

Dear Friends,

Looking back at a mandate is always a moving thing. Months spent at working, creating projects, designing strategies, sharing ideas, challenging each other... Thinking back at our up and downs, at our own collective challenges: we went through a lot. From helping the new Secretary General to settle and recruiting two new employees to applying to new projects, expanding YEE partners and Members organisations and obtaining again the core administrative grant for our network. Being the External Relations Officer of YEE has been an honoured and I enjoyed so much working with our staff, my fellow Board Members and our volunteers.

Slowly but surely, YEE is taking a new path. A path where our organisation really takes on its role of uniting all the youth organisations fighting against the climate crisis and for better environmental protection; of connecting the informal youth climate movement with established institutions and organisations; of empowering all youth, in all European countries, giving a particular attention to less developed countries, disadvantaged youth and most marginalised communities. The organisation has also structurally changed. Over our mandate, we received back the administrative grant which allows YEE to have 3 full-time employees. During the year, I also conducted the Statutes reform. Months after months, we changed, adapted and corrected the statutes so to ensure to have an organisation fit for the challenges of the XXIst Century. At the core of this reform was our ambition to reflect the reality of the work of the organisation on the climate crisis and to answer to the Members demands in the past General Assemblies. As the environmental and climate crisis are the two faces of the same coin, we decided to change the mission statement of YEE. Additionally, we decided to propose the removal of the differentiation between associate and full members.

Building a stronger YEE on advocacy. The first semester of my mandates has been dedicated to founding Generation Climate Europe, a coalition bringing together 8 of the most largest European youth network, to advocate on environmental protection and climate action toward the EU institutions. It is an open platform for expertise on many topics such as Circular Economy, the Sustainable Developments Goals, Climate Justice, Sustainable Mobility and Biodiversity. We strengthen our relationship with other organisations and applied to many joint projects on Sustainable Mobility, Post-Growth recovery, climate change issues... At the European Youth Forum, we walked the talk with the Sustainability Caucus - the group of organisations pushing for more sustainability and climate action - and obtain some great changes in their next 4 years priorities.

We also obtained from the forum to consider involving more its members active on those issues. At the European Environmental Bureau, we obtained the EEB to financially support the staff of Generation Climate Europe at the start. We are now working constantly with the EEB, both on advocacy and concrete funded projects. I also started the YEE Advocacy Working Group because I am convinced that YEE, as a structure, must do better to transfer knowledge over the time. The YEE Liaison Officers will have the charge to represent YEE in different decision-making processes - Biodiversity, Ocean, Climate Change, European institutions, Environmental governance - and engage with YEE member organisations. The objective will be to keep YEE's advocacy activities high over the time.

A year of learning. I was not expecting that being the External Relations Officer would also led me to work on many other things. I worked a lot on fundraising, identifying key foundations to support our work, designing projects and concept note about multiple projects. To diversify our fundings, we have started looking at funding opportunities at the national level and obtained a grant for a Franco-Russian Youth Climate Dialogue. Additionally, we drafted a project proposal to fund and have support for YEE Advocacy Working Group. Being a Board member of YEE is also a lot about management and organisational discussions. I learnt a lot through the recruitment process of our two amazing employees: Tetiana and Karolina. We had some organisational and human resources issues that led me to take a lot of time settling them at the end of my mandate. Now, the next Board will have to employ a new Secretary General.

Here are in a very few words my year at YEE. It was a completely life-changing opportunity and I hope to stay to continue to reform YEE and bring change in Europe.

Please do get in touch with me if anything.

Best,

Nathan Méténier