

Scheldt Youth Parliament 2025: Empowering Young Voices for a Sustainable Future

October 2025 – Zeeland / The Netherlands

Last weekend, 14 young people from Europe gathered for the **Scheldt Youth Parliament**, a cross-border initiative that provides a platform for youth to discuss, debate, and take action towards a more sustainable future in the Scheldt River basin.

Organized by **GoodPlanet Belgium**, and **HZ University of Applied Sciences**, this year's edition brought together students from various disciplines, including environmental science, civil engineering, water management, and sustainable tourism, to explore real-life challenges linked to water, climate, and community resilience.



Through workshops and dialogue sessions, participants co-created innovative ideas and local action plans to protect the Scheldt ecosystem while fostering cross-cultural collaboration. We had the opportunity to welcome two keynote speakers: Ad Faasse and Pieter Ippel.

“Such occasions are incredibly important to ignite the necessary fire for change,” said one of the keynote speakers, Ad Faasse founder of Stichting WijzijnNoordBeveland. “We must give young people a stage in such a way that it inspires others to do similar things. They are our future, and by creating a habitat for change, we empower them to shape it.”.

The Scheldt Youth Parliament not only gives young citizens a voice in sustainability discussions but also connects them directly with decision-makers, experts, and community stakeholders. By doing so, it fosters a shared sense of responsibility for the ecological and social well-being of the region.

The next step will be to translate the youth's proposals into concrete actions and present them to the **International Scheldt Commission** later this year.

About the Scheldt Youth Parliament

The Scheldt Youth Parliament is a joint initiative by GoodPlanet Belgium. It aims to engage and empower young people from the Scheldt River basin through experiential learning, dialogue, and cross-border cooperation.