

Date: 09/05/2020

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT
SVERIGE SWEDEN



European Youth Parliament Sweden (EYP Sweden)

Dear fellow members of the European Youth Parliament,

The time has finally arrived for EYP Sweden to open the doors to the 2020 Regional Sessions; taking us from Malmö, to Gothenburg, and finally to Eskilstuna. This year the sessions fall under the common theme “Dawning with Tomorrow”, which focuses on every participant’s chance to contemplate on the position that the world finds itself in today, and be creative in seeking ways to stake out a positive future. Unfortunately for all of us, the start of the new decade may not have been as positive as we all hoped for a few months ago; but, that gives us even greater reason than ever before to embrace the challenges and find routes to a positive future. Our success in doing this will affect what shape the world finds itself in upon its dawn with tomorrow; and the National Board of EYP Sweden is full of anticipation for the brilliant ideas that participants will present at the 2020 regional sessions.

Usually this would be the time where the National Board of EYP Sweden declares that it is time for all of you to start writing or preparing applications to the regional sessions. However, this year is different. 2020 is not like any other year. EYP Sweden has over the past weeks been assessing the situation caused by the pandemic of Covid-19, and evaluating the circumstances in which the regional sessions may take place this year. The result of these assessments and evaluations, is the conclusion and decision of the National Board of EYP Sweden that **participation at the 2020 regional sessions will be restricted to members of EYP Sweden who are resident in Sweden.** This is not the decision that we *wanted* to take; but it is one which is necessary, as a step in taking responsibility for society at large and not contributing to international travel; and one which we are hoping that all of you will understand. In its deliberations, the National Board of EYP Sweden has appreciated that many months remain until November and that there is a chance that the situation with the pandemic will be much improved by then. However, that is not a chance that we can count on and trust will realise, given the level of uncertainty that the pandemic has posed and keeps posing to society. Therefore, before planning of the regional sessions continues further and the calls for *officials* open, the National Board of EYP Sweden desired to make this decision, in order to give the regional sessions greater certainty in the planning process and, in the end, the best chances of taking place. While it is understandable that this decision is disappointing to many, we hope for your understanding, and appreciation of how difficult it was to make this decision.

To all members of EYP Sweden (resident in the country), the National Board of EYP Sweden trusts that this will be an opportunity for our community to join together in order to stage the 2020 regional sessions. We hope that all of you will be more encouraged than ever to apply as *officials* and to take on roles to contribute in these challenging times. EYP Sweden needs you more than ever before, and this is our chance to show strength as a community in circumstances that pose unprecedented challenges on all of us. Together with the brilliant project managers; Kaisa in Malmö, Thea and Isak in Gothenburg, and Linn and Jack in Eskilstuna, we hope to see you at the regional sessions in November. It remains our responsibility to continue educating the young minds of Europe, and doing so with more commitment and dedication than ever before.

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Therefore, the National Board of EYP Sweden is pleased to announce that the call for Presidents, Editors and Organisers will open on Monday 11/05/2020 for members of EYP Sweden who are resident in the country. Please do not think twice about applying and making your contribution to the 2020 regional sessions; because as said, EYP Sweden needs you to join together. To all members not from EYP Sweden or resident in the country, who we unfortunately are not able to welcome to the 2020 regional sessions: *EYP Sweden will miss you and the National Board hopes to see you return to our sessions at soonest possibility.*

As always, should you have any questions about the information provided or the 2020 regional sessions overall; please do not hesitate to contact Vice President Paul Stone on paul.stone@eup.se or Project Coordinator Joel Hultman on joel.hultman@eup.se.

Sincerely on behalf of the National Board of EYP Sweden,

Paul Stone,
Vice President of EYP Sweden