

## Presidency candidacy

Fellow members of European Youth Denmark,

In the past 2 years, we have gone through moments of joy, through moments of despair, through moments of anger, all to be complemented by the simple fact that our organization still exists today, and that its trajectory is oriented towards the open skies.

When I became president of the local section in North in February 2015, I had no idea I will spend hundreds of hours in the service of our organization, an organization that will simply take over the biggest place in my soul and heart. How clueless I was, when I considered it will be an easy ride, a short stint. Although I got warned that once you became a JEF'er, you will be forever a JEF'er, I didn't think back then, that our organization will simply become an integral part of my every living day since then.

I still remember the dark cold day of the 2015 winter, when 4 people showed up for the General Assembly of North 😊. Such a difference, to the winter of 2017, when more than 70 people are expected to attend the General Assembly of North. We have created wonders in the North, through a collective effort and extreme number of dedicated hours. I cannot remember one morning, when I simply woke up and didn't think about the organization. However, it was all worth it, as we managed to save European Youth Denmark from its demise, and now European Union can count on a strong youth movement in Denmark, that will protect its values and ideals.

The face of European Youth Denmark in the past 2 years has changed radically. Now we can say we truly represent the beautiful diversity of Denmark (having more than 37 ethnicities among our members) and that we are not anymore, a gathering of political science students only (we now have among our members' high school students, young politicians, engineers, carpenters, etc.) and that we can say we slowly turn into a mainstream youth organization, as we are meant to be. After all, being pro-European shall be the sentiment of the majority, if we wish to progress towards a better future.

I had the luck to work with amazing people, that didn't mind putting the organization first in their daily lives, and that allowed us, to bring in a lot of innovation into the organization. The local sections are now more empowered and independent-thinking, with their own politically and internationally responsible people. Now we have elections more often than once a year, to give chance to other members to show their commitment to the organization. My friend, Magdalena, put South back on the map with a lot of solitary efforts, that were rewarded with the amazing group that is in charge of South today. Now people of all backgrounds can feel welcomed in the organization, regardless of the language they speak, as being pro-European is not bound by the language you speak. Also, on a European level, European Youth Denmark became a lot more visible, with a lot more members present in activities at that level, which ended in a great reputation for us abroad. If in the past, we were simply ignored when projects were made, now we get invitations almost every month.

In moments of great turmoil, where the European citizens are asking for change, are asking for a European Union that better serves its people, we, European Youth Denmark, came up with a Youth Think Tank, where we hope to gather great ideas and turn them into proposals for the future of the Union. After all, is our responsibility, that the voices of the youth in Denmark, are being heard by the institutions in Copenhagen and Bruxelles. That is exactly what makes our organization, so god damn

important. If we want to leave in the peaceful times, that our parents have enjoyed, we need to stand up for our right to peace, our right to stability, our right for happiness.

This is why, I ask now to give your support towards **my candidacy as president of European Youth Denmark**. In times of great despair, big ideas and massive dedication is what is required to keep European Union in existence. After all, under all of our activities, events, campaigns, travels, brainstorming's, is the sentiment that we simply wish the flame of the European Union, to burn stronger than ever. And now, when our future livelihoods, are under threat, from strongman's being elected in Russia, USA and Turkey that do not wish a strong United Europe, to populist and nationalist movements that want to divide Europe again, more than ever, we need to make our organization able to put up a fight in order to protect our ideals.

Passion and dedication is what shall characterize the president of European Youth Denmark in 2017 as this is the year, that can make or break the Union. My dedication for the organization is ever-lasting as the past can prove it, and my passion for the European Union, runs deep in my veins. A combination of the two, with a bit of innovation, can truly bring the organization to a new level, the level needed to be taken serious by those who wish harm to the stability of our society.

I can promise that we will be more visible in the media debate and on the street, I can promise that we will be present in more locations in the country, I can promise that our members will travel more, however I cannot promise I will do all of this alone. We have amazing people in this organization, that put together can fulfill all those promises.

Kind regards,

Narcis George Matache