



Press release-Brussels – June 2010

Belgian Presidency: Putting youth work on the European agenda

The Belgian EU Presidency (*July-December 2010*) focuses on youth work to provide young people with more opportunities in today's society and on the labour market. Two 'flagship' conferences will bring hundreds of youth work experts from 50 European countries to Ghent (*5-10 July 2010*). Together, they will prepare a resolution on youth work to be presented at the European Council of Ministers for Youth (*16 November 2010*). By doing this, Belgium wants to show that youth work works.

- At the **"Conference on the history of youth work and youth policy"** (*5-7 July 2010*), European policy makers, researchers and youth workers will draw lessons from the history and European diversity of youth work and youth policy. Because there is no future without a past.
 - The **"First European Youth Work Convention"** (*7-10 July 2010*) discusses the role of youth work: its characteristics, assets, needs and contributions to society. This will lead to an action plan aiming to better support youth work. That way, youth work, in turn, can better support young people to participate in society.
- You can find the **full programme** attached and also at www.youth-eutrio.be.

You are warmly invited

We gladly welcome the media at these two pan-European conferences – in the Vooruit Centre (*Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 23, Ghent*) – and on 10 July in the UFO-University Forum (*Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 33, Ghent*).

- Key moments are the opening sessions (*Mon 5 July 13.30-15u & Wed 7 July 17-18.30u*) and the closing sessions with reception (*Wed 7 July 9.30-14u & Sat 10 July 10-14.30u*).
- Special guests include Minister Pascal Smet, the European Commissioner and the Council of Europe, who will share their views on the results presented.
- Possibilities to interview the VIP's, speakers and participants.
- Nice photo opportunities in plenary or in the many workshops.
- Find the full programme and list of speakers attached or at www.youth-eutrio.be.
- Our on-site press desk will be happy to help you during the conferences.

Press contacts

Contact **Jan Balliu**, Projectteam Belgian EU Presidency Youth, for more **information on this invitation and the events and conferences**. Please let us know if/when you will attend.

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Contact **Jeroen Janssens**, spokesperson for Pascal Smet, Flemish Minister for Education, Youth, Equal Opportunities and Brussels Affairs, for all **general information on the Belgian EU Presidency Youth**.

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The Belgian EU Presidency Youth

Belgium holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) from **1 July until 31 December 2010**. Flanders will be coordinating and organising the activities under Youth (in close cooperation with the French and German-Speaking Communities).

The three Belgian priorities in the field of youth during this Presidency are:

- Youth work
- Youth and employment
- Policy for children, youth and children's rights

Belgium works closely together with Spain and Hungary in the so-called Trio-Presidency.

Website: www.youth-eutrio.be

Annexes

1. Factsheet Belgian EU Presidency Youth
2. Programme "1st European Conference on the history of youth work and youth policy. Relevance for today's youth work policy"
3. Programme "1st European Youth Work Convention"