Minister, puts this succinctly when he refers to the threat posed by governments becoming increasingly 'short-termist' – preferring to pander to voters even if the result is dysfunction on the European level.

From a business perspective the completion of the Single Market is an imperative. Europe is by far the biggest economy in the world but we fail to take advantage of consolidation or economies of scale. When we talk about globalization it is often in the context of the threat from rapidly emerging markets. However, a single market is the very thing which can ensure the EU and its Member States remain competitive and continue to attract investment and create jobs.

How to get out of the European crisis?

There are important short-term measures that can be adopted to address the crisis. First, while austerity measures should be adopted, in light of the current fragile economy, such measures should not be imposed for too long or in a draconian manner. Moreover these measures should be combined with the implementation of very strong structural reform programmes to give weaker economies a competitive boost and to reassure volatile financial markets. Second, intervention on the market to purchase sovereign bonds (either by the European Central Bank (ECB) and/or the European Financial Stability Fund) should continue to support the weakest of the Eurozone economies, and avoid an even higher spike of interest rates.

What we are missing is a parallel approach. We need to solve the immediate crisis and ensure that it doesn't happen again but we also need a new vision for growth in Europe. We will not emerge from this crisis if we cannot grow and create jobs. As a business we can offer a different perspective to all those peering nervously into Europe's black hole of sovereign debt: to us, money is not really the problem. Stability is.

Of course, a shortage of the former undermines the latter. The world's major corporations are sitting on vast reserves of cash which they will not invest until the political, economic and monetary conditions are conducive to reasonable returns.

At the end of last year, companies in the US had \$1,200bn (€880bn) locked away in cash and short-term liquid investments, according to Moody's. Once politicians take the right decisions, money will start pouring back into the "real" economy, creating jobs and growth in the process.

From a business perspective what we require is not complex open markets, but free competition, a bold but well regulated banking system, business-friendly regulation, and a tax and social system that encourage people to create companies and companies to create jobs.

How to overcome the democratic deficit?

We need to restate the vision of Europe and create a new narrative which will engage ordinary citizens. That narrative needs to articulate the benefits of Europe from a social, economic, environmental and cultural standpoint. Europe needs to redefine and remarket itself both internally with its citizens and on the global stage and we need to be innovative in the manner in which it does that. It beholds all of us in positions of leadership, be it in politics, business, education and culture, or media to step out of our boxes of self-interest and lead by example. This will require leadership and I think a generational change and that is one of the reasons that GE decided to support the '40 under 40' initiative.

In terms of the processes to reduce the democratic deficit I think we need to have another look at the institutions and the bureaucracy and examine how best we can restructure them to bring them closer to the ordinary citizen. Co-decision has given the European Parliament, which is directly elected, greater power and this is to be welcomed. We need also to examine how we can create a strong leadership within Europe. This would include possibly one overall leader, trans-national lists in the European Parliament elections, and changes in how the Commission is appointed which might include the reduction in size of the College to a cabinet-like structure. We also need to look at new and innovative models of democratic participation perhaps using technology.

What do you think of the '40 under 40' initiative?

I think the '40 under 40' programme is a great initiative which can help bring together the next generation of leadership and create ambassadors for the European project. It is also an opportunity for us to take a look at the EU with a fresh pair of eyes and a diverse range of views and interests. The fact that it brings together the next generation of leaders from a diverse range of backgrounds and geographies is of fundamental importance. As a company we can benefit from the exposure to the participants as well as the insights we can glean from these young leaders.

I congratulate those who have created this initiative and wish all the participants well. I am watching this with interest and looking forward to actively participating in it.

that hampered growth. Bourgeois, though expecting and supporting increased regulation – especially in the financial services sector – nonetheless asked: “Where do we strike the balance between regulation that increases costs, and regulation that doesn't stifle growth, investment or competitiveness?”

The issue of copyright regulation was also raised by [Jacek Legiewicz](#), Business Development Executive for the European Union at IBM. “As a consumer,” he said, “I don't understand why I still can't buy something in the UK and use it in Poland.”

Concluding the session, Cossé remarked that social responsibility makes sense, “but it makes sense only if there is reciprocity around the world. China and the United States are not playing by the rules.”



A BANKING GROUP ON THE MOVE



Retail banking
Corporate & public sector
Consumer finance
Online brokerage & banking
Private banking
Asset management
Life insurance
P&C insurance
Securities and banking services
Payment services

CREDIT MUTUEL ARKEA

1, rue Louis Lichou
29480 Le Relecq-Kerhuon
+ 33 2 98 00 22 22

118, av Champs Elysées
75008 Paris
+33 1 56 69 76 00
www.arkea.com



FINANCE VS POLITICS: WHAT CAN EUROPE DO?

The Occupy Wall Street movement, said panellist [Thierry Philipponnat](#), Secretary General of Finance Watch, reveals a “growing sense of exasperation” with the financial sector. If that exasperation is not addressed, he continued, there will be “very nasty social and political consequences.”

The financial crisis, he explained, has brought wealth destruction, growing unemployment, and terrible social consequences. “How do we organise the system so that this doesn’t happen again?” he asked.

Moderator Ulysse Gosset suggested the possibility of Europe having its own financial rating agency. Philipponnat replied that while such a move would break the oligopoly of the private American agencies, and would thus, in principle, be a good idea, this on its own would not “solve the fundamental problems.”



Tomas Sedlacek pointed out that “rating agencies are driving the markets” and telling governments what to do. Yet to Sedlacek, the problem isn't ratings but downgrades. Too many AAA ratings were given out over the years, he said, and investors trusted them. “The downgrade is really the sobering part, which then hurts,” he said, “but the problem is getting drunk on optimism” in the first place. He also warned against the tendency of investors to renew their trust in rating agencies which have proven unreliable in the past, and shared his belief that creating a European rating agency “isn't going to solve the problem.”

Christian Mandl, on the other hand, was favourable to Europe having its own rating agency, but one that would be legally responsible for its opinion, unlike the private agencies in the United States. He also advocated that investors, not the issuers, pay the ratings agencies.

While still generally opposed to a new rating agency, Philipponnat was intrigued by a proposal from Michel Barnier, EU Commissioner for Internal Market and Services, to give authorities the power to ban the release of ratings of sovereign



Young Leader Benedek Javor, a Member of the Hungarian National Assembly and founder of environmental NGO *Védegyelet* (Protect the Future)

debt in certain cases. Barnier dropped the proposal because of strong opposition by some of his fellow Commissioners. "Breaking the thermometer doesn't make the fever disappear," Philipponnat said, "but on the other hand, if you exacerbate the crisis, you only make things worse."

Raising the issue of governance, [Riccardo Maraga](#), Mayor of the Italian city of Amelia, urged politicians to impose leadership over the financial sector. Reflecting on his country's experience, he was critical of speculators who he said had 'bet' against Italy. "A long-term programme cannot be implemented," Maraga insisted, "if every day the state is constantly under pressure from unscrupulous investors who hope for the state's failure."



"A long-term programme cannot be implemented if every day the state is constantly under pressure from unscrupulous investors who hope for the state's failure."

Young Leader [Riccardo Maraga](#), Mayor of the Italian city of Amelia

Maraga also supported the imposition of taxes on financial transactions, which he said would allow Europe to have greater financial autonomy, adding that the tax revenue would help to reduce sovereign debt. These steps, he said, would "limit the exposure of European countries to speculative attacks that undermine the economic and financial stability of Europe."

Maraga's views about speculators, however, were challenged by both [Mathieu Vedrenne](#), Chief of Staff to the CEO of Société Générale, and [Elena Fenili](#), an Italian who is Head of Political Studies at Unicredit Group. Fenili attributed Italy's predicament to a lack of decision-making by the previous government of Silvio Berlusconi. Vedrenne, on the other hand, saw the problem as a lack of investor trust in Italy's bond market.

Vedrenne also spoke about the Basel Accords, which impose more important capital requirements on banks, and which impact the business of banks by reducing their credit capacity. The lack of liquidity in the market for businesses

was also evoked, a point underscored by Martin Ott. Ott said it took his company eight months to raise more than \$50 million, despite the company's strong growth record. "How do you force the banks to lend?" he enquired.

Philipponnat argued for a balanced but necessary regulation of the banks and the financial system, stating that if Irish regulators had been much stricter 10 years ago, perhaps the banks would have left Ireland, but Ireland "wouldn't be in the mess it is today" – with the attendant consequences for Europe.

Anne Le Goff, Secretary General of Crédit Mutuel Arkéa, observed that international banking rules under the Basel Accords require retail banks such as hers in France to put up 16 percent in capital when arranging financing for small and medium enterprises, but nothing for euro debt. She was adamant that this "paradox" had to be addressed when discussing economic sustainability.



From left to right: Young Leaders Farid Tabarki, Anne Le Goff, Riccardo Maraga and Raffaele Mauro

Gosset noted that the International Monetary Fund has shown a willingness lately to consider a tax on banks, rather than on transactions, and he asked Philipponnat for his opinion about this.

"Fundamental issues are not about taxes," Philipponnat replied, but about interconnectedness. Lehman Brothers, for example, "were not that large" in the world scheme, but because of interconnectedness their failure started a global downward spiral. He advocated a financial system that is simple, but less subject to interconnectedness.

"We clearly have a credit crisis, a governance crisis, a moral hazard crisis, and that needs to be resolved radically, but I don't think it's a case of the euro disappearing."

Thierry Philipponnat, Secretary General of Finance Watch



Gosset also raised the potential breakup of the Eurozone, to which Philipponnat was unequivocal. Noting the continued high exchange rate of the euro against the dollar, Philipponnat explained: "We clearly have a credit crisis, a governance crisis, a moral hazard crisis, and that needs to be resolved radically, but I don't think it's a case of the euro disappearing."



HOW CAN EUROPE FIGHT THE RISE OF POPULISM AND NATIONALISM?

“Populism is something to which Europe is very vulnerable at the moment,” said [Catherine Fieschi](#), Director of Counterpoint, addressing the European Young Leaders.

Before proposing a way to counter the phenomenon, she offered an analysis of populism, which she defined as “a kind of political appeal that posits a fundamental divide between the people and the elite.” Populism, she said, “grows in the shade of democracy” and “exploits that divide absolutely relentlessly.”

“Populism grows in the shade of democracy and exploits that divide absolutely relentlessly.”

Catherine Fieschi, Director of Counterpoint



“Populism of the right,” she went on to add, “is particularly problematic in Europe, because it is inherently far more xenophobic.”

Discussing the media coverage of populism, Fieschi took issue with the links that are drawn between the rise of populism and the recession. “It's much more about inequality,” she clarified. The way in which the crisis was managed has highlighted these inequalities between countries, within countries, and between the elites and the various peoples of Europe.

Her research has led her to think about combating right-wing populism first by drawing a distinction between voters and populist parties, and then by seeking out “reluctant radicals” amongst them. Most of those who support these parties are not really radicals, she explained. They only vote for populist parties because they see no other choice, yet they often feel conflicted about it. Another type of



Young Leaders Tomas Sedlacek and Cédric Villani pose for a snapshot taken by Sarah Joseph

“reluctant radical” is the voter committed to right-wing views who won't admit his support for the party out of fear of opprobrium. “It's very important,” Fieschi insisted, “to bring these people back to mainstream parties.”

“We have to move away from an absolutely castigating attitude,” she added, and put the emphasis instead on understanding their concerns without pandering to their fears.

Combating populist leaders requires a different tack, however. Telling them they are wrong doesn't work, nor does presenting them with statistical evidence. Furthermore, appealing to concepts such as human rights or social decency does more harm than good, Fieschi argued. “You might as well show up at their doorstep with a sticker that says, 'I'm the liberal that you've been warned about'.” What does seem to work is engaging with local communities and populations in the same way that populist parties do. “They are very good at making out that they live just down the street, just around the corner from their potential voters,” Fieschi elaborated. “Unless we develop the capacity to be convincing on that level, by signalling there is real knowledge of the context, there will be trouble,” she insisted.

“Populism leads Muslim youth to feel they are no longer part of European society, and this leads to radicalism.”



Young Leader **Souda Mekhennet**, Journalist for *The New York Times*, ZDF and *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

Souda Mekhennet agreed, explaining that populism leads Muslim youths to feel excluded from European society, which in turn leads to radicalism. Yet the perceived “Muslim problem”, Sarah Joseph elaborated, pervades even the

thinking of the elite in countries such as France, Belgium, Germany and Britain – and this has led to arguably discriminatory measures being taken, such as the ban on wearing the niqab in France.

“The perceived ‘Muslim problem’ in Europe pervades the thinking of the elite in France, Belgium, Germany and Britain.”



Sarah Joseph, CEO and Founding Editor of Muslim lifestyle magazine *emel*

In the Netherlands, Farid Tabarki recounted, politicians offer few alternatives and little vision, so it is not surprising that people vote for populist parties. The



populist movement there is pro-Israel and pro-gay, he explained, because those positions are seen as anti-Muslim.

Tomas Sedlacek then observed that the United States seems more resilient to populism, to which Franco-American moderator [Anne Bagamery](#), Senior Editor of the *International Herald Tribune*, posited that the “myth of the American Dream” is “still something that unites Americans.”

Turning her attention to nationalism, Sofi Oksanen spoke about the rise of the phenomenon in post-Soviet Russia from her perspective at “the edge of the European Union.” She started to write about Estonia and Russia 10 years ago, she said, because her Finnish friends couldn't understand why Russia didn't fully embrace democracy after the fall of communism. Democratic values, she explained, are not inherent to Russia, but are an imported French concept. After the Yeltsin period people associated the incipient democracy with poverty and hunger, and this led Moscow to promote nationalistic values, with the help of the state-funded Orthodox Church.

“Democratic values are not inherent to Russia, but
are an imported French concept.”

Young Leader [Sofi Oksanen](#), Finnish-Estonian
novelist and theatrical writer



Russian nationalism, she elaborated, has a focus on expansionism and protection of Russian-speaking minorities. In fact, she went on to say, Moscow media still rails about the Baltic states and Finland being historically part of Russia, and such belligerence is what led the Baltic states to join the European Union.

MINISTÈRE DE LA CULTURE
ET DE LA COMMUNICATION



WHAT ROLE FOR EUROPEAN CULTURE?

The discussion, held at the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, centred on the nature of European culture, on its role in fostering an outlook beyond Europe, on government support for the arts, and on the value of culture to society.

Kathrin Deventer, Secretary General of the European Festivals Association, told the Young Leaders, “we have to make politicians understand that they have to value and recognise the potential of arts and culture much more.” They should use them strategically, she said, not only on the cultural policy level but also on policies such as external affairs, social affairs, citizenship, and inclusion.

“We have to make politicians understand that they have to value and recognise the potential of arts and culture much more.”

Kathrin Deventer, Secretary General of the European Festivals Association

This view was echoed by **Marietje Schaake MEP**, Member of the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education. “While we talk so much about the financial and economic crisis, we're overlooking what I've called the other European crisis – which is that of Europe's position in the world, and of its influence,” she said. Referring to political changes in North Africa, the Middle East and the part of Eastern Europe that is still outside the European Union, she warned against the EU “being so inwardly focused.”

“We're overlooking what I've called the other European crisis, which is that of Europe's position in the world and its influence.”

Marietje Schaake MEP, Member of the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education

“There is a lack of realisation,” she clarified, “that the spaces left open to engage with people, the spaces left open to build new relationships and new partnerships, will not be waiting for us to come back to. They will be taken by others – China and other Middle Eastern players – even though these neighbourhoods are important to us too.” Schaake suggested that better trade access to Europe might open more opportunities.

Krzysztof Candrowicz, Founder and Director of the Lodz Art Centre and the Lodz Foundation of Visual Education, noted that “China moves quickly” when it wants to support the arts. In Europe, he considers the United Kingdom and the Netherlands to have good cultural strategies, yet lamented that the new government in Portugal eliminated its Ministry of Culture this year. Culture, he said, shouldn't be considered a cost for a country, but an investment.

“Culture shouldn't be considered a cost for a country, but an investment.”



Young Leader **Krzysztof Candrowicz**, Founder and Director of the Lodz Art Centre and the Lodz Foundation of Visual Education

“Culture shouldn't be considered a cost for a country, but an investment.”
Krzysztof Candrowicz, Founder and Director of the Lodz Art Centre and the Lodz Foundation of Visual Education

Yet though Candrowicz believes in increased budgets for the arts, he also advocates greater self-sufficiency. He said he found the European funding bureaucracy so complicated that he gave up and turned to seeking private money instead. He also proposed that companies be required to put 1% of their budget aside for culture.

Schaake explained that while there are plenty of European programmes, she had found many instances of people unknowingly working on similar cultural projects that were all supported by European funding. There will be no increases in European funding or programmes, she said, “so we have to be more effective with the funds that are available.”

Yet while there was general agreement that culture and the arts need public funding, participants were also adamant that politicians should have no role in setting the agenda.

Sofi Oksanen then pointed to art's accessibility, as well as to its communicative potential, observing that "art is the cheapest way to know what's happening outside Europe, what's happening in other cultures."

This led [Cédric Villani](#), Director of the Henri Poincaré Institute in Paris, Professor of Mathematics and 2010 winner of the Fields Medal, to suggest the establishment of a similar "scientific culture", which might encourage more people to take an interest in science, and to discover cultural differences through pursuing it.

Bringing the discussion to the subject of cinema, Martin Ott observed that American cinematic culture tends to dominate in Europe. Schaake explained this by evoking the fragmented copyright administration in Europe, which discourages businesses and allows for US dominance.

Ott then asked if there was a common understanding of European culture. Lindsey Nefesh-Clarke said it was not easily definable, a statement with which Schaake agreed. Schaake nevertheless suggested that it was "a layered landscape with a number of different aspects – language, tradition, expression, cuisine, the arts, everything."

"Culture," proposed moderator [Alison Smale](#), Executive Editor of the *International Herald Tribune*, "is the Europe brand."



From left to right: Young Leaders Krzysztof Candrowicz, Lindsey Nefesh-Clarke, Sofi Oksanen, Sarah Joseph, Dragos Biltanu, Javier Gonzalez, Dominik Risse and Christian Mandl



ON BEING A YOUNG EUROPEAN LEADER

One value of gathering the European Young Leaders together, said [Thomas Houdaille](#), Secretary General of EuropaNova, is to “show the rest of the world that we're engaged and we want to make things change.”

During this last session of the seminar, the Young Leaders reflected on what they had gained from the experience and what they felt the next steps should be for the group. They expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to discuss key issues and form friendships, saying the experience had largely exceeded their expectations. The Young Leaders described their time in Paris as both “inspiring” and “motivating”, saying the seminar had left them eager to go home and do more.

There was a consensus that the sessions had provided them with a valuable opportunity to broaden their outlooks, especially with respect to the on-going work of building the European Union. Benedek Javor remarked on how – before coming to Paris – he had been absorbed by his work at home, and had appreciated the chance to step back and reflect on broader issues. Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou mentioned that the sessions had shown her that “we all need to re-evaluate our commitment to the EU.”

Discussion also centred on the format for future sessions, with a number of the Young Leaders – in particular [Raffaele Mauro](#), Associate at Annapurna Ventures, and Lindsey Nefesh-Clarke – expressing a preference for having fewer but longer sessions, which would involve more detailed and in-depth discussion of European issues.

Many Young Leaders were also keen to focus on practical work, so that their sessions might have some tangible outcome, and several of them suggested collaborating on a group project – either during the next seminar, or even in between seminars. This suggestion was very well received by the participants, with Sofi Oksanen saying that she supported anything the Young Leaders could tackle long-term and “with passion.”

Emphasis was also given to setting up a structure that both supported and sustained the programme, and the Young Leaders discussed developing a mission for the group. [Robert Cox](#), a *Friends of Europe* Trustee and former EU Commission Representative to Turkey, noted that now that the European Young Leaders programme was launched, it was up to the '40 under 40' to decide its own future.

Will it lead to a think tank or an advocacy group? Will it be, as [Aziz Senni](#), Founder and President of *Alliance Transport et Accompagnement*, proposed, a hub for the transfer of practical ideas from one country to another? Or will it serve, as Avgerinopoulou suggested, as an incubator to fill the "leadership deficit" in EU politics?



Frédéric Mitterrand, French Minister for Culture and Communication, speaks to the Young Leaders during a cocktail and dinner hosted by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication

ANNEX I - Programme

DAY 1 – THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER

13.30 – 14.00

Registration and welcome coffee

OPENING

14.00 – 14.30

A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EU'S CURRENT STATE OF PLAY

VENUE: CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION IN PARIS

The European project is being severely tested by the EU's collective failure to tackle the many elements of the profound economic and financial crisis that began in 2008. On top of that there are the long-term sustainability crises of climate, energy security and resource scarcities. European citizens are losing their faith in the European Union as a force for good and so are increasingly supporting populist anti-EU parties. If Europe wants to win back citizens' support it will need a fundamental renewal.

Welcome by **Guillaume Klossa**, President of EuropaNova, and **Giles Merritt**, Secretary General of *Friends of Europe*

BREAK OUT SESSION

14.30 – 15.30

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

VENUE: CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION IN PARIS

This session allowed for group discussion in which the Young Leaders got to know one another better.

Facilitated by **Robert Cox**, *Friends of Europe* Trustee and former European Commission Representative to Turkey

15.30 – 16.00

Break

SESSION I

16.00 – 17.30

TOWARDS A EUROPEAN RENEWAL

VENUE: CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION IN PARIS

- Which Europe do we want?
- What objectives should drive the European project in the early twenty-first century?
- Can the economic crisis be an opportunity to redefine the motors of European integration around new prosperity, a coherent European energy policy, ecological sustainability and social justice?

Sandro Gozi

Member of the Italian National Parliament and of the Spinelli Group, former Advisor to European Commission Presidents Romano Prodi and José Manuel Barroso

Jon Worth

European blogger

Moderated by **Ulysse Gosset**, Deputy Director for France Télévisions

17.30 – 18.00 *Coffee break*

18.00 – 18.30 *Registration of participants for public debate*

PUBLIC DEBATE

18.30 – 19.30

BUILDING EUROPE THROUGH CRISIS

VENUE: CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION IN PARIS

This session provided the opportunity for the '40 under 40' to partake in a public debate and engage with over 100 stakeholders from the worlds of politics, business and civil society.

Kalypso Nicolaidis

Director of the European Studies Centre at Oxford University and former Member of the Reflection Group on the Future of Europe

YOUNG LEADER INTERVENTIONS BY:

Dionysia-Theodora

Member of the Hellenic Parliament and Deputy Head of the Environmental Policy Sector in the New Democracy Party

Avgerinopoulou

Tomas Sedlacek

Chief Macroeconomic Strategist at ČSOB bank and Member of the Czech National Economic Council

Moderated by **Guillaume Klossa**, President of EuropaNova, and **Giles Merritt**, Secretary General of *Friends of Europe*

19.30

Cocktail at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Paris

20.30

Dinner at Restaurant Bistro de la Muette

With guest **Daniel Cohn-Bendit MEP**, Co-President of the Greens/European Free Alliance and Member of the European Parliament

DAY 2 – FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER

SESSION II

09.30 – 11.00

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

VENUE: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INFORMATION OFFICE / EUROPEAN COMMISSION
REPRESENTATION IN FRANCE

- Europe and the rest of the world: What leadership role should Europe play?
- Can Europe reshape its economics, politics and institutions to become a "green growth" model for the world?
- The EU in multilateral diplomacy: The G20 and climate change negotiations
- How will the Arab spring change Europe's foreign policy?

Jean-Michel Severino Chairman of Investisseurs et Partenaires pour le Développement (I&P) and Former Director General of Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

Young Leader contribution by **Franziska Brantner MEP**, Member of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs

Moderated by **Thomas Klau**, Editorial Director and Head of the Paris Office of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee break

OUT OF THE BOX SESSION

11.30 – 12.30

BRIDGING THE GAP WITH EUROPEAN CITIZENS: THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA

VENUE: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INFORMATION OFFICE / EUROPEAN COMMISSION
REPRESENTATION IN FRANCE

Facilitated by Young Leader **Farid Tabarki**, Founding Editor and Presenter for Coolpolitics, and Founder of Studio Zeitgeist, and with the participation of **Jon Worth**, European blogger

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch at the European Commission Representation in France

14.00 – 15.00

Transportation to the Maison Jean Monnet

SESSION III

15.00 – 16.30

HOW TO REINVENT OUR ECONOMIC MODELS?

VENUE: MAISON JEAN MONNET

- Regulation, innovation, and industrialisation: The pillars of investment in our economic future?
- The European internal market: Efficiency, reciprocity and EU "champions"?
- Shared values, ethics and social justice: A long term vision for Europe?

Hendrik Bourgeois Vice President of European Affairs for General Electric (GE)
Andreas Schwab MEP Member of the European Parliament Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

Young Leader contribution by [Lindsey Nefesh-Clarke](#), Founder and CEO of *Women's Worldwide Web*, a web-based philanthropy platform

Moderated by [Stéphane Cossé](#), Associate Professor at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris and former Senior Economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

16.30 – 17.00

Coffee break

SESSION IV

17.00 – 18.30

FINANCE VS POLITICS: WHAT CAN EUROPE DO?

VENUE: MAISON JEAN MONNET

- Capitalism and consumption: Our new religions
- Taming the beast: Regulating financial markets so that they serve the wider economy instead of leading it
- What role can the internal market play in strengthening the European economy and overcoming the financial crisis?

[Thierry Philipponnat](#)

Secretary General of Finance Watch

Young Leader contribution by [Riccardo Maraga](#), Mayor of the City of Amelia, whose policies focus on sustainable development and global governance

Moderated by [Ulysse Gosset](#), Deputy Director of France Télévisions

18.30 – 20.00

Break

20.00

Cocktail and dinner at the Domaine du Tremblay

DAY 3 – SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER

SESSION V

10.30 – 12.00

HOW CAN EUROPE FIGHT THE RISE OF POPULISM AND NATIONALISM?

VENUE: MAISON JEAN MONNET

- Crisis, immigration and globalisation
- Project of society and human values
- Arguments and elements of strategy

[Catherine Fieschi](#)

Director of Counterpoint

Young Leader contributions by [Sofi Oksanen](#), Finnish award-winning and best-selling author; [Souad Mekhennet](#), journalist for *The New York Times*, ZDF and *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*; and [Sarah Joseph](#), CEO and Founding Editor of *emel* Magazine

Moderated by [Anne Bagamery](#), Senior Editor of the *International Herald Tribune*

12.00 – 13.00

Lunch

13.00 – 14.00 *Transportation to French Ministry of Culture and Communication*

SESSION VI 14.00 – 15.00 WHAT ROLE FOR EUROPEAN CULTURE?

VENUE: FRENCH MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION

- European values and identity and their global impact
- What role can the arts play in shaping new ideas?
- A cultural strategy to support European diplomacy?
- New media and new practices: Leveraging the digital world

Kathrin Deventer Secretary General of the European Festivals Association
Marietje Schaake MEP Member of the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education

Young Leader contribution by **Krzysztof Candrowicz**, Founder and Director of the Lodz Art Centre and the Lodz Foundation of Visual Education

Moderated by **Alison Smale**, Executive Editor of the *International Herald Tribune*

15.00 – 15.30 *Coffee break*

CONCLUSIONS 15.30 – 16.30 ON BEING A YOUNG EUROPEAN LEADER

VENUE: FRENCH MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION

- Personality issues in leadership
- Self awareness and group awareness
- What insights can emerge from this programme?

Yves Djorno Partner at PI Europe and Professor at the HEC Business School in Paris
Thomas Houdaille Secretary General of EuropaNova

16.30 – 20.00 *Break*

20.00 *Cocktail and dinner at the French Ministry of Culture and Communication*

Remarks by **Frédéric Mitterrand**, French Minister for Culture and Communication

23.00 *Paris by night at Silencio and end of seminar*

ANNEX II - European Young Leaders 2011-2012

Ida Auken



Ida became the Danish Minister for the Environment in October 2011, having been a Member of Parliament and spokesperson on environmental issues for the Danish Socialist People's Party since 2007. She is well known in Denmark for her work on renewable energy, green cities and environmental protection. Ida studied theology and is also a priest who has written several books on the relationships between theology, politics and society.

Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou



Dionysia-Theodora is a Member of the Hellenic Parliament and Deputy Head of the Environmental Policy Sector in the New Democracy Party. She is a leader in environmental and humanitarian activities internationally and has been the recipient of several international awards, including the 'Global Citizenship Award for Leadership in Assisting Humanity' by Orphans International Worldwide, and the 'Green Star' Award by UNEP/OCHA/Green Cross International for her voluntary assistance in areas affected by natural disasters. She is Co-founder and President of the European Institute of Law, Science & Technology and an attorney who specialises in International and Environmental Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Julien Bayou



Julien is a 'new generation activist', currently acting as Regional Councillor of the Europe-Ecologie Green Party. He is well-known for his innovative campaigns to fight the housing crisis using humour, originality in organising events and viral marketing. Later, Julien founded other movements, such as an ironic campaign about 'The France that wakes up early' to respond to Nicolas Sarkozy's election promises. He is very active in other movements, such as 'Save the rich', a campaign fighting for the implementation of a maximum wage. He is now involved in the presidential election campaign of the Green Party's Eva Joly. In 2009 the Technikart Review named him as one of their 'Top 100 under 40 who shape France'.

Dragos Bileanu

Dragos is CEO of the ROMENERGO Group, a leading Romanian company specialising in energy design, equipment manufacturing and distribution services. He is a very successful entrepreneur, having managed and invested in real-estate and the energy market, and is considered one of Romania's top management specialists. Forbes magazine listed Dragos as one of the leading Romanian businessmen of the 21st century.



Katharina Borchert

Katharina is CEO of Spiegel Online, the leading German news web site, where she is responsible for the commercial aspects and the long-term strategic development of the company. Previously she was Editor-in-Chief and Online Director of the WAZ Media Group, and was an independent writer focusing on technology and the socio-political implications of the digital age. She became one of the best known German-speaking bloggers, winning several awards, including 'Young Journalist of the Year' in 2006. She has also participated in humanitarian work in Africa and Bosnia.



Per Borgklint

Per is the recently appointed Senior Vice President and Head of the Multimedia Business Unit at Ericsson. Beginning with the family business in Jönköping, Sweden, Per has maintained an entrepreneurial focus and has broad experience from the initial idea phase to growing multi-million dollar businesses, notably in the telecoms and media fields. He participated in the development of the Dutch group Tele2, and then launched Tele2 in Belgium, Luxembourg and Ireland. Per was formerly the CEO of Net1, a leading Scandinavian broadband and telephony provider, CEO of both Canal Plus Nordic and the Dutch operator Versatel.



Franziska Brantner



Franziska has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2009 and is part of the Greens-European Free Alliance Group. Before joining the European Parliament, she worked on issues relating to EU foreign policy at the Bertelsmann Foundation. As a consultant for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), she helped design a European action plan for UN Security Resolution 1325, which focuses on the impact of war on women and women's contributions to conflict resolution and peace-building. In 2007-08, Franziska co-authored a European Council on Foreign Relations report on EU Human Rights Policies at the United Nations. She also held a teaching position in Political Science at the University of Mannheim.

Krzysztof Candrowicz



Krzysztof is Founder and Director of the Lodz Art Centre and the Foundation of Visual Education in the city of Lodz. The Foundation is responsible for the International Festival of Photography, held annually since 2001, which is one of the largest photographic events in Europe. As Director and Chief Curator of this event, Krzysztof has established an association of 30 European festivals of photography, called 'Photo Festival Union'. He is the creator of the Lodz-European Capital of Culture campaign. In 2008 he was named Lodz Citizen of the Year.

Valerie Casey



Valerie is an internationally recognised designer, innovator and consultant for businesses and governments around the world. She helps organisations on challenges ranging from the creation of new products and services to transforming organisational processes and behaviours. Prior to starting her own practice in San Francisco, Necessary Projects, she held executive positions at the design firms frog and Pentagram, as well as the design and innovation consultancy IDEO. She is Founder of the Designers Accord, the global coalition of designers, educators and business leaders, who work together to create a positive and sustainable impact on society. Casey was named a Fortune magazine 'Guru of the year', a 'Hero of the Environment' by Time magazine, a 'Master of Design' by Fast Company, and one of the 'World's Most Influential Designers' by BusinessWeek.

Elena Fenili

Elena is Head of Political Studies at UniCredit Group. She previously worked at the Italian Representation to the United Nations in New York, where she participated in negotiations on humanitarian issues and African conflicts during the 58th session of the General Assembly. In 2002, she worked at the General Management Office for Economic and Financial Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome. She is Treasurer of the RENA project (National Excellence Network) and an active volunteer in the Italian Children's Hospital Association (ABIO). Author of various publications on subjects such as European economic growth, in 2010 she was included in the 'Youth Talent' list produced by the Italian Ministry of Youth.



Maud Fontenoy

Maud is a French sailor who became famous for being the first woman to row across the North Atlantic Ocean (2003) and then the Pacific Ocean (2005). Most recently she sailed around the Antarctic. She is Vice President of the French coastal protection agency, Conservatoire national du littoral, Spokeswoman for UNESCO and the World Ocean Network, and a Member of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council of France. She is also the founder of Maud Fontenoy Foundation, which promotes educational efforts to protect the oceans. In 2007, she received the prestigious National Order of Merit from the President of France.



Sara Garcia Ruiz

Sara is an engineer at S.A. de Electrónica Submarina (SAES), a company specialised in submarine electronics and acoustics. Prior to this she was a Member of the Murcian regional Parliament, where she was First Secretary of the Defence Commission, as well as a Member of the Science and Innovation Commission and of the Equality Commission. She has been a Member of the Spanish Socialist Worker's Party since she was 16. She studied communications engineering and has worked in the defence policy sector. She stands for male-female parity in Spanish politics and for the presence of members of parliament of all ages.



Clare Gilmartin



Clare was appointed as eBay's Europe Marketplaces Vice President in April 2010, having worked for eBay in a variety of roles over the past seven years. She is responsible for setting the marketplace business strategy across Europe, including leading eBay's two largest markets outside of the US: Germany and the UK. She began her career at Unilever, working in the sales and marketing division, and subsequently joined the Boston Consulting Group, working with a variety of large European food and non-food retailers on questions of pricing and international expansion.

Javier Gonzalez



Javier is Founder and CEO of aquaMobile SL, a mobile value-added services provider based in Madrid. AquaMobile SL is one of the most successful digital watermarking solutions companies; its products are recognised throughout the field and used in all kinds of media. Aquamobile SL won several prestigious awards, such as the Top Global 100 RedHerring winner and the NETI Award. He has also worked in management roles for various start-ups, such as Alvento and Mobile 365 Inc. He is Co-founder of the tMA Foundation, which encourages innovative and entrepreneurial projects in conjunction with MIT. Javier is a graduate from the Madrid Polytechnic University and ESCP Europe.

Jan Goossens



Jan is Artistic Director of KVS, the Royal Flemish Theatre in Brussels, since 2001. He has established an ambitious artistic programme that embraces the intercultural and linguistic diversity of Brussels. He is the initiator of cultural exchange programmes between Belgium, the Congo and the Arab world, and is a Belgian Fellow of the Eisenhower Foundation. Jan has also written several books and articles on subjects such as culture, media and the future of Belgium and Europe.

Alina Gorghiu



Alina is a Romanian lawyer and politician who is actively engaged in the local life of the city of Bucharest. In addition to being a lawyer and mediator in criminal investigations she is also a Member of the Chamber of Deputies in the Romanian Parliament where she acts as Secretary for the Legal, Disciplinary and Immunities Committee. She studied Law, Administration and Political Science at well-known Romanian universities, and she is currently a PhD candidate in Criminal Law. Alina graduated from Harvard University's Public Leaders in Southeast Europe programme.

Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert

Jeanine is a Member of the Dutch House of Representatives since 2010 and a Member of the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy. She previously served as a Member of the European Parliament and worked at the European Commission's Directorate General for Enlargement, KPMG and the City of Amsterdam. In February 2010, as rapporteur on the issue, Jeanine led the European Parliament vote that rejected an EU-US agreement which would have granted US authorities access to European citizens' banking data without taking account the European legislation on data protection.



Emily Hoyos

Emily is President of the Walloon Parliament, a position she has held since 2009, and a Member of the Belgian Green Party. Very early in her career she was elected President of the Federation of Francophone Students, a student organisation, and then became Political Secretary to the Belgian French Community's Minister of Children, Jean-Marc Nollet. She also worked within several organisations and local associations, such as the Ligue des Familles. In 2009, she was elected to the Walloon Parliament and, six weeks later, she became its President. Emily is one of the youngest and most well-known politicians in Belgium.



Benedek Javor

Benedek is the leader of the Hungarian opposition party Lehet Más a Politika (Politics Can Be Different) and an active environmentalist. He was elected to the Hungarian National Assembly in 2010. He holds a PhD in Biology and was a professor and lecturer on environmental law. He founded an environmental NGO, *Védjegylet* (Protect the Future), in order to raise awareness on global environmental threats. He is author of several articles and publications on sustainable development.



Sarah Joseph

Sarah is the CEO and Founding Editor of *emel*, the premier Muslim Lifestyle brand. Through *emel*, she fundamentally formed the concept of Muslim Lifestyle, creating a seismic shift in the way Muslims were perceived and marketed to. She was a member of the Home Office Task Force on extremism after the July 2005 London bombings. Sarah was awarded an OBE in 2004 for services to inter-faith dialogue and the promotion of women's rights. She was listed as one of the UK's most powerful Muslims in the Muslim Power 100 by Carter Andersen, and one of the World's 500 Most Influential Muslims by Georgetown University and the Jordanian Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre.



Jacek Legiewicz



Jacek recently became the Business Development Executive for the European Union at IBM (in 2011). Prior to this, he worked in IBM's Governmental Programmes Division, where he was in charge of policy advocacy and investment protection. Jacek spent seven years at CEC Government Relations, the leading independent public affairs agency in Central Europe, where he was involved in lobbying at both the national and European levels. In parallel to his corporate career, he has been active in the IT industry as Vice President of the Polish IT and Telecom Chamber and a Member of the Executive Board of Digital Europe. Jacek has also been active in local and national politics: he was a Parliamentary candidate in 1997 and Advisor to the Minister of Youth and Family Affairs from 1997 to 1998.

Anne Le Goff



Anne recently became Secretary General of Crédit Mutuel Arkéa, a leading company in the French bank insurance sector, based in Brittany. Prior to this she was Chief of Staff to the President of the company. She is in charge of the organisation of the company's Board and Steering Committee, as well as communication and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Anne is also involved in local initiatives, such as activities of the University of Rennes I Foundation and participating in Regional Council working groups on topics such as renewable energy. Anne holds an Actuary degree and, in 2006, was selected to attend the Centre des Hautes Etudes d'Assurance (Centre of Professional Insurance Studies), a prestigious school that trains the future leaders of the insurance industry.

Christian Mandl



Christian is the owner and Chairman of Maporama Solutions, a company specialising in the visualisation of enterprise data on maps. He became a well-known after co-founding Central Europe's first low-cost airline, SkyEurope, in 2001. He took SkyEurope to the stock market in 2005, staying on to manage the firm until 2007 when he exited to focus on new ventures. He is also Managing Director of Danube Consulting, a company that provides advisory services to investors in Central and Eastern Europe. He is involved in the development of several projects, including the establishment of a venture capital fund to promote R&D in Slovakia, as well as renewable energy initiatives.

Riccardo Maraga

Riccardo is the recently elected Mayor of the city of Amelia in the Umbria region, and is one of the youngest and busiest politicians in Italy. He is a member of the Democratic Party focussing on sustainable development and global governance. He has published several articles on European social and labour regulations in labour law magazines and reviews. As an elected official, Riccardo is a very active social-networker – a new kind of politician who is in direct contact with his electors.



Raffaele Mauro

Raffaele is an Associate at Annapurna Ventures, a venture capital firm focused on early stage investments in web services, mobile applications and digital technology. He holds a PhD in Economic History from Bocconi University and is Adjunct Professor at the Collegio di Milano, where he teaches courses on entrepreneurship, network economics and the social science of the Internet. He previously worked as an editor for Harvard Business Review's Italian Edition and in various branches of Confindustria developing projects and conducting research related to emerging markets, entrepreneurship and corporate finance. He is also quite active in the public debate as a political blogger. He has received many awards and accolades including being accepted into the McKinsey EuroAcademy in 2008, and was chosen by the Italian government as one of the top 200 'national talents' in 2010.



Souad Mekhennet

Souad is a German journalist of Turkish and Moroccan descent who works for prestigious international magazines, newspapers and TV channels, such as *The New York Times*, ZDF and the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. She specialises in stories relating to terrorist organisations and Islam, and she recently covered the Egyptian demonstrations at the height of the Arab Spring. She is also Co-author of two German language books that deal with the issues of political Islam and jihad, *The Children of Jihad* and *Islam*. In 2009 the independent jury of the magazine medium named her one of the Top 3 reporters in German speaking countries.



João Meneses



João is Head of 'GABIP Mouraria' at the Lisbon City Hall, the department in charge of urban rehabilitation and social development of Mouraria, one of the most traditional and multicultural quarters of Lisbon. He also holds the 'Management of Nonprofit Organisations' teaching position at ISCTE-Lisbon University Institute, and in June 2011 started a social consulting firm called Big Society. Previously he managed the NGO TESE, and was a Financial Officer at Chapito, which is one of the oldest Portuguese NGOs working with vulnerable young people. He is also a columnist for *Diário Económico* and has co-authored a book on NGO management.

Joanna Mucha



Joanna became the Polish Minister of Sports in November 2011 after having previously served as a Member of the Polish Parliament representing the Civic Platform Party. Within the Parliament she was involved in health, social and economic issues. She holds a PhD in the economics of healthcare from the University of Warsaw and is a lecturer at the Catholic University in Lublin. She is a founding member of the Janusz Palikot Academy, an apolitical organisation focusing on youth development and social progress.

Lindsey Nefesh-Clarke



Lindsey is Founder and CEO of a web-based philanthropy platform, Women's Worldwide Web, dedicated to connecting and empowering girls and women around the world through education, microfinance, mentoring and networking. She also works for Enfants d'Asie, a humanitarian NGO that provides care for over 10,000 children in South-East Asia. In 2009 she won the Independent MBA Student of the Year Award that recognises exceptional MBA students with a talent for leadership.

Sofi Oksanen

Sofi is a Finnish-Estonian contemporary novelist and theatrical writer who was catapulted into the elite of Finnish literary authors with her first novel, *Stalin's Cows* (2003). It created a heated public debate and led to her being nominated for the Runeberg Award, one of Finland's most prestigious literary prizes. Her first original play, *Purge* (2008), became a novel ranking number 1 on Finland's bestseller list. She received numerous awards for *Purge*, such as the Prix Femina Etranger en France, the European Book Prize and the Nordic Council Literature Prize. She appears regularly in the media and is also known for her opinions in favour of women's rights and the promotion of equality. For these efforts she has received an award from the University of Helsinki—the University from which she also holds a degree in Literature.



Martin Ott

Martin is the Co-CEO of Skrill, a leading independent online payments and digital wallet service. Prior to joining the group he was Chief Operating Officer of Jamba!, a provider of mobile content, and before that Co-founder and CEO of Tokyo-based Eken K.K., an online community and consumer review platform. Martin holds a degree in Business Administration from WHU-Beisheim School of Management in Vallendar, Germany. He also studied at the Finance Academy in Moscow and the Keio Business School in Tokyo.



Matteo Renzi

Matteo has been Mayor of the city of Florence since 2009, and is a Member of the Italian People's Party. He is the face of the new generation of Italian political leaders that desire reform in Italy from the top down and rejuvenation of the Italian body politic. Under his leadership, Florence is the first major city in Italy to adopt the Volumi Zero structural policy, an environmental plan to make the city a greener, safer and more sustainable place to live.



Franck Riester



Franck is a Member of the French National Assembly, representing the Seine-et-Marne department as a Member of the UMP Party. He is Mayor of the city of Coulommiers since 2008, where he was also a City Councillor at the age of 21. He is interested in economic development and new technologies, having become one of the main French legislators dealing with the subject of Internet regulation and protection of creative rights. Franck is also a successful businessman, owning several Peugeot dealerships.

Dominik Risse



Dominik is Global Head of Marketing at LANXESS AG (Leverkusen, Germany), a leading global specialty chemicals group. Prior to this, he held various management roles in the chemical industry (LANXESS, Bayer) including a nearly 4 year assignment in Southeast Asia. His political record includes activities at both the regional and national levels for the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), as well as for the Junge Union and the Wirtschaftsrat Deutschland (the Economic Council of the CDU). Dominik holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from Bradford University School of Management and attended INSEAD's Leadership Programme in Singapore.

Tomas Sedlacek



Tomas is Chief Macroeconomic Strategist at ČSOB, one of the largest Czech banks. He is a member of National Economic Council, an advisory body to the Prime Minister, where he serves as an elected chairman of the Fiscal Reform group. He was an economic adviser to President Václav Havel and later served as an expert, non-political adviser to the Finance Minister. Yale Economic Review has ranked him among the 'Five hot shots in economics'. He is also a regular columnist and commentator. In 2009, he published a book on philosophy, ethics and the history of economic thought entitled *Economics of Good and Evil*, which has been translated into 8 languages.

Aziz Senni

Aziz is a young French entrepreneur, Founder and President of *Alliance Transport et Accompagnement*, a 'collective taxi' company for the region of Paris, and Founder and President of Business Angel des Cités, a social investment fund for the development of Parisian suburban areas. Aziz has published two books in France, the first on the 'social glass ceiling' entitled *L'ascenseur social est en panne... j'ai pris l'escalier* (The social elevator is broken, I took the stairs), and the second, *Monte ton BIZ* (Create your own business: 10 commandments of the entrepreneur coming from suburbs) on how to become a successful entrepreneur when coming from a under-privileged neighbourhood. He has received several awards from the French government including the Médaille de l'Assemblée nationale (the National Assembly Medal).



Jens Spahn

Jens is a Member of the German Bundestag with responsibility for health policies, and a Member of the CDU/CSU Youth Group. He holds a degree in Banking and Political Science from the University of Hagen, and previously worked as a banker in his hometown of Munster. Jens is a founding member of the 'Young Member of Parliament' cross-party group that promotes integration and equality in politics and society. He is also a member of the German Atlantic Association.



Farid Tabarki

Farid is a researcher, writer, presenter and entrepreneur. He is Founding Editor, Presenter and a researcher for Coolpolitics, a Dutch civic social organisation that encourages younger generations to shape their roles as citizens. In 2006, 2007 and 2010, he presented the parliamentary election edition of MTV Coolpolitics, featuring debates between leading politicians. As Founder and Director of Studio Zeitgeist, he coordinates research and develops projects on the local, national and European level. He also works closely with research institutes such as the Open Society Institute and the University of Amsterdam. He is a member of numerous organisations, such as the Netherlands Architect Institute and the Foundation for Democracy and Media, and is involved in various initiatives such as co-hosting TEDx Rotterdam and advising the City of Belgrade on their European Centre for Culture and Debate.





Vessela Tcherneva

Vessela is Spokesperson and Member of Cabinet for the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Previously, she was Director of the Bulgarian office of the European Foreign Policy Council and Programme Director of the Centre for Liberal Strategies. Between 2004 and 2006 she was Secretary of the International Commission on the Balkans, chaired by Giuliano Amato. She is Observing Editor of Foreign Policy – Bulgaria magazine, a position she has held since its launch in 2005.



Mathieu Vedrenne

Mathieu is Chief of Staff to the CEO of Société Générale, one of the major banking services companies in Europe. He joined the company in 2001, after having worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers for 3 years, and quickly climbed the professional ladder within the company. He was selected for the company's Executive Programme for the top performing employees. He is a sponsor of the 2010-2012 HEC Entrepreneur Diversity Programme and is a Member of the Executive Committee of the Fondation Croissance Responsable (Responsible Growth Foundation).



Cédric Villani

Cédric is a French mathematician, Director of the Henri Poincaré Institute in Paris and a Professor of Mathematics at the University of Lyon. His main research interests are in kinetic theory and optimal transport and its applications. He has published many works on mathematics and received some of the most renowned awards in the field: the European Mathematical Society Award (2008), the Fermat Award (2009), the Henri Poincaré Prize of the French Academy of Sciences (2009) and the Fields Medal (2010). In 2011 he was named Knight of the Legion of Honour by the French Minister for Higher Education and Research.

ANNEX III - About Us

Guillaume Klossa, President of EuropaNova

Guillaume Klossa is the President of EuropaNova, a think-tank he created in 2003. Guillaume has had a very early European commitment, creating a European newspaper in high-school and being part of the first sessions of the European Youth Parliament. With the help of Jacques Delors, Guillaume launched in 2006 the "Etats Généraux de l'Europe", which has become the major event for European civil society in France. After being both a manager in services companies and a journalist for some years, creating in particular new TV shows about Europe, Guillaume was appointed advisor to French Minister of European Affairs Jean-Pierre Jouyet in May 2007. He also worked as an advisor to the Reflection Group on the Future of Europe chaired by former Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. He recently wrote a book on the future of Europe with the economist Jean-Francois Jamet called *Europe la dernière chance?* (October 19th, 2011 - Editions Armand Colin). Guillaume graduated from the top French Management school HEC, and holds a degree in Politics from Sciences Po Paris.



Thomas Houdaille, Secretary General of EuropaNova

Thomas Houdaille is Secretary General of EuropaNova. He manages the team in charge of all operations, develops new initiatives and takes care of the partnership development and fundraising activities. He also publishes regularly in the press and contributes to EuropaNova's intellectual development. After graduating from ESCP Europe, a top French Management School, Thomas spent 15 years in the consulting business in France and other European countries, with senior management and business development responsibilities. After creating his own consulting company in 2003, he became General Manager of Beijaflore Consulting, a company specialised in the telecom and media industry. He decided two years ago to work for EuropaNova committing himself entirely to the development of the European political project.





Giles Merritt, Secretary General of *Friends of Europe*

Giles Merritt is the Secretary General of *Friends of Europe* and Editor-in-Chief of *Europe's World*, the only Europe-wide policy journal. In 2010, he was named one of the 30 most influential "Eurostars" by the *Financial Times*, together with European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen. He is a former correspondent of the *Financial Times*, in Dublin/Belfast, Paris and Brussels, as well as a former columnist of the *International Herald Tribune*. Giles is a journalist, author and broadcaster who has specialised in the study and analysis of European public policy issues since 1978. His opinion columns have ranged widely across EU political and economic issues, and they have been published around the world. Giles also published books on the unemployment crisis in industrialised countries in the eighties, and on Eastern Europe & the USSR in the nineties. He founded Forum Europe, established in 1989 as one of the leading EU conference organisers, as well as Brussels' only specialist think tank on security and defence issues, the Security & Defence Agenda.



Geert Cami, Co-Founder & Director of *Friends of Europe*

Geert Cami is the Co-founder & Publisher of *Europe's World*, the only Europe-wide policy Journal, read in more than 120 countries by over 100,000 people. He also co-founded two of Brussels' most influential think tanks: *Friends of Europe* in 1999, and the Security & Defence Agenda in 2002, respectively presided over by Etienne Davignon (former Vice-President of the European Commission), Javier Solana (former EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy) and Jaap de Hoop Scheffer (former NATO Secretary General). In the mid nineties, Geert worked for a couple of years in the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO), the then newly set-up department within the European Commission, where he dealt with Information and Communications. In the early nineties, Geert Cami also produced music programmes at the BRTN (Belgian Public Radio, now VRT) as well as special television reports for international organisations as NATO and OSCE.

Nathalie Furrer, Director of *Friends of Europe*

Nathalie Furrer is the Director of *Friends of Europe*, one of Brussels' leading think tanks which aims to bring EU policies closer to citizens. In this role she manages the experienced team and develops the overall programme of the think tank, liaises with members, partners and the press. She also coordinates all debates and publications, as well as other initiatives co-organised by *Friends of Europe* on subjects ranking from energy, EU-China relations and the financial market to Latin America and EU health strategy. Prior to joining *Friends of Europe* she was working in an institute for public policy research organising international conferences throughout Europe. Nathalie graduated in Political Science from the University of Geneva and has a Masters in Communication from the Sorbonne in Paris. In addition to her native French, she is fluent in English and Italian and has a good knowledge of German.



EuropaNova

18/20 Place de la Madeleine, 75008 Paris, France

Tel: +33 (0)1 43 42 40 90

Fax: +33 (0)1 53 38 44 51

Email: thomas@europanova.eu

Website: www.europanova.eu

Friends of Europe – Les Amis de l'Europe

Bibliothèque Solvay - 137 rue Belliard 137

B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 (0)2 737 91 45 – Fax: +32 (0) 2 738 7597

Email: info@friendsofeurope.org

Website: www.friendsofeurope.org

contact@40under40.eu - www.40under40.eu



**With the support of the Europe for Citizens
programme of the European Union**

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.
The Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.