

Voice of the People

Manuscript
EU and youth politics
With answers from politicians in Brussels
TVSYD, Denmark

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Translation
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Youth politics

1'14'06

Question, Karsten Andrup Pedersen, Kolding, Denmark:

We would get a more dynamic Europe, if you got more young people into politics. I don't quite see, how to do it, but it would be a great thing. We have a democracy, so it's the voters who decide. But perhaps we could persuade the politicians to run more young people

0'26

Answer, Henrik Dam Kristensen, Member of the Parliament, Denmark:

I agree about that. Every Parliament – whether it's the Danish Folketing or the European Parliament – should be representative for the society regarding sex, men or women, age all things. And we really do miss women and youth within the European Parliament. This Parliament is far too much talking suits

0'50

SIGN:

At the latest election for the European Parliament every 10th candidate was younger than 26 years. None of them was elected

0'57

Question, Julie Skovsby, Odense, Denmark:

I would like to know, what you're doing to involve young people in the different politics to assure, that new laws are also fitting together with the lives of the young ones?

1'09

Answer, Pernille Frahm, former Member of the Parliament, Denmark:

We are not doing enough. In our party, the Socialists, we have the youth organisation, Socialistic Youth; they are allowed to have two representatives at our meetings. They have the right to talk, to debate. Each time we have subjects, which could involve children or young people, we're involving them. We're writing them, asking them whether they have any comments. But we don't do enough. We should lower the electoral age, from 18 to 15 here in Denmark. Then I think, we would listen more to the youth

2'05

Question, Jette Wangslew, Kolding, Denmark:

They could help us with a lot regarding subjects about children and youngsters. Of course you're more interested, if you have just been in this age. If the politicians are only old, fat men, then young ones don't interest them that much

2'38

Answer, Henrik Dam Kristensen, Member of the Parliament, Denmark:

I agree, in every Parliament, the members should be representative for the people in the country. You have to have men, women, young and old ones with different backgrounds educationally and socially. In each parliament you need to have members, who has a family with small children to be able to put subjects about that on the agenda

3'04

SIGN:

The average age for the Danish members of the European Parliament is 45.4 years. In the Danish Folketing the average age is 47 years

3'15

Question, Irma Bengtsson, Vamdrup, Denmark:

I would like to ask, what the old politicians at the European Parliament do to include the young ones at their work to make them better?

3'27

Answer, Pernille Frahm, former Member of the Parliament, Denmark:

We're doing a lot. Of course the main thing is to take them seriously, that they really get some influence and not just humour them and else we do whatever we would like and really important decisions we don't discuss with you.

4'03

Question, Jette Andersen, Kolding, Denmark:

I think it's a really good thing to include the youth. I think it's great they want to work with politics. They are the ones who should lead our country and the European Union on. But they also have to listen to the old politicians, because they don't have the experience