

EP YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS PROGRAMME

2019 ANNUAL PROGRAMME

The Young Political Leaders (YPL) programme has been consolidated as a new and complementary instrument for dialogue in line with the principles set out in UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. Taking into account the elections to the European Parliament, the 2019 programme is mainly focusing on continuity.

The programme was adopted by the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG) on 13 December 2018 and endorsed by the Conference of Presidents on 7 February 2019.

Western Balkans

Sustaining and further developing the successful regional platform “Bridging the Gap” which brings together young Parliamentarians with youth organisation activists. Continuity will be important, including with our partner the European Commission, by organising a “Bridging the Gap” event hosted/co-hosted by one or two countries of the Western Balkans.

Eastern Partnership and MENA

For the election year, we bring together the YPLs from the Eastern Partnership and the Israel-Palestine programme in order to learn from their experience of conflict and develop their mediation skills (including a “train the trainers” approach in designing the event’s programme). The well-established cooperation with the HRVP’s initiative for the region entitled “Young Med Voices Plus Initiative” will continue.

Africa

Horn of Africa, given the historic agreement recently signed between Eritrea and Ethiopia a YPL could be considered (possibly also including Somalia).

Other priorities:

Following a request by this year’s Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Denis Mukwege, supported by the Sakharov network and President Tajani, a tailored YPL training activity for Congolese young leaders will be organised. It will focus on conflict and non-violence strategies.

The fourth Annual YPL Programme will be implemented within the budget allocated for YPL or CDSA priority country activities for 2019.

Lead Member: **Mr Fabio Massimo CASTALDO**