Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Recommendation 2299 (2025)[1]

Youth movements for democracy

Parliamentary Assembly

1. Referring to its Resolution 2619 (2025) "Youth movements for democracy", emphasising that young people across Europe are not only participants but also essential defenders and innovators of democracy, and that their engagement is critical to sustaining democratic resilience in the face of authoritarianism, institutional distrust, socio-economic exclusion, digital transformation and environmental crisis, the Parliamentary Assembly:

1.1. stresses the need for the Council of Europe and its member States to protect and promote youth civic engagement and (financial) support for youth organisations, safeguard youth rights and dismantle the structural barriers that prevent young people from fully participating in democratic life;

1.2. welcomes the Council of Europe's long-standing achievements in promoting youth participation through its co-management system, the European Youth Centres, the European Youth Foundation and its standard-setting work, in particular the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life and the forthcoming reference framework on a youth perspective.

2. In view of the above, the Assembly recommends that the Committee of Ministers:

2.1. ensure that youth participation, as a core priority for the Organisation based on the Reykjavik Declaration and Reykjavik Principles for Democracy, is mainstreamed across all sectors of the Council of Europe's work;

2.2. integrate youth civic space as a standing item into the Council of Europe's human rights monitoring and co-operation programmes, including within accession, post-monitoring and thematic review processes;

2.3. invite relevant intergovernmental committees, including the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) and the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ), to draw up and strengthen standards for member States on protecting youth civic engagement, in line with Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ETS No. 5), and to report regularly on their implementation;

2.4. encourage the adoption and promotion of the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, its own recommendations and the reference framework on a youth perspective, and support their dissemination and implementation at national and local levels;

2.5. strengthen the resources of the European Youth Foundation and the European Youth Centres in order to provide support for youth-led democratic initiatives, including in contexts where civic space is shrinking;

2.6. promote intergovernmental exchanges of good practice on lowering the voting age to 16, introducing youth quotas and multi-age electoral lists, and embedding democratic civic education in formal and non-formal settings;

1. *Assembly debate* on 1 October 2025 (33rd sitting) (see Doc. 16239, report of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, rapporteur: Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 1 October 2025 (33rd sitting).

2.7. enhance co-operation with other international organisations, including the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations, to co-ordinate action in monitoring and defending youth human rights, supporting civic infrastructure and maintaining warning mechanisms for threats to youth civic space;

2.8. ensure the effective participation of young people from diverse backgrounds, including those from rural areas, minority communities, diaspora and refugee populations, in Council of Europe activities and policy processes;

2.9. make full use of the Assembly's youth participation mechanism and the role of youth rapporteurs to create regular and structured opportunities for dialogue between the Committee of Ministers, the Assembly and youth-led organisations.