

Paris – Brussels, 06 June 2013

## **European Young Leaders: '40 under 40'** **Athens seminar 13-15 June 2013**

While Europe is still undergoing harsh political, economic and social crises, Greece is facing a sixth year of recession. Still, after nearly crashing out of the euro last year and coming under attack for stalled reforms, Greece has won praise in recent months for getting back on track with deficit-cutting goals and pushing through unpopular austerity measures. But key questions remain about its economic future, as well as the overall European integration dynamic. The next European Young Leaders meeting in Athens on June 13-15 aims to bring a new collective vision on the challenges facing Europe, using Greece as an example. Issues under discussion at the seminar include democracy and fighting extremism, youth unemployment and prospects for a European "renewal".

The European Young Leaders '40 under 40' programme, launched two years ago and led by the think-tanks EuropaNova and *Friends of Europe*, aims to promote a European identity and develop leadership by engaging 40 of the European Union's brightest minds in initiatives that will shape Europe's future. Each year, forty young leaders, from diverse professional and cultural backgrounds and various European nationalities, are carefully selected to take part in a series of bi-annual 3-day meetings. The Young Leaders are asked to reflect upon the major problems confronting Europe and to generate innovative ideas that can provide lasting solutions.



The **European Young Leaders: '40 under 40'** programme is a unique European leadership initiative that aims to create a new generation of opinion leaders shaping the future of our continent and joining forces to foster our decision-makers' long-term vision.

### **A few of the Young Leaders selected this year include:**

- **Dawood Azami** (United Kingdom), Senior Broadcast Journalist for the BBC World Service
- **Cristina Batlan** (Romania), Founder of Musette, a leading Romanian fashion accessory company
- **Julien Berjeut** (France), cartoonist and comic book author
- **Max von Bismarck** (Germany), Partner and CEO Europe of Skybridge Capital
- **Jasmina Cibic** (Slovenia), photography, performance and video visual artist
- **Rokhaya Diallo** (France), human rights activist, Host and Co-Editor of French TV shows on diversity and equality
- **Konstantinos Karagkounis** (Greece), Deputy Minister of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights for the Hellenic Parliament
- **Adolfo Mesquita Nunes** (Portugal), Portuguese Secretary of State for Tourism
- **Dimitris Tsigos** (Greece), President of the European Confederation of Young Entrepreneurs (YES) and of the Hellenic Start-up Association, and Founder of StartTech Ventures

**To consult the full list of European Young Leaders for 2012-2013, please visit our website:**  
[www.40under40.eu](http://www.40under40.eu)

*EuropaNova is an "action-tank" founded in 2003 by young professionals who wanted to take concrete action, better inform Europeans and encourage direct dialogue between citizens and policy makers in the European Union. Its team consists of young professionals surrounded by experienced consultants with an in-depth knowledge of the European institutions and the various stakeholders in Europe.*

*Friends of Europe is a leading independent think tank that aims to stimulate thinking on the future of the EU. Our contribution has for over a decade been the confrontation of ideas that is so vital to policymaking and to encourage wider involvement in Europe's future. Via its events and reports it contributes to debate on all European issues. If Friends of Europe has become "a Brussels institution", that is because it is so "un-Brussels-like".*

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