

70% OF YOUNG VOTERS AGED 18-34 MAY ABSTAIN FROM VOTING

Flanders / Belgium

The lack of interest in politics and the disenchantment of young voters may explain this record. On Sunday, the first party in France could be abstention. About 57% of those called to the polls may not move, according to our Odoxa Dentsu Consulting survey for Le Figaro and France Info. Disenchantment with voting, perceived as having no impact on daily life, is one of the main reasons for abstention

Indifference is the second key to explanation, especially among young people: among potential abstentionists under 25 years of age, a narrow majority (51%) say they are "not really interested" in politics.

Emmanuel Macron reacted vividly. He is prepared to lower the voting age to 16. The president made this gesture conditional on the 18-25 year olds, who are traditional abstentionists, going to *"saturate all the voting counters in the next elections."*

"Five years ago, almost three-quarters of those under 25 years of age were not able to vote," said Emmanuel Macron.

210 Internet users commented on this article. Here are some of their most remarkable statements.

What is the Republic offering them, apart from stagnation, multiculturalism and nihilism (Sinnlosigkeit); elections do not interest the young, they only interest the elderly.

The vote must be mandatory as in Belgium by not going to vote on Sunday it is a blessed bread for the RN (Marine Le Pen)

A good war...it may make them vote again...

The generation of the uncultivated, those who only know how to play video games and some of those who do not have their children vaccinated.

How did we get here?

Our democracy is imperfect, the European construction is incomplete and poorly organised, but what a daily joy to live in Europe.

What have we missed so that our young people no longer see the point of taking 10 minutes to use a ballot paper? How many of our ancestors paid with their blood for this freedom of vote that half the world envies us?

Young people must vote massively, they must change the current system, the system that their parents and grandparents created, the future belongs to young people and it is up to them to fix the bullshit of their elders

It's very serious. Young people no longer believe in our society of m... And after that, they'll whine about "Did you see the Europe the old people left us?" How can we make our country more democratic? It is the failure of a disincarnate representative democracy.

The rise of "populisms" is the consequence of the democratic negation of the current system, the functioning of institutions has been totally misused, and that is what is unbearable.

I am always amazed that analysts are surprised to discover that politics, as it has become, no longer interests anyone because we know that decisions are made elsewhere.

When there will be 80% abstention, they will always be surprised? Young people have become good ignorant little consumers, who do not realize that once or twice every 5 years they can change their destiny.

Only an abstention of at least 90% could lead to the beneficial and welcome implosion of the system!

That they introduce an electronic voting system that can be used anywhere in France. The weather is fine, it's Mother's Day, if the polling station is far from where you spend your Sunday, you won't vote, it's that simple. The time when young (and not so young) people put the vote in their number one priority is over.

It is their future that is at stake! They have every interest in voting and massively!

Young citizens, even when they are registered, are generally not passionate about politics in general.

For some who can afford to travel, being able to travel without the need to present a passport in 27 countries is a significant advantage with immediate effect.

The day we vote with a smartphone, that rate will increase.

How to convince them?

When we read these comments, we are inclined to think that, like China and the United States, it is high time we invested massively in education, research and training.

In addition, it is high time we promoted a new European approach to two major challenges facing humanity today: the first challenge is technological while the second is more environmental, social and downright educational.

At a time when electoral political debates have once again become embroiled in a national and sovereign approach, it is time for the stakeholders of the future, namely the new generations and all those who educate and train them, to take the lead in truly launching a European Renewal.

THESE ELECTIONS COULD DEFINE EUROPE. IT MUST URGENTLY REDISCOVER ITS FOUNDING SPIRIT

Natalie Nougayrède (The Guardian)

Facing challenges from Russia, China and the US, the continent can no longer neglect its core values of peace and human rights

EUROPE'S FAR-RIGHT LEADERS UNITE WITH A VOW TO 'CHANGE HISTORY'

Never in living memory have we shared so many common challenges, and never has the outside world tested us so forcefully; but for all the talk of a shared European public space, we have become more, not less, parochial.

Is there still time, before we shrink further into our silos of domestic grievance, to remind ourselves of the cards we do hold? Europe's democratic and welfare state model may be flawed, but to this day it delivers the lowest levels of inequality in the world (only Canada does as well). The EU as a bloc is the only vehicle through which we stand a chance of weighing in on a global, vital issue.

These European elections, the first since the refugee crisis, since Brexit and since Trump, will in many ways define what we can or can't be – the story we want to tell ourselves and the rest of the world.

TIME FOR EYES OF EUROPE?

In the 1950s and 1960s, I benefited from free, high-quality municipal public education provided by highly educated university teachers, most of whom were

highly socially committed intellectuals, neither especially from the right nor particularly from the left. Their first concern was to arouse the curiosity of their pupils and to train their critical minds and discernment.

My daughters who are forty years old have also had this privilege but not my grandchildren and I regret it. It would be totally unreasonable to turn the clock back and return today to the educational methods of the 1960s. However, it would be completely irresponsible to abandon the priority given to critical thinking and the promotion of democratic values. This must be the very first concern of the Eyes of Europe self-learning platform.

It has set itself the objective of stimulating the values that are at the heart of democracy with the aim of training young European citizens capable of resisting the sirens of souverainistic nationalism and aggressive populism.

Today, European leaders seem to be short of ideas and the EU is torn apart like never before, and for the first time in its history, it even seems threatened with collapse. The EU appears to be politically and institutionally broken down.

To be honest, it is inconceivable, even incredible, that the EU, since it has existed and a fortiori since the Internet and social networks have developed, has not been able to adopt a real communication policy. Since neither its leaders nor its institutions seem capable of promoting "Europe", it is perhaps up to each of us to do so and, by not giving in to the anxious atmosphere of the moment, to tell our children, our relatives, our friends, our neighbours what we expect from the EU and why, despite everything, we are proud to be European. (Boris Grésillon)

In the wake of neo liberalism education budgets have been drastically cut across Europe. ***If you think education is expensive, try ignorance (Abraham Lincoln)***

If you feel national and regional education have failed, try Eyes of Europe to better train European teenagers and make them responsible voters who are proud of Europe and ready to commit themselves to it. Because they are the European people of tomorrow and the European public opinion that we lack so much today.

MARC GUIOT

Brussels, 25 May 2019

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