

3rd European Rhine-Main Forum

"Celebrate Democracy!"

June 15th - 18th 2007 at the Hambacher Schloss

The European Youth Parliament

For more than fifteen years, the Europäisches Jugendparlament in Deutschland e.V. (European Youth Parliament Germany) has offered youngsters the possibility to actively deal with current issues related to civil society, to develop visions for a new Europe and to discuss them with others. Our European educational efforts have been awarded inter alia with the **Theodor-Heuss medal** and the **European Award 2004**.

The entire work of our organisation is carried out by young people for young people. This contributes to one of our aims, the encouragement of young people to get involved with Europe.

Through simulations of the European Parliament we make non-party politics perceptible on a European level, we motivate youngsters to discover their potentials and to become responsible for their own future as well as for Europe's future.

The 3rd European Rhine-Main Forum

With the 3rd European Rhine-Main Forum, the European Youth Parliament contributes to the festivities that accompany the **175th anniversary of the Hambacher Fest**. In cooperation with the foundation Hambacher Schloss we look at the "birth of German democracy" from a European context and offer the young participants an understanding of its importance. The President of the Federal Parliament of Rhineland-Palatinate, **Joachim Mertes**, has granted his patronage to our event and we hope to welcome many more visitors and guests from civil society and the European Parliament to the *General Assembly* at the Hambacher Schloss.

We expect approximately 80 High-School pupils aged 16 – 18, from the countries the democrats participating at the Hambacher Fest 175 years ago originated from. Concerning the participants, we put special emphasis on the federal state of **Rhineland-Palatinate** and its European partner regions **Opole** (Poland), **Bourgogne** (France) and **Central Bohemia** (Czech Republic).

The Forum is subdivided into three parts: *Teambuilding*, *Committee Work* and *General Assembly*. The delegates experience an intensive exchange of ideas, practice teamwork and debating. In internationally composed groups, the participants look into different points of view during *Committee Work*, thereby cultivating democratic debating culture and decision making processes.



EUROPEAN **YOUTH** PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN DES **JEUNES**
DEUTSCHLAND GERMANY



TEAMBUILDING

discover commonalities,
gain confidence,
solve problems,
becoming part of a team...



COMMITTEE WORK

analyse politics,
discuss opinions,
making compromises,
write a resolution...



Mutual trust, a common motivation and the cognition of strengths and weaknesses are the foundations of a successful team. Teamwork is a big challenge. Therefore the beginning of this session is marked by a one-day communication training (*Teambuilding*). Through playful tasks, the youngsters get to know each other, overcome language barriers and develop basic principles and rules for cooperating in an international team.

During the subsequent *Committee Work* the participants deal with current European topics and compile the results of their discussions in a resolution written in English. Instead of a mere repetition of well-known positions and wide-spread opinions the focus is drawn to the development of the participants' very own visions, ideas and concepts.

The parliamentary plenary meeting constitutes simultaneously the climax and conclusion of the session. During *General Assembly* the participants defend their resolutions in an open debate conducted in English. Each committee proposes its own positions with the aim of the ratification of their own resolution. We will invite European politicians to the forum to give the youngsters the chance to make themselves and their visions heard.

Celebrate democracy!

Europe's democratic tradition is not self-evident. Without a pan-European democratic culture, the European Union has no future. The first people's assembly of the younger German history and the paralleling European democracy movements like the French July Revolution were carried by beings, not institutions. Just as 175 years ago, democracy still cannot endure without the voice of the citizens.

By cooperating with the foundation Hambacher Schloss, we create a European point of view on the national histories of democracy in a cross-border exchange. During the German presidency of the EU Council, a new generation learns to defend the merits of democracy and human rights and to critically question political occurrences. Europe's youth doesn't shy away from dealing with basic political questions and common European history. They want to actively accept responsibility.

The results of the European Youth Parliament are visible and sustainable: evaluation of the session's show that more than 70 percent of our participants want to get actively involved in politics or civil society. Nearly 80 per cent of the youngsters state to have learned important competencies for their future by their experience of active democratic decision making. And more than 80 per cent of the delegates are even more interested in Europe after the session:

We make the youth's voice heard in Europe: "Celebrate Democracy!"

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

stand criticism,
defend positions,
practise your language skills,
experience the parliamentary procedure...



EUROPEAN DIVERSITY

Europe to listen – EuroConcert,
Europe to taste – EuroVillage,
giving Europe a face,
discover European diversity...

