



## RESOLUTION:

### **Joint Constituency and Spitzenkandidaten**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Bucharest, Romania on the 21st May 2016*

#### **Recognising:**

- That the election of the President of the European Commission is an important part of European democracy;
- That in the run up to the 2014 elections to the European Parliament, all the major political groups in the European Parliament nominated a lead candidate, generally referred to as Spitzenkandidat, for the position of President of the European Commission<sup>1</sup>;
- That on 11 November 2015, the European Parliament passed a motion proposing formally endorsed, EU-wide lead candidates for the position of President of the Commission and the creation of a joint EU-wide constituency for them;
- That leaked documents reveal that 27 out of 28 Heads of State oppose this plan and intend to impede the advancement of the Spitzenkandidaten concept<sup>2</sup>;

#### **Acknowledging:**

- That the importance of Spitzenkandidaten is growing with the rising Euroscepticism which is partly based on the perceived lack of direct democracy;

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<sup>1</sup> [Legal Analysis of the Operative Parts of the Proposal](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Paragraph 2, Joint Constituency and 'Spitzenkandidaten', D, Presidency Non-Paper, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016](#)

- That the Spitzenkandidaten procedure has proved to increase attention for the elections of the European Parliament, as the Spitzenkandidaten are seen as the personified icons of the programme of their respective European party;
- That the Spitzenkandidaten rule is a big part of a larger push towards stronger parliamentary oversight at EU level;
- That this concept strengthens electoral accountability in the Union's multilevel system and reinforces the democratic legitimacy of European elections;
- That the Spitzenkandidaten procedure ensures that the Head of Government emerges from the legislature;
- That its formal institutionalisation would secure the endurance of the concept;
- That the establishment of a joint EU-wide constituency would ensure that all EU citizens could vote for the Spitzenkandidaten, increase the feeling of togetherness in the whole of the EU and constitute a first case of equal voting weight on EU level;
- That further steps are needed to turn the European Union into a fully-fledged parliamentary democracy.

**YEPP calls on:**

- The Council of the EU to accept the proposal of the European Parliament to institutionalise the concept of Spitzenkandidaten and of a joint constituency;
- The Council of the EU and the European Council, in a next stage, to acknowledge the right of the European Parliament to elect the President of the European Commission without any approval requirement;
- The European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Council to engage – beyond this – for the establishment of a single EU President, directly elected by the European voters and replacing both the President of the European Commission and the President of the European Council.