



European Youth Event 2018 (EYE)

Presentation

[Panel discussion](#)

Date

1 June 2018

Location

Straßbourg, France

Panel discussion

Philipp Voß

[Hugh McDonald](#)

Lina Röschel

On 1 and 2 June 2018, Ecologic Institute's Lina Röschel, Hugh McDonald, and Philipp Voß participated in the European Parliament's European Youth Event as invited expert panelists. The event was attended by more than 8000 Europeans aged between 16 and 30, who gathered to learn, discuss, and generate ideas for change in Europe. Philipp Voß, Hugh McDonald and Lina Roeschel drew on their research at Ecologic Institute and spoke on three different panels under the topic of "Protecting our Planet", discussing oceans, fresh water, and climate change. In light of the European Parliament elections coming up in 2019, the European Parliament invited experts and the audience to suggest and debate new ideas for Europe. As panelists discussants, Hugh McDonald, Lina Röschel, and Philipp Voß presented two ideas for addressing their panel's respective environmental challenge, and then discussed these with the moderating Members of the European Parliament and fellow discussants.

On 1 June 2018, [Philipp Voss](#) discussed "the burning question" of whether the EU should take the lead on climate action. He joined a high-profile panel featuring two Members of the European Parliament, Jakob Dulunde and Karima Delli, as well as young green entrepreneur Lennart Budelmann and grassroots Greenpeace campaigner Anna-Maria Renner. As well as broadly discussing ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to the green economy, and innovative green science and business, Philipp Voss presented two ideas: one (A) on the end of coal mining in Europe and another (B) on accelerating the transition towards a sustainable transport in Europe. He proposed (A) the European Parliament to set a clear timeline for the end of coal in Europe, to be celebrated with a final "End-of-Coal-Party". This timeline should at least include a specific end date and different milestones. He emphasized the importance of a just transition, with financial support for coal mining regions. In addition, Philipp Voss proposed (B) to introduce a carbon tax on fuel emissions, following the Swedish example. Such a carbon tax aims to internalize the negative external effects from transport emissions, thereby ratcheting up the share of sustainable transport (such as electric cars) and at the same time providing financial opportunities to promote innovative and sustainable technologies.

In a panel on water quality, quantity and availability, [Hugh McDonald](#) called for inter- and

transdisciplinary approaches to protect biodiversity, and discussed the need for economic policy instruments to address European water pollution and scarcity. He joined a panel with Clara Cuartero de Frías, a teacher active in water poverty projects in Spain and Nicaragua, and Antonella Vagliente, co-founder and managing director of international NGO Young Water Solutions, and moderated by Irish MEP Lynn Boylan. Hugh McDonald drew on research from the project [AQUACROSS](#), led by Ecologic Institute, to argue that protecting biodiversity requires not only cooperation with scientists of every stripe - including ecologists, biologists, sociologists, economists, and more -, it also demands collaboration with diverse voices from local society. He also called on the European Parliament to employ economic policy instruments to ensure that those who use and pollute Europe's water pay for it.

As part of the panel on "Ocean protection: Hooked on heavenly habitat", [Lina Röschel](#) engaged in a panel together with Marcella Hansch, the Founder of Pacific Garbage Screening, Eugene Kitsios, a nature photographer that aims to educate about the environment through visual stimulation, and Tiemo Wölken, the youngest Member of the European Parliament. Lina was called as an expert on overfishing, which remains the greatest threat to Europe's Seas. Lina Röschel argued that the European Parliament could regulate exploitative fishing from the consumer's standpoint. If there were an EU-wide, easy-to-read label for fish and other sea-products in place, consumers would be prone to make better, more sustainable decisions when purchasing aquatic produce. Consumers want to buy sustainable produce, but current labelling schemes are either too confusing, not applicable across the EU, or may not consider all the important variables. An EU-wide label funded by the European Union, for produce from European seas as well as imported products, would simplify sustainable lifestyle choices for EU citizens.

Event

[Europäisches Jugend-Event \(EYE2018\)](#)

Organizer

[European Parliament](#) (EP), International

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[Hugh McDonald](#)
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English
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[Biodiversity](#)
[Climate](#)
[Energy](#)
[Coastal + Marine](#)
[Mobility](#)
[Water](#)

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Europe

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