

INTERVIEW EUROPANOVA



Sous la direction du centre des études EuropaNova

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What has been your journey to reach the position you currently hold? And have you felt, during your career, that being a woman could be an obstacle, or at least have an influence on your career path? If so, how did you overcome it?

I joined politics in my first year of university because I wanted to make a difference. Running and being elected for the student council and working for a change in my and fellow students lives, the spark for politics grew into a bright flame. I discovered my passion for European politics.

For six years since 2020 I spent all my free time working on liberalizing Europe in the board of the European Liberal Youth, the last two years as President.

The umbrella youth organisation to national liberal youth movements and the youth of both the ALDE party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament offered me the opportunity to visit more than 30 countries in that time. The opportunity to meet so many different young people and learn about their hopes and challenges. Fighting for fair opportunities for everyone no matter their background drove me. In 2019 I left my professional career as a public relations manager when being elected to the European Parliament.

In my first days in the Parliament I often have been mistaken for my own assistant. In my professional and political career I learnt that young women are often underestimated. But that just means some people are in for a big surprise.

What dimension do you think the European Union should explore in the future? What are the key values that you would like to see its representatives uphold?

I strongly advocate that the Conference for the Future of Europe starts soon. In this conference in a broad public dialogue we need to discuss together how we want to shape the future of the EU. Because it is still a project that is developing. I am working towards a federal United States of Europe. For that we need to discuss which political areas are best suited on a European, national or regional level. But in all of this we must uphold European values and the rule of law. These are and should remain the fundaments of the EU.

What advice would you give to a young woman who might be afraid to enter this sector?

Trust yourself. You and your experience are unique and you have a story to tell. Discover your passion, find the platform to lobby for it and work to acquire the tools needed to make your voice heard and get your seat at the table.