

# Press Kit

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# → 1. The Initiative

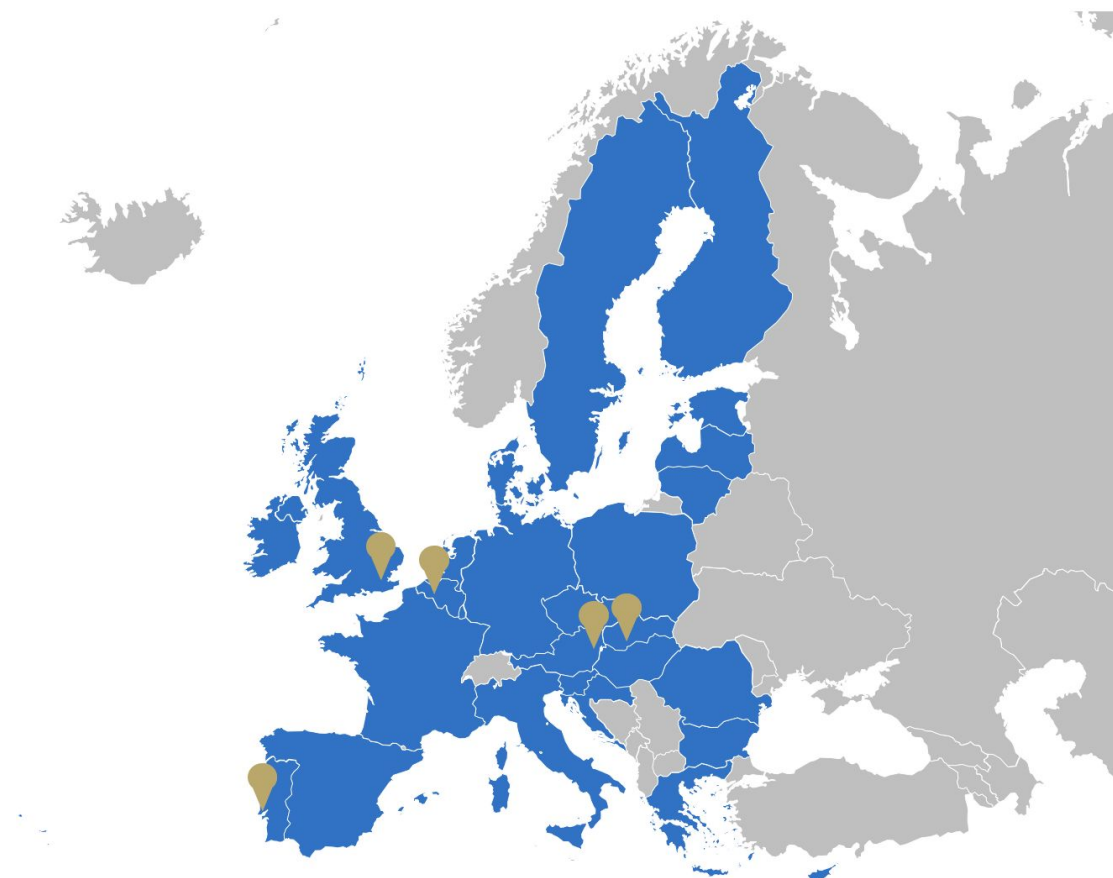
The 1989 Generation Initiative is an *open policy network* seeking to reinvigorate the European Project through innovative policy proposals and projects. Our Initiative fuses the concept of a think tank with a network of young Europeans.

Our work is centred on the '89ers' – the generation who grew up in a united Europe, free from the imminent threat of war, the generation of Erasmus, EasyJet, and the Eurozone.

The Initiative was founded in February 2015 and is based at the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK. In addition, it has five active Regional Chapters across the continent. They contribute in our policy making, and establish projects independently.

Our first round of proposals was presented in Brussels in April 2016, following our initial conference at the LSE in June 2015, where we welcomed the likes of former French president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, former Labour leader Neil Kinnock, and historian and Professor of European Studies at Oxford University, Timothy Garton Ash.

Our team is formed of over 80 passionate individuals from over 15 European countries sharing a common belief in the potential of the EU.



## → 2. Our Method

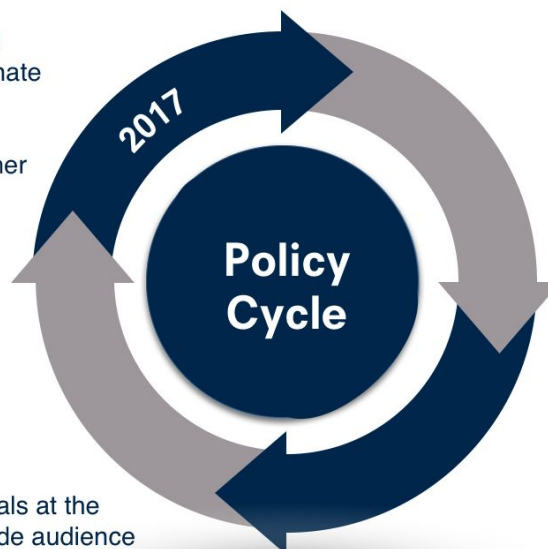
We are an open policy network of, by, and for the generation of young Europeans born in or around the year 1989. We are innovative in our method of policy making, going beyond a typical think tank, by:

- **Fusing think tank and network** - The Initiative takes the best elements of a think tank - namely the notion of expertise underpinning the production of policy recommendations - and those of the network - broad engagement and information sharing - and fuses them together.
- **Enabling intergenerational dialogue** - The Initiative's work is universal, involving former, present, and future European leaders.
- **Actualising proposals** - Part of the Initiative's work is to support '89er ventures which actualise proposals and bridge the gap between theory and practice.

We work in what we call 'policy cycles'. The first one, taking place in 2015/16, was 'Redefining the EU's Mission', whilst in 2017 it is 'Tackling Populism: Hope over Fear'. Each Policy Cycle is divided into distinct phases:

### **Launch Conference**

Bringing active and passionate young Europeans together with academics, political experts and leaders to further develop the ideas.



### **Conversation**

Refining and deepening the first drafts via input of webinars and the regional chapters

### **Dissemination**

Presentation of the Proposals at the and sharing them with a wide audience of politicians, civil servants and, most importantly young Europeans, bringing them to a national and regional context.

### **Completion**

Finalizing the policy proposals by drawing together synergies of the first two/three phases of the cycle.



**I don't know whether the 89ers will come together as a defining political generation, how they will act and - as important - how they will react when 'stuff happens', as stuff will. But one thing is clear: on them will depend the future of our past.**

– Timothy Garton Ash

## → 3. Beginnings

Lamenting the seeming disinterest in European affairs, noted historian and Oxford Professor Timothy Garton Ash issued a direct challenge to the 89ers to speak out on their vision for Europe and assume a leading role in re-articulating the mission of the EU.

A small group of then-postgraduate students at the LSE set out to respond directly to this challenge, establishing the 1989 Generation Initiative in March 2015 as an internal organisation of the European Institute at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The Initiative has solidified its status as an affiliate organisation of LSE's European Institute, and has been granted office space and use of the LSE's facilities for events and conferences. In August 2016, the Initiative was established as a Company Limited by Guarantee in the United Kingdom.

The Initiative is also in the process of building an Advisory Board. The Advisory Board consists of veteran 89ers and key figures in the Initiative's history: Head of the European Institute, Prof Kevin Featherstone, Deputy Head, Dr Jennifer Jackson Preece, as well as historian and Professor of European Studies at Oxford University, Timothy Garton Ash.

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## → 4. Accomplishments

Our first conference produced several proposals which were honed at roundtables, weekly webinars, and through a process of crowdsourcing. They were then presented at the European Parliament in April 2016, with the Initiative being hosted by a panel of MEPs from across the three largest European political groups. From this process, eight concrete proposals emerged:

### Politics & Institutions

**Mandatory Registry of Lobbying Activity:** We request ‘better regulation of EU lobbying’ together with the creation of a ‘legislative footprint’ where all records of meetings and written input from lobbyists will be systematically documented.

**Reformed Selection of the Commission President:** We propose a ‘reformed selection process of the Commission President’ based on the majority parliamentary group elected to the European Parliament, without any further consultation with member states.

### Economic Affairs

**Common European Unemployment Insurance Scheme:** We call for the creation of a Common Unemployment Insurance Scheme’ which would create a stockpile of resources, used to address future economic shocks.

**European Green Innovation Fund:** In order to address issues of growth, investment and climate change simultaneously, we propose the establishment of a ‘Green Innovation Fund’, creating millions of ‘green collar jobs’

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## → 4. Accomplishments (ctd)

### Europe as a Global Actor

**From the ENP to a Regional Partnerships of Equals:** We urge the abandonment of the Euro-centric ENP in favour of a more tailor-made policy, whilst promoting a more inclusive role for civil society in the conduct of EU foreign affairs.

**European Security and Intelligence System:** We suggest the establishment of an all-inclusive security database - a 'European Security and Intelligence System' which should be an EU initiative with obligatory participation of all EU member states and institutions.

### European Identity

**European Agency for Education:** We resolutely call for the establishment of a 'European accreditation agency for educators' to dissolve the borders between national education systems and different forms of teaching across the continent.

**European Media Incubator:** To help foster the emergence of genuine EU-wide media projects we propose to establish a 'European media incubator', providing a unique platform for projects in the media and communications sector.

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## → 5. Future

### Working Cycle:

In February 2017 our second policy cycle kicks off. This time we aim to take up the biggest political challenge of our time: Tackling Populism heads-on. Our generation will be the most affected by decisions made now in a climate of fear, recurring nationalism, isolation and increasing blame-shifting. We look particularly at populism's underlying causes and seek to develop policy proposals and practical projects that tackle these rather than their superficial symptoms. By observing where current political elites struggle, we look at ways to supplant the rhetoric of fear and hate, with one of hope. The launch conference in February will be followed by dozens of webinars and chapter events across Europe. The final presentation of the reform proposals is planned to take place in front of an audience of EU policy makers, experts, NGOs, and other '89ers in Brussels, autumn 2017.

### Current Affairs:

Parallel to the Working Cycle, we will be co-organising a major post-Brexit series of roundtables with the European Institute. The series - **Millennials: Future of Britain and Europe** - will be geared towards crowdsourcing a young vision for the relationship between Britain and the European Union post-Brexit. The final report will be presented at a major event at the LSE.

### Expansion:

Over the next few months, several new '89er communities will be established by the Initiative that will act as a means to mobilise new members to join the organisation, provide regional perspectives on the topic areas addressed during the cycle and reach local stakeholders who would otherwise be inaccessible. Again, whilst concentrating discussions around people under 40, the intergenerational element of the process will be retained and - we hope - strengthened through the participation of numerous new experts in various fields from across the continent.

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## → 6. Team

### **Barbara Aubin** – Head of Content

In Barbara's view, the world today is more and more precarious for our generation. To reverse this trend we need to unite massively and speak up for our common future.



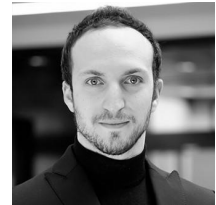
### **Nicholas Charalambides** – Treasurer

Nicholas believes that the EU, as any institution, is not perfect and the Initiative must come up with innovative new policy proposals to drive reform in the EU and help it connect to its citizens in a time of rising populism.



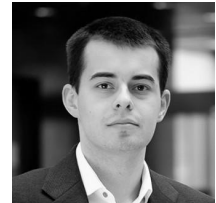
### **Michael Cottakis** – President

For Michael, success will be judged by the Initiative's ability to engage ever larger numbers of young citizens; and also, on the production of energetic new ideas that can have an impact in Brussels, but more importantly, on ordinary people in their member states.



### **Antonios Fiala** – General Secretary

Antonios perceives the Initiative's priority to be redefining the mission of the European project as the best way to serve every citizen and ensure its longevity. Ideas and policies at the supranational and national level are needed to counteract extreme rhetoric and provide alternative visions and hope for moving forward.



### **Dominik Kirchdorfer** – Head of Expansion

For him, the growing economic division and the societal changes leading to a growing rejection of mainstream political parties are the biggest challenges. Thinking about reforms is a good sentiment, but doing them is an achievement few can boast about.



### **Martin Schmidler** – Head of Public Relations

If European reform happens at all, he believes it will happen at intersections that are underserved and under-utilised at the moment. For him, the Initiative is better positioned to understand these challenges and, therefore, able to effectively tackle them.



### **Elena Turci** – Head of Events

Elena believes that the EU is a necessity all the times. She thinks that her grand-grandfathers fought with the grand-grandfathers of a fair share of her friends. Absurd, isn't it?



Press Kit – February 2017