

**Motivation letter – Candidacy for the position as YATA Vice-President of HR**

My name is Ulrik Trolle Smed. I am a young Danish security policy adviser with a political science background and strong skills in security analysis, organizational development and volunteer motivation. Today, I want to contribute my skills to the Executive Board as YATA's next Vice-President for Human Resources, because I want to contribute my skills to transatlantic partnership, democracy and stability in Europe, while I meet new likeminded friends, and learn and grow.

I am concerned about the future transatlantic security, looking at the political messages coming out of the North Atlantic region. I fear that nationalism might pull NATO or the EU apart, if the increasing isolationist tendencies on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean are allowed to fester. My aim is to contribute to a different narrative and course of action across our transatlantic communities – one of common democratic values, partnership and burden-sharing in turbulent geopolitical times.

I believe the best way to ensure future transatlantic security is by educating our young leaders to take responsibility at home and strengthening their relations with each other abroad. I also believe YATA is the right organization and place for me to contribute to this end.

As Vice-President for Human Resources, I will aim to organize leadership workshops for national chapter leaders. These should provide different strategies, independent discussions and concrete tools on how to develop local organizations as well as setting up transnational networks for knowledge sharing. I will also once again light the torch in search of an improved strategy for volunteer recruitment and development. To me, the most important thing in this regard is to involve chapter leaders, draw on their experiences, and return their favor by bringing them new ideas, training and opportunities for their members.

I bring demonstrated skills on organizational development and volunteer motivation. As board member of the Network for Strategic Studies, initiated, planned and coordinated 20+ security policy events, e.g. an 8-week study group for 20 participants to write Danish Arctic strategy policy proposal with seven senior Danish policymakers.

I have a proven track record of diplomatic clout, idea generation and robust program coordination in fast-paced foreign policy milieus. For example, I have assisted the coordination of a NATO ACT Strategic Foresight conference in Copenhagen, and also efficiently led a three-day Danish frigate visit to Baltimore with more than 1.000 high-level and public visitors.

I will actively use my resourcefulness and strong interpersonal skills to achieve impact-oriented results and build productive relationships with people from all levels of society. I have tested these qualifications continuously in my professional life and with several volunteer and entrepreneurial initiatives – such as by being the chief board member of the Network for Strategies Studies, director of fundraising at NGO Global Minimum, longstanding band and scout leader, and much more.

I am applying to the Executive Board, because I believe I can bring an interesting mix of professional security understanding, entrepreneurial spirit, and organizational development experience. I will actively use my thoroughness, flexibility, resourcefulness, and humour to ensure collaborative team efforts in the Executive Board, while I continuously scan the horizon for new partnerships for YATA and work together with likeminded mentors and colleagues to develop inspiring and insightful young leaders to NATO and other important transatlantic institutions.

I hope you will my candidacy for the position as Vice-President of HR, so I can contribute my skills to YATA as a platform for moderate and talented, young transatlantic leaders and thinkers. I look forward to meeting you in Toronto.

Respectfully,

Ulrik Trolle Smed