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#### NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
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Subject:	What's next? The issues that matter to young people and possible European efforts to address these issues - <i>Discussion paper</i> (Public debate in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure) [proposed by the Presidency]

Following consultation of the Youth Working Party, the Presidency has prepared the attached discussion paper, which is submitted as the basis for the policy debate to take place at the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 20-21 November 2017.

## **What's next? The issues that matter to young people and possible European efforts to address these issues**

### **Presidency discussion paper**

The issue of how we can better support and engage youth is of high importance in the current political agenda of European Union. Discussions are ongoing on the next EU Youth Strategy for the post-2018 period. As far as the 6th Cycle of the Structured Dialogue is concerned, the trio presidency of Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria, in cooperation with European Youth Forum and the European Commission, has focused on the involvement of young people in the development of the next EU Youth Strategy. Hence the 6th cycle is entitled: “Youth in Europe: what’s next?”.

This topic was discussed during the EU Youth Conference in Tallinn, 23-26 October 2017, where young people and youth policy makers came together to explore what really matters to young people today. The discussions were aimed to map all possible questions, topics, worries, hopes, problems and challenges influencing young people and their lives today and in the future.

During the meeting of ministers responsible for Youth issues on 20th November in Brussels, the Presidency has decided to inspire an interactive discussion by inviting Dr. Howard Williamson to share his insights into the highlights of the EU Youth Conference in Tallinn and into future perspectives for young people in Europe. Dr. Williamson is a professor of European Youth Policy at the University of South Wales, with extensive experience in youth work and youth research.

At the following policy debate, the Ministers are kindly invited to intervene for approximately 2-3 minutes on the issues raised in this paper and in Annex. In doing so, they may wish to address one or more of the following questions:

- 1. What matters for young people and their future in today's Europe?**
- 2. How could these issues be best addressed through common European efforts?**

To give all Ministers an opportunity to fully participate in an interactive manner, thus contributing to a fruitful discussion, interventions must be as concise and brief as possible. This will enable Ministers to intervene more than once if necessary.

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