

## **PRESS STATEMENT – YOUNG EUROPEAN TALENT (YET) Limburg**

**Limburg: European beacon for Young European Talent.**

**Young European top talents invited in South-Limburg for YET 2019**

From 12-14 November over 50 top talents from 5 European countries are welcomed in the province of Limburg for an impressive program with top speakers and visits to Limburg based scientific, business, sports and cultural highlights. The province of Limburg shows its best and strongest side to this group of young high potentials.

YET is being organised for the third time in a row by the YET-foundation which is founded by the honorary consuls: Camille Oostwegel, Fernand Jadoul, Henri van Lidth de Jeude and Ward Vleugels.

The participants of YET come from the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany and Luxembourg. They have been carefully selected by embassies, ministries, universities and companies from the five participating countries. Selection is based on merit.

### Aim

The aim of YET is to position Limburg internationally as a strong and versatile region. A region where chances lay, a region where cross border thinking and acting is strongly embedded in its people and its culture. Besides this, YET also structurally facilitates a high-quality international network and a networking event for young and future decision-makers in Europe. YET positions Limburg as an internationally oriented region that looks beyond borders to provide a network and an inspirational setting for top international talents.

The overarching theme of this year's YET is 'the chances and challenges within Europe for EU-regions like Limburg'. In this respect the organisation works closely together with the Working on Europe project. The Talents of the last three years (2017-2018-2019) will be informed, now and in the future, on the latest news regarding developments in Limburg in the fields of business, science, sport and culture.

The chairman of YET, the honorary consul Ward Vleugels adds, "At the beginning of 2019 we started - together with many partners in Limburg and a cross the border - selecting young people and started working on the program. We laid the bar very high for us and for the talents which were presented to us. Only young people who really made a difference in their specific fields of interest were invited. We are extremely proud on this year's group of hugely talented people. Some talents already contacted us to enable contacts and with companies and institutions in Limburg. That's brilliant and an important reason why we organise this project. In the three-day program of YET: information gathering, connecting, challenging and discovering are the key elements."

### European Kick-off

The YET program is kicked-off on Tuesday November 12 at 12.30h at the government house in Maastricht with a session on European cooperation, chances and challenges. Kings commissioner Bovens opens the program after which the ambassadors of Belgium (Mr. Achten), Germany Mr. Brengelmann) and Luxembourg (Mr. Hoscheit) will go into talks with the talents. Professor Mathieu Segers will bring three European propositions into discussion. An answer to these propositions will be presented to the mayor of Maastricht at the closing session of YET 2019.

### Looking across the border

In the afternoon of Tuesday, the YET participants will visit the so-called Digital Hub in Aachen. Different start-ups will pitch their companies. Thereafter the *Rector magnificus* of the Maastricht University,

Rianne Letschert, will take the floor together with the Vice rector of the RWTH professor, Doris Klee. They will have talks with the talents on the future and importance of higher education a cross the border.

#### Business and science day

The second day will start at the VDL-Nedcar plant in Born. The Van der Leegte family opens the business session after which Nick Jue (CEO ING Germany) will address the talents with some challenging propositions. In the afternoon the focus moves to the Brightlands community. Bert Kip welcomes the talents. Thereafter more than ten Brightlands companies will present themselves. The science session is further completed with a presentation by Dr. Gideon Koekoek on the Einstein Telescope. DSM completes the day with a workshop by Global director purpose and brand, Inge Massen, and a presentation by the Vice-President of Dyneema, Wilfrid Gambade. In the evening the newly appointed French ambassador, Mr. Luis Vassy, will meet the talents on his first official visit to the province of Limburg.

#### Yellow jersey

On the final day of YET the cycling province of Limburg is the central focus point with a visit to the Shimano experience Center in Valkenburg. There course director Roy Packbier will talk about his exciting work as youngest Dutch (cycling)course director. Thereafter Tour de France stage winner and bearer of the yellow jersey, professional cyclist, Mike Teunissen (Team Jumbo-Visma) will take the floor and speak about his sport and delivering top performances in sports.

#### Closing session

YET will be officially closed on November 14 by the mayor of Maastricht, Annemarie Penn-te-Strake. She will address the talents, talk about her career and work and discuss the Working on europe propositions of YET.

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#### **NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

*During YET a couple of unique embedded places are available for the media. If interested, please let us know.*

*For more info on YET please see: [www.youneuropeantalent.eu](http://www.youneuropeantalent.eu)*

If you have any other specific questions please call or mail to George Deswijzen (project leader YET)  
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