

Liberal answers to youth unemployment

D66

An ELDR conference organised by D66
in cooperation with:



7 May 2010 13:00-18:00
Conference Centre Engels, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
With financial support of the ELDR party and the European Parliament



Rotterdam skyline

About the conference

On May 7th 2010, Dutch political party D66, in cooperation with CDC from Catalunya, Open VLD from Belgium and European youth organization LYMEC, will hold a conference on countering youth unemployment. In general, youngsters are the main victims of an economic recession. This unfortunately holds true for countries across Europe. Youth unemployment soared to a staggering 43% in Spain. However, Spain is not the only country in trouble. The EU youth unemployment average is currently 20 %, or in other words (or numbers): an increase by 25 % compared to 2008. Therefore, effective actions need to be undertaken to deal with this problem.

Party leaders of three European liberal parties and the President of the European Liberal Youth organisation LYMEC have agreed to share their thoughts on solutions for the current situation of high youth unemployment rates. Next to their speeches, there will be four workshops:

- 1) school to work transition
- 2) reforms on the labour market
- 3) successful local initiatives (or 'good' practices)
- 4) European coordination and policies.

The objective of the conference and the Europe-wide research prior to the conference is to draft a sustainable action plan, "10 liberal solutions to counter Youth Unemployment".

Youth unemployment project

The conference forms part of a comprehensive ELDR project. The project will result in an online publication, scheduled for release in June 2010.

Date and location

Engels Conference Centre, Rotterdam

7 May 2010 13:00-18:00

Registration and contact

International Secretariat D66, PO Box 660 2501 CR The Hague

Participation is free, you are kindly requested to register in advance with Mr David Croese:

David Croese +31 (0)70 356 6066 or d.croese@d66.nl

Programme 7 May 2010

Morning

Our international guests (liberal politicians and their advisors) make working visits in the Rotterdam region. Group visits to successful initiatives provide the participants with an opportunity to learn about (Dutch) methods and concrete policies to counter youth unemployment. The morning programme will be concluded by a joint lunch meeting. Participation in this part of the programme is limited to representatives of ELDR member parties.

- 09.15 - 09.30 Arrival in Rotterdam (and transfer to the venue where a general introduction for the working visits will be presented)
- 09.45 - 10.45 General Introduction into the youth unemployment situation in Rotterdam (and transfer to working visits)
- 10.45 - 12.00 Working visits (and transfer to conference venue)
- 12.00 - 13.00 Lunch

Afternoon

- 13.00 - 13.05 Opening of the conference by the Chair, **John Bijl**
- 13.05 – 13.15 Word of welcome on behalf of ELDR by **Lousewies van der Laan**, ELDR Vice-President
- 13.15 - 13.30 **Carles Llorens**, International Secretary CDC
- 13.30 - 13.45 **Robert Farla**, International Secretary D66
- 13.45 - 13.55 Address by **Alexander Plahr**, President of LYMEC
- 13.55 - 14.15 Introduction by **Mathijs Bouman**, Opinion leader in economy issues
- 14.15 - 14.30 **Jeroen de Glas**, member of the Baliegroep and chairman of FNV Young
- 14.30 - 15.20 Workshop round I
- 15.20 - 15.35 Coffee break
- 15.35 - 16.25 Workshop round II
- 16.25 - 17.10 Workshop reports and discussion
- 17.10 - 17.20 Video Presentation of “Ten Points against Youth Unemployment” by **Marietje Schaake**, D66 MEP in the ALDE group
- 17.20 -17.30 Closing speech by **Romana Mănescu**, PNL MEP in the ALDE MEP
- 17.30 Reception