Candidates’ Questionnaire – GB Elections 2019

Personal details

First and last name: Krystof Stupka
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Availability: I am able to dedicate 6hrs/week, and more, for the GB.
I am able to attend 4, and more, GB events annually

Questions for candidates

1. What would your aim and priorities as a GB member be, and with what mind-set will you pursue them?

Besides fulfilling the task of putting together a EYP strategy to replace the current 2020 Strategy, and other responsibilities connected with the role, I would like to focus on three overarching themes within my tenure as the Governing Body Member. These are; working towards a more environmentally friendly EYP, furthering our inclusion efforts in ensuring a less elitist network, and finally formalizing and maximizing the impact of the currently piloting EYP Mentorship Programme.

If elected, the number one priority that I will focus on and strive to diligently implement into the next EYP strategy is to make EYP more environmentally friendly and less damaging to our planet. While the environment is something that we often talk about in EYP, this can almost seem hypocritical when later publishing sponsored content with airlines or carmakers. Moreover, we are often first to market how many students participate in our events, however, the carbon footprint that we produce is not published even though it forms a significant part of the story. My aim is to connect with other environmentalists in EYP and propose a network-wide Environmental Policy that would specify EYP’s commitments to the environment, climate change mitigation and sustainability. Policies that I would like to see implemented are; zero single-use plastic tolerance at sessions, reduction in paper consumption and reduction in carbon emissions as a result of travel by encouraging air travel, as well as re-opening of the question of the sponsors we will restrict, European Youth Parliament
creating a category for “polluters” such as car manufacturers, specific energy companies and airlines. Moreover, I will personally take it as my responsibility to monitor, record and publish the carbon footprint of all EYP International activities, in order to ensure the possibility to improve over time while also to exploring possible partnerships for carbon offsetting. My goal is that 100% of EYP International carbon footprint including one from the International Sessions are offset by a sponsor in a way that corresponds to the recommendations from the European Commission findings on Carbon Offsetting (DG Clima, 2017). A significant part of the Environmental Policy would focus on the NCs and offer guidance on how to count carbon footprint of their sessions, how to find carbon offsetting partners and how to encourage land-travel. I will make myself available to both NC Boards and Head Organizers of sessions to explain how to make their events most-sustainable.

Secondly, if elected, I will be excited to further develop and work on the outreach and inclusion policies, seeing the impact of the Strategy 2020 and further developing a Strategy that would help to make EYP open for everyone. I pledge to actively work alongside the NCs to understand what the specific requirements in the respective territory for making the network less elitist. My aim is then to develop further inclusion initiatives and programs on the international level.

And finally, as my third priority, I pledge go work alongside the IO and the Alumni Initiative to formalize the structure of the EYP Mentorship Programme, maximizing the educational benefits for members of the network and opening it up on a much large scale. This will be conducted through a two stage intake, winter and summer, whereas summer will be for all of those who are approaching their last year of high school, connecting them with someone who is enrolled at university (3+year), and then winter, for those in their last year of their degree to be able to benefit from the EYP Alumni in crossing the bridge to their relevant career. The detailed specification of the formal structure will be published on my FB profile shortly.

Overall, if elected I plan to focus on three themes, the environment, social side of EYP and furthering the peer-to-peer objectives of the network. I am committed to undertake these efforts in a mindset of openness towards all members and understanding that some things are better understood local, not global, hence not interfering with the work of the NCs.

2. **In your view, which EYP projects deserve more resources and which projects are less of a priority?**

Personally, I believe that all EYP projects are important as they have been drafted with the values that we all share in EYP. Personally, I am a strong defender of making EYP International more for the people, by the people, and I believe that while all EYP projects are designed with the best intention and after a rigorous consideration, sometimes we face bureaucratic barriers in how we present these projects and how we make the network interact with them, resulting in a network that is often sceptical of BNC decision making and GBM proposals. Hence, I believe that rather than asking which projects are less of a priority, we need to ask which of the projects we have are most beneficial to our network, which are most used, and which are most user-friendly. From my own perspective, these projects are such that allow members from less privileged backgrounds to take an equal part in our activities, projects focused on developing the peer-to-peer learning system such as International trainings, the Understanding Europe Project and the piloting Mentorship Programme.
3. **What personal skills, knowledge or experience will you bring to the board that will be needed to face the challenges that EYP is likely to encounter?**

I am a politics and government student at Sciences Po Paris, however, in most of my subjects I focus on EU law, and constitutional law, as well as legislation and policy writing, which I believe will be helpful when trying to set the new outlooks for EYP. Similarly, as most other candidates, I am versed in strategic thinking, public speaking, compromising and team work. However, what I believe that sets me apart is the age to experience ratio. I have applied for my first session aged 14, in 2013, now aged 21, I have over 6 years of experience with EYP but at the same time I am still connected to active EYPers and I can easily understand their point of view, their priorities and the sort of EYP they want. I believe that my connection with the active EYPers will especially be important when drafting the next strategy as it could potentially allow me the GB to be more inclusive in the proposing of the strategy, including the members into the initial stages of discussions.

Being approachable, communicative and open minded are exactly the skills that are believe would be beneficial to the GB, especially from the perspective of its relationship with the rest of the network. I believe that as a GBM, I will be able to ensure that new policies protect the interests of the NCs while achieving their policy intent. Communications overall, has been a large part of my professional expertise, whether that was in a number of communication roles, or as a Student Representative of my programme as Sciences Po. Alongside research, which I have been trained in throughout my studies and as an intern at the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (Council for Human Rights), and as an independent researcher for Bailee Gifford, where I am currently writing reports advising the investment group on sustainability and environmental affairs. And finally, I also believe that my knowledge of BNC proceedings and familiarity with EYP policies and activities in Czech Republic and in many of the participating countries make me a good fit for the role.

4. **What experience do you have of non-profit management?**

In terms of non-profit management, my experience mainly revolved around EYP Czech Republic, where I have volunteered for two years as a Finance and Fundraising Coordinator and for one year as a Coordinator for International Relations. From these roles, I have understood EYP from the two most beneficial perspectives to be able to act on the GB, from financial perspective of an NC and from the international BNC view. That being said I have also involved in non-profit management as I drafted communication strategies in social media for Llama Pack Project, a sustainable NGO in Urubamba, Peru, and for Safe Place International, an American based human-rights based non-profit for which I have interned in Athens last year.

That being said, I still have plenty to learn, especially when it comes to management, and I will be humbly accepting advice from the outgoing BG Members or from those staying for another year.