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annual report 2013



Introductory notes

Since its foundation in 2007, EU40 is organising content events with prestigious and high-level speakers inside and outside the traditional premises of the European Parliament, as well as informal networking events aimed at getting to know each other and creating a better collaboration among young MEPs, staffers and stakeholders from various fields. With the time, EU40 established itself as a landmark for organising engaging events that draw the participation of many different audiences, not only of those usually interested in the typical 'Brussels Bubble' type events.

Our events are always young, fresh and invigorating, never boring or unimaginative. In 2013 we increased the number of partners we worked with compared to the previous year; we currently work with seven corporate partners, from different fields: **APCO, MCI-Logos, Cambre (consultancies), Enel (energy), Huawei, Vodafone (telecommunications), PlasticsEurope (plastics industry) and DocMorris (pharma).**

2013 was a year jam-packed with successful events and projects and we feel that our network is following an ascending path that will see us in 2014, in the course of this electoral year, taking new challenges and assuming new roles that pave the way towards a renewed EU40 after this term, with all the opportunities that derive from it.

Here following a summary of the events EU40 hosted in 2013:

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Advocacy 3.0. Are we there yet? Session at the Public Affairs Action Day 2013 – 21st of March

EU40 and Cambre jointly hosted a session on Advocacy 3.0 at the 2013 Public Affairs Action Day that took place on the 21st of March at Thon Hotel EU.

EU40 MEP Marietje Schaake, named by the Wall Street Journal as “Europe’s most wired politician” shared with the audience the ‘politician’s perspective’ on how she is integrating some of the new channels e.g. YouTube, Twitter, blogs, etc. into her political activities and everyday job as Member of the Parliament. Her story was among the most salient moments of the discussion – she ran for the European elections without a budget by “simply” proposing her programme in ten tweets. The other participants on the panel offered different perspectives from the advocacy arena: **Alexandra Bennett, Communications Director for WWF**, **Adam Mouchtar, Managing Director of EU40**, **Bruno Waterfield, Brussels correspondent for the Daily Telegraph** and **Thomas Spiller, Vice President Global Public Policy for Walt Disney**. Transparency was often brought into discussions linked to accountability – “No accountability without transparency” (Marietje Schaake).



From left to right: MEP Marietje Schaake, Alexandra Bennett, Communications Director for WWF



From left to right: Alexandra Bennett, Tom Parker, Bruno Waterfield, Thomas Spiller, Adam Mouchtar

Data Protection Luncheon at the European Parliament on 27th of March 2013

At the time when the “new” Regulation on Data Protection was on its way, EU40 and Vodafone jointly hosted a luncheon on “Building an Accountability Framework for Data Protection: Experiences from the Telecoms Industry” on the 27th of March at the European Parliament’s Members’ Salon. With welcome and introductory notes by **Nadja Hirsch**, EU40 MEP, Rapporteur on the Data Protection Regulation in the Employment Committee and **Thomas Ellerbeck**, Director Corporate Affairs, Vodafone Germany, the other speakers on the panel were:

Renate Schmidt, Ombudswoman for Data Protection, Vodafone Deutschland and former Family Minister and speaker of the house in the German Parliament

Richard Szostak, Data Protection Expert – Cabinet of EU Commission Vice-President Viviane Reding

Stephen Deadman, Head of Legal – Privacy, Security & Content Standards, Vodafone Group

The importance of building a climate based on trust when dealing with data protection was highlighted several times during the debate and there was also room for thought provoking questions. “What does an external ombudswoman for data protection do within a company?”, raised the attention of many of the participants and opened the way towards witty remarks.



*Renate Schmidt, Ombudswoman for Data Protection,
Vodafone Deutschland*



Richard Szostak, Data Protection Expert – Cabinet Viviane Reding

APCO debate on EU-US Energy Dialogue on 15th of May 2013

It does not happen very often that a high profile US politician finds his way to the European Parliament, so when the **former Governor of New Mexico and former US Secretary of Energy, Bill Richardson**, came together with **MEP Christofer Fjellner**, Member of the International Trade Committee, a highly interesting debate was inevitable.

Topic of the debate, which was well steered by **APCO's Director Jolyon Kimble**, was the future EU-US Free Trade Agreement and how it could help create a proper EU-US energy dialogue.

The room was packed with a very broad array of stakeholders, from both the private sector and institutional background, who are high-level players in their respective fields.

A broad consensus was found on how the EU and US can work together and learn from each other when it comes to tackling problems and controversies in the field of energy, such as the issues of fossil fuels and shale gas.



MEP Christofer Fjellner and former Governor of New Mexico and former US Secretary of Energy, Bill Richardson at the European Parliament



From left to right: former Governor of New Mexico Bill Richardson and MEP Christofer Fjellner



Ms. Imelda Vital, Director, Amway International EU Affairs Office and Ms. Claire Munck, Director Business Development of Be Angels & Belgian Director of Go Beyond.

Women in Enterprise for Sustainable Growth on 15th of May 2013

On the 15th of May 2013 EU40 supported an event by Women2020 titled “Women in Enterprise for Sustainable Growth” at Google’s offices in Brussels. This breakfast meeting for a small group of stakeholders interested in empowering women, was part of a series of events organised by the Women2020 platform whose aim it is to contribute to achieving the Europe2020 vision of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. With a keynote speech by **Dr. Joanna Drake, Director of SME Competitiveness, European Commission DG Enterprise & Industry** and further contributions from **Ms. Madi Sharma, rapporteur for Women in Business and Women on Boards, European Economic & Social Committee**, **Ms. Karen Wilson, OECD Directorate for Science, Technology & Industry, Structural Policy Division**,



Women in Enterprise for sustainable growth in Google's offices in Brussels

EU40 and League of Young Voters kick-started a European Campaign on 30th of May 2013

In May 2013 EU40 was an ambassador of the League of Young Voters, which was founded by the European Youth Forum, platform of all European youth NGOs. The League of Young Voters aims at increasing the number of young votes at the next European Parliament elections, considering the high abstention rate of young people (67% of 18-24 year olds in 2004 and 71% in 2009).

The initiative was launched on the 30th of May in the context of the “[Yo!Fest 2013](#)”, where EU40 launched a hot air balloon from Place Luxembourg with EU40 MEPs and Board members **Katarina Nevedalova** and **Esther De Lange** in the balloon kick starting the campaign.

EC President **Jose Manuel Barroso** and **Princess Laurentien of Netherlands** cut the inaugural ribbon in front of the Parliament.



With European elections just around the corner, our network is bringing its cooperation with the League of Young Voters to the next level, by organising a **two-day training with the common candidates from all the 28 Member countries from across the political spectrum in March 2014** and another training with the newly elected MEPs in June 2014.

EU40-League of Young Voters hot air balloon in Place Lux kick-starting the campaign that encourages young people to go to vote at the upcoming EP elections

Launch of the social media platform VoteMyLink on 4th of June 2013

The event took place on the 4th of June 2013 in a packed room at the European Parliament and aimed at encouraging women to go into technology related jobs, as well as promoting female entrepreneurship in ICT; still today, women continue to be underrepresented in technological education and employment. Promoting successful female role models in ICT is a way to improve women's interest and performance in pursuing jobs in this field.



Launch of the social media platform VoteMyLink

The debate showed that women **can** achieve success in IT jobs, be founders of new platforms and bring innovation and creative ideas. The launch of the website [VoteMyLink](#) is a concrete example of successful female entrepreneurship and generated a discussion about some of the current problems experienced on the Internet, when it comes to sharing content and being heard by the right people. This platform presented itself as a fresh, new alternative that adds to the democratisation of the Internet. It lends a voice to those unheard in a very loud web. The event was hosted by **MEP Phil Bennion** (ALDE) and **EU40 Board Member MEP Emma McClarkin** (ECR), together with **Erika Mann**, former Member of the European Parliament and Managing Director Public Policy Facebook, **Saskia Van Uffelen**, CEO Bull, as well as , **Co-founders of VoteMyLink platform**.

Saskia Van Uffelen, CEO Bull



EU40 is an ambassador of the MEP Awards 2013

As a co-sponsor of the MEP Awards 2013, EU40 was especially proud to be able to boast with four young award winners in 2013:

MEP Ádám Kósa, Employment and Social Affairs; **MEP Maryia Gabriel**, Gender Equality; **MEP Petru Luhan**, Health; **MEP Livia Járóka**, Justice and Civil Liberties.

EU40 strongly endorsed the MEP Awards 2013 edition that honoured the MEPs who achieved great results in their respective policy areas. We fully supported the EU40 MEPs that were nominated as top three candidates to receive the Award and we lobbied for them to be voted by the other members of our network. It is the main goal of EU40 to strengthen the visibility of its members and ensure they are known in the Parliament for their outstanding performance in the policy areas they deal with. We were very proud to sky-rocket the nominated MEPs towards achieving excellent results that are impacting directly the lives of millions of European citizens and we are looking forward for the 2014 edition seeing other active MEPs being recognised for their work in the European Parliament.



MEP Ádám Kósa at MEPs Awards 2013



MEP Maryia Gabriel at MEPs Awards 2013



MEP Livia Járóka at MEPs Awards 2013



MEP Petru Luhan at MEPs Awards 2013

Summer BBQ on June 26th 2013

Like every year, the EU40 Summer BBQ was a big success and long-awaited event. We hosted MEPs and officials from the Parliament, Commission and Council in a convivial atmosphere at Sushi's. Delicious food, open bar, DJ and a surprise sushi prize were among the ingredients of the successful evening. Everybody enjoyed themselves and was looking forward to the next big EU40 party in 2014!



MEPs training on how to spice up your campaigning skills on 11th of July 2013

Eight EU40 MEPs had the opportunity to learn from professional trainers how to improve their campaigning skills in view of the upcoming European elections. The half a day seminar took place on 11th of July before the summer break and provided the MEPs with the strategic advantage to be able to better use the resources available to them, in order to optimise the connection with constituents, and spread their political message as widely and as effectively as possible.



From left to right: MEP Petru Luhan, MEP Nadja Hirsch, MEP Katarina Nevedalova, MEP Emma McClarkin



From left to right: MEP Tanja Fajon, MEP Nadja Hirsch, MEP Katarina Nevedalova, MEP Emma McClarkin

Young, skilled, unemployed on 4th of September 2013

Nearly 6 million people under 25 are currently out of work in Europe. In some member states, more than half of young people wanting to work are unemployed. In June, Europe's leaders launched a plan to combat youth unemployment, committing 6 billion EUR to Youth Employment Initiatives and the European Commission's Youth Guarantee scheme.

Is it enough?

Will it help solve the employment crisis young people in Europe face today?

The high-level round table “Young. Skilled. Unemployed” held at the European Parliament in Brussels, was intended to debate this crucial issue which puts Europe's competitiveness in jeopardy. This half-day debate, organised by PlasticsEurope and EU40 sought to trigger a dialogue between policy makers and seven young students from across the European Union who were facing the challenge of finding a job. These students are bright minds, who have previously excelled in PlasticsEurope's Youth Parliament Debates. Amongst the speakers, we hosted on the panel **Koos Richelle, Director General DG EMPL, Patrick Thomas, CEO Bayer MaterialScience, Daniele Ferrari, CEO Versalis, MEP Katarína Nevedalová**, Dr Wilfried Haensel, Executive Director, PlasticsEurope and PlasticsEurope management team together with the six students, winners of the Youth Parliament debate, twinned with the same number of MEPs from their respective countries. The MEPs who acted as mentors for the students were **MEP Philippe De Backer, MEP Mariya Gabriel, MEP Pablo Zalba Bidegain, MEP Emma McClarkin, MEP Herbert Dorfmann, MEP Piotr Borys**.



From left to right: MEP Philippe de Backer, MEP Herbert Dorfmann, MEP Pablo Zalba, MEP Emma McClarkin, MEP Katarina Nevedalova together with the students they mentored on September 4th

EU elections made cool? EU Unplugged! on 2nd of October 2013

The European Parliament twittered: "Has EU40 just made the elections cool??!!".

"The EU elections unplugged" took place on 2nd of October 2013 at the Hard Rock Café in Brussels. The event proved to be a great networking opportunity for the guests who also participated in debates focused on the major issues facing the European Union today. The event's relaxed environment offered good food and fun entertainment spanning from Hip Hop to Rock bands.

Leaders from major companies like **Facebook**, **Boeing**, **Asterion** and **MCI** were invited along with **young MEPs from different political groups** to share their views on a wide range of topics. With next year's elections around the corner, the MEPs were in the "hot seat" and journalists from **EurActiv**, **Euronews** and **Reuters** made sure to ask them the tough questions.



EU Elections Unplugged at the Hard Rock Café at Grand Place

Huawei's Cyber-Security white paper launch on 13th of November 2013

Huawei, with the collaboration of EU40 and the Press club, organised an event for the launch of their white paper on cyber security on 13th of November 2013. Since Huawei published its first Cyber Security White Paper one year ago, there has been a significant shift towards greater cooperation on cyber security issues. On 18 October 2013, Huawei released a new White Paper designed to inform ongoing discussions on how the global industry can address cyber security challenges.

We organised a briefing for journalists in the morning, followed by a panel debate in the afternoon with **MEP Pablo Zalba Bidegain** and **Huawei UK Cyber Security Officer David Francis** to further engage in this discussion together and debate Huawei's vision and pathways forward.



Huawei's white paper launch at the Press Club on 13th of November 2013

First Policy Forum of young MEPs and MPs on 5th of December 2013

EU40 supported the Youth Intergroup of the European Parliament together with the European Youth Forum in hosting a policy forum of 40 young MEPs and MPs on 5th of December 2013 at the European Parliament, from 9.30 to 18.00. This first event was geared towards improving the cooperation between the European and the national Parliaments, in order to improve a quality transition of young people from education to employment. The event boasted over 40 young Members of Parliament from various Member states of the EU. Next to many Members of the European Parliament, European Parliament President **Martin Schulz** honoured us with his presence.

The Forum concluded with a press conference and a joint message was approved in view of the next European Council (19-20/12/2013). MEPs and MPs attending the forum also had the occasion to engage directly with civil society and youth organisations. On the 4th of December took place a networking dinner with 20 MEPs and MPs who participated the next day at the discussions, giving them the opportunity to get to know each other in an informal setting.



First Policy Forum of young MEPs and MPs with President Schulz



From left to right: MEP Tanja Fajon and MEP Rebecca Taylor



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<http://www.linkedin.com/in/eu40network>



<http://www.youtube.com/user/EU40Network>