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Hoppestraße 30
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Lisbon, 17th March 2017

EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM
10 rue de L'Industrie
1000 Brussels, Belgium

Ref: *Letter of Motivation for Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe*

Dear Members of the European Youth Forum,
Dear friends,

I am approaching you with this letter, because I want to explain and share with you my candidature for the position in the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe. I am pleased to be a candidate of Youth of European Nationalities (YEN), the only European youth network that represents ethnical and national minorities.

I am representing YEN in the current Advisory Council mandate and would like to continue with the good work that we have started in this mandate, where I am responsible for the Roma Youth portfolio. It has been significantly important that YEN joined the AC because we could add a lot to diversity and expertise when it comes to the topics of minorities. Beside that I am member of the Programming Committee, that works directly with the European Youth Foundation on the revision and allocation of the youth grants. Here I see a lot of potential to increase the cooperation between the EYF and the youth organizations and how to make the administrative procedures even more friendly and accessible, especially for small NGOs and INGYOs. I am very determined to continue working on those matters.

Who am I?

On the first place, I would say I am a proud European, that trully believes in the CoE core values, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. I am a Carinthian Slovenian (small minority in Austria) that lived in several European countries. My youth activism started already in the primary school, continued



in the regional high school association and grew into European youth activism with YEN. For two years, I have been the President of YEN, so I also represented my organisation in several YFJ COMEMs and GAs. That provided me with a good overview of the work of YFJ Member Organisations and gave me the chance to work and to exchange with many of you.

#DiversityConnects...

...is the slogan of YEN's campaign which is combating hate speech and discrimination against the minorities of all kind. We had a very active year behind us and maybe even a more active one to come. This year we decided to establish partnerships with other European youth networks that work on similar topics, so Voices of Young Refugees in Europe (VYRE), Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations and Phiren Amenca joined us. Together we want to live the diversity and not only to speak about it!

In this time of European identity crisis, we must stand together to fight for youth rights and a diverse Europe. I am sure that I can contribute with the knowledge and experiences from YEN to strengthen the work of the Council of Europe. I am very much looking forward to continue my active engagement in the Advisory Council, and to equally represent the interests of all young people.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have, please find my contacts below.

See you soon in Brussels,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matic Germovšek Ž.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matic Germovšek Ž.

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