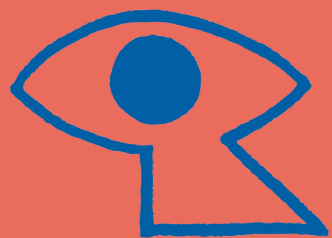


09.2026



our eye on the EU





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A CONTINENT AT CROSSROADS

Europe is currently being reshaped by a series of quiet and not-so-quiet crises, from its borders and ecosystems to its cities and digital infrastructure.

In the North, Iceland's definitive rejection of EU accession reveals the power of financial influence and national identity. Environmentally, Europe is the world's fastest-warming continent and is learning that emergency responses can no longer substitute for long-term climate resilience as heat, wildfires, and water scarcity reach record levels.

At home, a worsening housing crisis threatens youth mobility and independence, turning basic living arrangements into a defining democratic challenge. Meanwhile, in the digital realm, lawmakers are locked in a high-stakes balancing act: attempting to curb online abuse and regulate artificial intelligence without eroding privacy, encryption, and public trust.



CIVIL RIGHTS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: A DEFINING YOUTH ISSUE

Contribution by Federica Orlando, volunteer at Europiamo

One of today's European growing crises is marked by increasing rents, limited social housing, and rising pressure in urban and touristic areas. Young people are disproportionately affected, with reduced access to mobility and education due to the lack of stable living conditions.

This analysis summarises key data, youth perspectives, and potential policy solutions, including innovative models and best practices.



ENLARGEMENT

WHY DID ICELAND SAY “NO”?

Contribution by Gianluca Latocca, Executive Director at Europiamo

In late August 2026, Icelanders headed to the polls in a historic referendum on whether to reopen accession negotiations with the European Union. The result was a definitive rejection: 52.8% voted “No” against 47.2% for “Yes,” with voter turnout reaching an extraordinary 82.5%, the highest seen in a referendum since the island's independence from Denmark in 1944.

While international commentators were quick to frame the outcome as a simple case of “it's the fish, stupid,” a deeper look into the mechanics of the campaign reveals a far more complex reality.



DIGITAL POLICY & CIVIC SPACE

EU AI ACT: ADVANCING SAFER AND MORE CRITICAL USE OF DIGITAL TOOLS

Contribution by Federica Orlando, volunteer at Europiamo

With the widespread adoption of AI in today's fast-moving world, distinguishing AI-generated content from human-created content has become increasingly difficult. This poses a significant risk to information integrity and data security. Once the AI Act enters into force, the European Commission hopes that operations will be able to proceed smoothly in accordance with the established principles and policies. Whether this will be the case remains to be seen.



ENVIRONMENT

EUROPE UNDER HEAT: CLIMATE CRISIS AND THE CHALLENGE OF RESILIENCE

Contribution by Tommaso Cravero, student at the University of Turin

Heatwaves, wildfires, droughts and receding rivers are increasingly testing Europe's health, ecosystems and economies. As extreme weather becomes a growing challenge, the European Union faces a crucial question: how can climate policies move beyond emergency response and build long-term resilience?



SOCIAL AFFAIRS

CHAT CONTROL: PROTECTING CHILDREN OR SCANNING EVERYONE?

Contribution by Gaia Mirulla, volunteer at Europiamo

Few pieces of EU legislation have been declared dead as often as Chat Control, and few have returned as reliably. Behind the debate lies a difficult question: how can the European Union protect children from online sexual abuse without undermining the confidentiality of private communications and the encryption that secures them? This bulletin explains the two legal texts behind the nickname, compares the positions of the institutions and follows the negotiations now in their final phase.



POLICY PAPER

THE FUTURE OF THE EU YOUTH STRATEGY

Contribution by Fabiola Palumbo and Gianluca Rossino, Board Members at Europiamo ETS

Based on a consultation process within our community, formed by youngsters and youth workers, our vision on this issue is clear: the future EU Youth Strategy must be more participatory, more accessible, and closer to the lives of young people. The future Strategy should therefore be built around five key priorities:

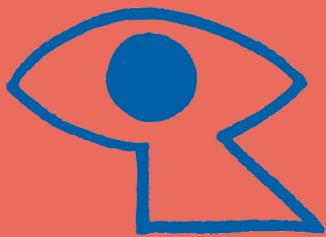
- Meaningful democratic participation
- Protection of quality of life and well-being
- Equal access to opportunities
- Strengthening youth work and youth civil society
- Promotion of digital rights that foster access to reliable and understandable information



BROADCAST

EP31 | CAN THE EU GROW WITHOUT CHANGING ITSELF?

In this episode of Our Eye On The EU, Matteo Sisto talks with Cesare Ceccato, Head of the International Office of the Young European Federalists, about the enlargement of the European Union. They discuss which candidate countries are closest to joining, the limitations of unanimity voting, and what the EU needs to change to grow without losing its values.



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