Annex 1. Overview of interview data

The conducted semi-structured interviews were part of a broader project, encompassing interviews with M(E)Ps from 18 to 40 years old in eight European countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland and the United Kingdom) at different level of governance (European, national, regional and local). A total of 140 interviews were hence conducted in order to explore young politicians' own perception of representation in relation to the representative disconnect, as well as strategies to repair this disconnect. Severs et al. (2025) present in detail the interview topic guide with young politicians. Further information about this research can be found on the REDIRECT project's website: https://redirect.unisi.it/. The subsequent table summarises the 16 interviews selected and used for this specific paper.

Interview code	Country	Parliament	Gender (F/M)	Age category	Name of political party
FR01	France	National Assembly	F	31-35	Mouvement Démocrate
FR02	France	National Assembly	F	31-35	Renaissance
FR03	France	National Assembly	M	36-40	Les Républicains
FR04	France	National Assembly	F	18-30	Les Ecologistes
FR05	France	National Assembly	F	36-40	Renaissance
FR06	France	National Assembly	M	31-35	Parti Socialiste
IT01	Italy	Chamber of Deputies	M	36-40	Lega
IT02	Italy	Chamber of Deputies	F	36-40	Movimento 5 Stelle
PL01	Poland	Sejm	M	36-40	Koalicja Obywatelska
PL02	Poland	Sejm	F	18-30	Koalicja Obywatelska
PL03	Poland	Sejm	F	36-40	Koalicja Obywatelska
PL04	Poland	Sejm	M	36-40	Prawo i Sprawiedliwość
PL06	Poland	Sejm	M	18-30	Polska 2050
EP01	Germany	European Parliament	F	36-40	Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands

EP02	Germany	European Parliament	F	36-40	Die Linke
EP03	Germany	European Parliament	F	18-30	Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands

Source: Own elaboration, adapted from Mansoury et al. (2025).

Annex 2. Political parties in selected parliaments

Party affiliation of speaker (abbreviation)	Name of the party (in original languages)	Name of the party (in English)	Party position vis-à-vis the government (From government / In opposition)	Date of the last legislative election	Vote (in %)	Number of seats in parliament
France						
PCF	Parti Communiste Français	French Communist Party	In opposition	07.07.2024	1.22	9
LFI	La France insoumise	Unbowed France	In opposition	07.07.2024	11.19	79
PS	Parti Socialiste	Socialist Party	In opposition	07.07.2024	9.9	70
LE	Les Écologists	The Greens	In opposition	07.07.2024	4.8	34
RE	Rennaissance	Rennaissance	In government	07.07.2024	15.41	98
MoDem	Mouvement pour la démocratie	French Democratic Movement	In government	07.07.2024	5.096	33
Horizons	Horizons	Horizons	In government	07.07.2024	4.018	26
LR	Les Républicains	The Republicans	In government	07.07.2024	9.01	66
RN	Le Rassemblement National	National Rally	In opposition	07.07.2024	37.06	142
Italy						

PD	Partito Democratico	Democratic Party	In opposition	25.09.2022	19.04	69
SI	Sinistra Italiana	Italian Left	In opposition	25.09.2022	1.8	6
EV	Europa Verde	Green Europe	In opposition	25.09.2022	1.8	6
A	Azione	Action	In opposition	25.09.2022	7.78	21
+E	Più Europa	More Europe	In opposition	25.09.2022	2.83	2
FI	Forza Italia	Forward Italy	In government	25.09.2022	8.11	45
Lega	Lega per Salvini Premier	League for Salvini Premier	In government	25.09.2022	8.79	66
FDI	Fratelli d'Italia	Brothers of Italy	In government	25.09.2022	25.98	119
SVP	Südtiroler Volkspartei	South Tyrolean People's Party	In opposition	25.09.2022	0.42	3
MS5	Movimento Cinque Stelle	Five Star Movement	In opposition	25.09.2022	15.43	52
Poland						
Razem	Razem	Together	In opposition	15.10.2023	2.1	7
Nowa Lewica	Nowa Lewica	New Left	In governement	15.10.2023	5.55	19
PSL	Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe	Polish People's Party	In governement	15.10.2023	14.4	32
KO	Koalicja Obywatelska	Civic Coalition	In governement	15.10.2023	30.7	157
Polska 2050	Polska 2050 Szymona Hołowni	Szymon Hołownia's Poland 2050	In governement	15.10.2023	7.2	33

PiS	Prawo i Sprawiedliwość	Law and Justice	In opposition	15.10.2023	35.4	194
KWiN	Konfederacja Wolność i Niepodległość	Confederation Liberty and Independence	In opposition	15.10.2023	7.2	18
European Parliament						
The Left	n/a	The Left in the European Parliament	n/a	06-09.06.2024	6.39	46
S&D	n/a	Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats	n/a	06-09.06.2024	18.89	136
Greens/EFA	n/a	Greens/European Free Alliance	n/a	06-09.06.2024	7.36	53
Renew	n/a	Renew Europe	n/a	06-09.06.2024	10.69	77
EPP	n/a	European People's Party	n/a	06-09.06.2024	26.11	188
ECR	n/a	European Conservatives and Reformists Group	n/a	06-09.06.2024	10.83	78
PfE	n/a	Patriots for Europe	n/a	06-09.06.2024	11.67	84
ESN	n/a	Europe of Sovereign Nations	n/a	06-09.06.2024	3.47	25

NI	n/a	Non-attached Members	n/a	06-09.06.2024	4.58	33

Source: Adapted from CHES data (Rovny et al., 2025), and from European Parliament (2024) for the EP.

Annex 3. Coding scheme for claim analysis

Core claim elements	Coding scheme (at the main level)	Code explanation
Addressee of the claim	M(E)P defines themselves as representative of youth: - explicitly - implicitly	M(E)P explicitly identifies themselves or their party as a representative of youth or as actively seeking to represent their interests, concerns, or perspectives. In addition, M(E)P could implicitly position themselves as a representative of youth or as someone seeking to advocate for young people. This includes cases where they emphasize issues that predominantly affect young people, align their stance with youth interests, or discuss policies in a way that suggests a commitment to representing younger generations, without explicitly stating it.
Assessment of the youth	M(E)P assesses the youth/younger generations	M(E)P explicitly addresses youth in their discourse. This includes direct appeals, messages, or statements directed at young people, whether in a general sense or in relation to specific issues.
Issue raised	M(E)P mentions an issue relevant to the youth	M(E)P mentions an issue that is particularly relevant to youth. The issue can be referenced explicitly as affecting young people, discussed in a broader context with clear implications for younger generations, or picked up by the youth mobilisations and protest movements.
Scope of the issue	Level/scope of issue relevant to youth mentioned by M(E)P	M(E)P mentions an issue relevant to youth, to determine the level or scope at which the issue should be dealt with (according to the speaker). The classification should reflect the primary context in which the M(E)P discusses the issue and includes the following levels: international, European, national, regional/local.
Justifications provided	Justification given by M(E)P to rationalise and/or legitimise their claims	M(E)P provides a justification to rationalise or legitimise their claims.

Source: Own elaboration.