EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT

GOVERNING BODY ELECTIONS

29th November – 5th December, 2019

Background information for voters and potential candidates
General information about the Governing Body

The Governing Body (GB) is the international board of EYP. The GB directs the organisation and is responsible for the strategic development of the EYP.

The Governing Body consists of six elected members and a representative of the Schwarzkopf Foundation, our international umbrella organisation.

In its work, the Governing Body is supported by the Executive Director of the EYP, and is accountable to the Board of National Committees and to the members.

Elections for the Governing Body

Elections for the GB are held every year, usually in November, to fill the three seats that become vacant at the end of each year. In 2019 for the first time, all vacant spots are filled by a system that takes into account the votes of the National Committees on the one hand, and the votes of the members on the other hand, with equal weight being attributed to both (as opposed to previous elections, where one spot was filled based on the member vote, and two spots were filled through the vote of the National Committees).

National Committees have three votes each and the members have one vote each. The vote is held online and the National Committees and the members vote from the same pool of candidates. The average percentage of votes received from members for a candidate is added to that achieved from the votes by NCs and divided by half. In order to be elected, a candidate must reach a minimum average percentage (considering both the percentage of NC votes and percentage of member votes) of votes of at least 15%.

Voting will take place online, between Friday 29 November and Thursday 5th December 2019. In case there are not enough candidates to allow for a competitive election, the nomination period will be re-opened once, for a week.

If you are interested in running, please see further instructions below.

Role of National Committees and members

National Committees are asked to actively encourage candidates to run in the elections, and to help raise awareness for the elections.

National Committees will receive a list of all eligible member voters in their country to ensure we did not miss eligible voters, and to help raise turnout. However, National Committees may not favour one candidate over another in their public statements. In contrast, individual members are more than welcome to campaign on behalf of candidates and to share candidates’ manifestos via email or social media.

We will also open a call for eligible voters who were not included on the lists sent to NCs. Individual members will then be given a minimum of five days to apply for eligibility.

Before the voting opens, the International Office will send personal voting instructions for the online voting poll to all eligible individual member voters, as well as to all those individuals who are assigned to cast the NC votes.

Please refer to the Policy on the Governing Body for other rules that apply during the elections.

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Governing Body Mandate Period

The GB members elected in autumn 2019 are elected for a term of two calendar years. Their term starts on 1 January 2020 and ends on 31 December 2021.

The elected GB members are expected to serve for the entire two-year mandate. A re-election after the 2020-2021 term is possible.

Work on the Governing Body

In the beginning of the term, the GB selects a Chairperson among its members; agrees on an annual work plan; and develops a task division or distributes portfolios amongst its members, keeping in mind the International Strategy and international measures. In 2020, a key priority of the GB will be the creation of a new international strategy.

The GB meets physically four times a year, usually over a weekend in Berlin or another European city. The GB members agree on the meeting dates together. All expenses are covered. Next to the meetings, the GB works via a joint e-mail list and online workspace, and depending on the portfolios, each GB-member is also expected to work on his or her own tasks and responsibilities.

In addition to the requirements below, the GB member will be presented with many opportunities to attend both EYP and external events. This includes attending trainings and capacity-building events such as the summer academy and presidents meeting, as well as representing EYP at external events and the BNC Meeting. Although the requirements only include attending the GB meetings and one additional event, GB members are strongly encouraged to attend more events than these.

A GB-candidate should:

- be able to make at least 6 hours per week available for GB work and reply to email and internal communication regularly throughout the week;
- be able to attend four GB Meetings per year, and at least one additional event (e.g. BNC Meeting; Council Meeting);
- be able to attend one International Session during his/her term
- value good advice, but be able to arrive at decisions based on own judgement;
- be willing to defend and see through ideas;
- have a good understanding of the organisation and a vision of how EYP should develop as an organisation;
- be a good representative of our network towards external audiences;
- have a good track record of respecting the EYP’s rules in place, including the Safeguarding Safety and Dignity in EYP policy;
● act as a good role model for people in the network;
● have some experience in NGO management.

Members of the GB cannot hold any positions on boards of National Committees, Candidate National Committees, or EYP Initiatives. Members of the GB can also not hold any officials’ positions at International Sessions for the duration of their term.

EYP Councils and Task Forces assist the GB in specific fields, and GB members (depending on the portfolio they are allocated) work closely with the relevant Councils, Task Forces and Working Groups.

How to run in the elections

Anyone can sign up as a candidate for the GB elections. National Committees and EYP members can also get in touch with potential candidates to encourage them to run.

All the necessary information about the elections about how to run will be compiled on www.eyp.org/gb-elections

To present yourself as a candidate for election, send an email to elections@eyp.org by Monday, 18 November 2019. All candidates are required to submit a filled-in questionnaire and a video. The questionnaire for candidates is attached to this call and also available at the above page. Videos should be sent as a file or a link to elections@eyp.org. The International Office will make all videos publicly available simultaneously.

Campaign videos may be no longer than 3 minutes, and candidates should answer these two questions:

● Why do you run for the Governing Body?
● What will your aim and focus be during your term on the Governing Body?

The campaign videos will be published on the EYP’s YouTube channel – note that they will be publicly visible, and can be taken down upon request after the election has ended.

A “Meet the Candidates Online Townhall Meeting” will likely be organized, and a suitable date for it will be coordinated with all candidates.

Candidates will also be expected to engage with members/NCs in written Q&A e.g. through the Forum on the Members Platform.

Election timeline

Below you can see the full timeline of the elections for the Governing Body in 2019.

● Call for candidates published: Sunday, 3rd November
● All NCs are asked to nominate and encourage suitable candidates to run in the elections.
● Deadline for candidates to submit manifestos and videos: Monday 18th November 2019, 23:59 CET
● Publication of manifestos: Tuesday, 19th November 2019

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The following preparatory deadlines will apply:

- **12th November**
  - The International Office will circulate draft voter lists of individual members voting in the GB elections to the NCs.

- **20th November**
  - Deadline for NCs to review the draft voter list and flag any changes to the IO.

- **25th November**
  - NCs submit changes to those voting on behalf of your NC in the NC vote.

**Voting**

Each voting member has one vote to cast, and all National Committees have three votes to cast.

All **National Committees** are asked to assign one person voting on their behalf in the elections, and to inform the International Office about potential changes to the list of NC voters proposed. Only the assigned person and their email address will be able to cast the online votes. Voting takes place online and voting instructions will be sent to all registered voters before the voting period begins.

For the **member** vote, we will inform those individuals who are considered eligible voters and provide them with all the details necessary to cast a vote. National Committees will receive a list of all eligible member voters in their country to ensure we did not miss any eligible voters. We will also open a call for eligible voters who were not included on the lists sent to NCs. Individual members will then be given a minimum of five days to apply for eligibility.

Voting takes place between the 29th November and the 5th December 2019. During voting period, campaigning is still allowed.

The elections are administered by the International Office to avoid any conflict of interests. Any concerns or questions about the conduct of the elections should be reported to the Executive Director (l.fendel@eyp.org). At the end of the voting period, the results will be announced and the successful candidates appointed as of January 1st.