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**Students from 2nd Gerakas Senior High School will take part in a virtual European Youth Summit on Climate**

**Students from 2nd Gerakas Senior High School will take part in a European Youth Summit on Climate, which will be held online on 18,19 and 20 March 2021. The event is being organised by the** [**European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)**](https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en) **and will follow the model of a** [**United Nations Climate Change Conference**](https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/supreme-bodies/conference-of-the-parties-cop) **(COP).**

After being cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020, the 2021 Committee's flagship event for young people, **Your Europe, Your Say! (YEYS),** will take place on 18, 19 and 20March 2021. Students from 33 secondary schools all over Europe will come together to discuss the best ways to protect the environment, using the slogan **"Our climate, our future!**"

The list of participating schools is available [here](https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/agenda/our-events/events/your-europe-your-say-2020/yeys-2020-selected-schools).

In preparation for the debates, Mr. Panagiotis Gofas, member of the EESC, will visit the school by videoconference. He will talk about the EU and EESC and the work they are doing for young people, as well as to explain the structure of the event and what will be expected from the school.

During the opening session on 18 March, the participants will also have the opportunity to talk to **Frans Timmermans, Vice-President of the European Commission for the European Green Deal, and EESC president Christa Schweng**. EESC vice-president and green economy expert **Cillian Lohan** will chair the event.

Over a hundred 16-18-year-old students and more than 30 teachers will take part in the virtual YEYS 2021.The aim of the event is to listen to students' innovative ideas for dealing with the current climate crisis and to progress towards achieving our goal of becoming climate-neutral by 2050. **Students will be asked to represent a sector, industry or bloc of countries and negotiate with each other**. They will discuss their proposals using the model of a Conference of the Parties (COP) from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Representatives of international youth organisations such as **Anuna de Wever,** a Belgian climate activist, will help them convert their ideas and proposals into specific recommendations. **These recommendations** willbe conveyed by the EESC to international environment policymakers and discussed at conferences around Europe throughout the year, such **as the** [**European Parliament's** **European Youth Event**](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/european-youth-event/en/home.html) in May 2021.

On **Saturday 20 March**, in line with the COP model, the EESC will hold a **public side event** for young people live on social media, entitled **Designing Systemic Change**. The event will bring together several young experts, activists and influencers to share their knowledge and expertise on climate change in the context of systemic change. This will provide the young audience with valuable new insights and, importantly, the opportunity to express their views and ideas. In addition to the discussions, the audience will have the possibility to **discover systemic change through art.**

Further details about YEYS 2021 are available on the [event's official page](https://www.eesc.europa.eu/et/agenda/our-events/events/your-europe-your-say-2021). The EESC vice-president's video on YEYS 2021 is available [here](https://youtu.be/YNdS4IPoZvw).

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[VIDEO: The EESC from the inside](https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/avdb/video/eesc-inside)

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*The European Economic and Social Committee represents the various economic and social components of organised civil society. It is an institutional consultative body established by the 1957 Treaty of Rome. Its consultative role enables its members, and hence the organisations they represent, to participate in the EU decision-making process. The Committee has 329 members from across Europe, who are appointed by the Council of the European Union.*

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