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Brussels, 20 April 2015

Mayor Yiannis Boutaris,
Leof. Vasileos Georgiou 1,
Thessaloniki

Dear Mayor Boutaris,

On behalf of the European Youth Forum, I would like to extend sincere congratulations to the City of Thessaloniki on a fantastic European Youth Capital (EYC) year in 2014. Since Thessaloniki was first awarded the title, the Youth Forum has enjoyed positive cooperation with the municipality and everyone involved in the EYC year, and we're delighted to mark the occasion as you present your final report.

The EYC title provides cities with both an opportunity and a responsibility: an opportunity to showcase their youth-related cultural, social, political and economic life, and a responsibility to implement new, innovative projects that deliver on this potential and support active youth participation in society. In Thessaloniki, both before, during and after 2014, the dual-nature of this process was very clear – a broad programme of excellent events and a commitment to let young people take the reins resulted in a truly successful EYC year.

In particular, it was impressive that hundreds of events were supported by so many enthusiastic, energetic volunteers, and this was matched by practical and resource commitments from the municipality. In a city with almost 60% youth unemployment, this level of investment is vitally important. Focusing on culture, sports, health and employment, we're certain that Thessaloniki can act as a role model for the further development of youth policies on other European municipalities. In addition, a big highlight for the Youth Forum was our bi-annual Council of Members (COMEM), which was hosted in Thessaloniki in November 2013 and gave delegates from right across Europe the chance to see the significant impact the EYC year was having at the local level.

As you reflect on 2014 and present your final report, we know that Thessaloniki's focus on youth will not end here. When a city truly embraces young people – when it provides them with the tools and resources to actively participate and change their



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societies – the impact can be lasting. That these newer structures are maintained, and that the EYC's legacy carries forward, is of huge importance. In this sense, the city's work is just beginning.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johanna Nyman" followed by a horizontal line.

Johanna Nyman
President
European Youth Forum