



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Wopke HOEKSTRA
Member of the Commission

Brussels, 14/12/2023

Dear Mr. Schmidt,

Thank you for your letter addressed to the former EVP Frans Timmermans and the outcome document of the fourth Youth Climate and Sustainability Round Table which took place on 18 July 2023. I am replying as the new European Commissioner for Climate Action, being very keen on continuing engaging actively with the youth.

I am pleased to see young people's continued contribution to strengthening climate policy and higher climate ambition. As former EVP Frans Timmermans often pointed out, the European Green Deal would never have been possible without the youth, and I aim to continue that work moving forward, in close contact and collaboration with young people, who are part of the generations most severely impacted by the climate crisis. I am planning to continue engaging with young people and, as a first step, I will be meeting young people at COP28 and debrief them about the ongoing negotiations and listen to their views on the matter.

On ensuring youth inclusion in policy-making, the 2022 European Year of Youth made a major contribution towards mainstreaming youth perspectives into policymaking. It helped raise awareness of youth about EU policies and in integrating the youth perspective across policy areas. Strengthening young people's involvement in EU policymaking and the mainstreaming of youth policy are key objectives of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027.

There will always be more opportunities for ensuring that EU initiatives have a positive impact on young people today and in the future. Building on the important legacy of the European Year of Youth the Commission is ready to engage in dialogue other EU institutions, Member States, and stakeholders to explore how objectives of an EU youth test could be best achieved.

Mr Peter Schmidt
President of the NAT Section
European Economic and Social Committee
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Our intention is to make sure that our existing tools to engage with youth are used to their fullest and that youth impact is taken into consideration when proposing important new legislation. We welcome a stronger role of youth organisations in taking part in public consultations for new EU initiatives, and in actively pointing out issues impacting young people. On top, EVP Timmermans and Commissioner Sinkevicius had good experiences already in discussing policy initiatives in climate action with youth representatives before these initiatives are presented. I would be keen to continue on that path, together with you as the institution that is organising such youth outreach and involvement.

Yours sincerely,



Wopke HOEKSTRA

