

*Council of Europe*  
*The Deputy Secretary General*

Strasbourg, 8 October 2018

Dear Ambassador,

I refer to the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe and the discussions at the meeting of the Ministers' Deputies on 20 June 2018.

As stated in the Secretariat proposals (see document CM/Inf(2018)18), the 70th anniversary celebration events should be seen in conjunction with national political, parliamentary, academic and cultural initiatives, which member states are encouraged to take on a voluntary basis.

In this respect, I should like to call on you to support two initiatives which are fully in line with the above, namely the essay writing competition and the photo competition.

Please find enclosed the guidelines for the organisation of the essay-writing competition for young people at national level. I warmly invite your authorities to undertake the organisation of this competition. A national winner from each participating member state will be invited to receive a diploma at the commemorative celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg in the autumn of 2019, thus enhancing the involvement of youth in the celebrations of the foundation of the Council of Europe.

Regarding the photo competition, it will be organised through Instagram with the aim of reaching out to as many young people as possible through social media and engaging them in a wider reflection on what it is to be a European. You will be informed when this competition is opened so that you can invite your authorities to use their social media outlets to encourage young people in your State to participate.

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Finally, I should be grateful if you could inform us of the national initiatives which your authorities have programmed for 2019 in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe (see document CM/Inf(2018)18, paragraph 12.2).

Mr Rafael Benitez, Head of Protocol, coordinator of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe and his team remain at your disposal should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'GBD', is centered on the page.

Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni

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