



Proposal to safeguard the political neutrality of the EUSAIR Youth Council

Purpose of the proposal

The EUSAIR Youth Council serves as a key participatory mechanism for youth involvement in regional cooperation and EU policymaking within the Adriatic-Ionian region. To ensure the continued credibility, impartiality, and inclusiveness of this body, it is imperative to establish clear eligibility criteria regarding political affiliations.

This proposal aims to introduce a rule excluding individuals who are active members of political parties from participating in the EUSAIR Youth Council, with narrowly defined exceptions. The purpose is to maintain the Council's non-partisan character while still fostering democratic engagement and civic representation.

Proposal summary

It is proposed that individuals who are currently registered members of a political party be deemed ineligible to serve on the EUSAIR Youth Council. An exception would apply to candidates who have participated or intend to participate in local and national elections as part of an independent citizens' list, as these initiatives are often grassroots-driven and non-partisan in nature.

Furthermore, individuals affiliated with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society organizations would remain eligible, except in cases where such entities maintain formal political party affiliations or serve as political proxies.

Justification for the proposal

1) **Preserving institutional integrity:** Political neutrality is essential for the Youth Council to function as a credible consultative body representing the diverse interests of young people across the EUSAIR region. Excluding party-affiliated members mitigates the risk of politicization and strengthens the Council's legitimacy.

2) **Encouraging inclusive civic engagement:** While excluding political party members, this proposal affirms the importance of civic activism by welcoming youth engaged through NGOs, advocacy groups, and independent electoral platforms. This ensures the Council remains open to committed and community-oriented young leaders.

Proposed amendment

“Applicants must **not be active members of any political party** at the time of application or during the term of their mandate.

Exceptions may apply to individuals who have participated in or intend to participate in electoral processes as part of independent citizens' list.

Individuals affiliated with non-governmental organizations, civil society platforms, or interest-based groups are eligible to apply, provided these entities are not formally linked to political parties or engaged in partisan advocacy.”

Conclusion

Adopting this proposal will reinforce the EUSAIR Youth Council's foundational values of neutrality, inclusivity, and independent youth representation. It reflects a commitment to fair governance, while upholding opportunities for young people to engage constructively in civic and democratic processes across the region. This amendment is essential to maintaining a trusted and politically balanced youth voice within the EUSAIR strategy.