European Economic and Social Committee
Press Release

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**European elections 2019: Students from St Margaret College in Cospicua to speak their mind at Your Europe, Your Say!**

**On 21th of January at 9h30 a.m, St Margaret College in Cospicua will welcome** [**Charles VELLA**](https://memberspage.eesc.europa.eu/Search/Details/Person/2031727?onlyActiveMandate=True&isMinimal=False) **member of European Economic and Social Committee, to prepare for "#YEYSturns10: Vote for the future!", the youth assembly which will take place in Brussels on 21 and 22 March.**

**St Margaret College in Cospicua** is one of the [thirty-three schools](https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/participating-schools) from across Europe that will come to Brussels in March to debate their views, hopes and expectations about the forthcoming European elections. They will come up with three proposals encapsulating their generation's top priorities for the European Parliament to tackle. The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) will make sure that these proposals reach the law-makers**.**

**Charles Vella** will work with the 16 to 18-year-old students ahead of the March meeting in Brussels. They will be ready to share ideas about the **2019 European elections** and to have answers on specific key questions:

* What in your view should be done to increase voter participation in the EP elections?
* How can we strengthen representative democracy in the future?
* What kind of political engagement exists beyond the European elections, and how would you take part in it?

During the YEYS plenary, the participants will vote on three proposals for the European Parliament to take on board in its campaign for the European elections.

**Background:**

The 33 schools were selected to participate in this initiative using an electronic name picker. One school from each of the 28 EU Member States and five candidate countries (Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey) will be involved. A record 1038 applications were received for this 10th anniversary.

Called "Your Europe, Your Say!" (YEYS), the event is organised by the European Economic and Social Committee, the voice of civil society at European level, and is the Committee's flagship event for young people.

Through this initiative, the EESC aims to ensure that the views, experiences and ideas of the younger generation are taken on board in EU policy-making.

Further details about YEYS2019 are available on the [event's official page](https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/agenda/our-events/events/yeysturns10-vote-future/), and you can watch the YEYS 2018 video [here.](https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/agenda/our-events/events/yeysturns10-vote-future/video-2018)

**For more information, please contact:**

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[VIDEO: How has the EESC made a difference](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.videos.41081)?

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*The European Economic and Social Committee represents the various economic and social components of organised civil society. It is an institutional consultative body established by the 1957 Treaty of Rome. Its consultative role enables its members, and hence the organisations they represent, to participate in the EU decision-making process. The Committee has 350 members from across Europe, who are appointed by the Council of the European Union.*

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