



RESOLUTION

FIXING THE DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting
in Nicosia on 5th of April 2014

Recognising:

- The demographic imbalance between the younger and older generations and the increasing need for the representation of younger generations in civil society
- The lack of support and understanding of Europeans towards decisions made by the European Institutions that directly influence their daily lives, leading to distrust and Euroscepticism
- The need to entrust the citizens with the responsibility of being involved in the legislative process, based on the Swiss model of referenda
- The need to promote the accomplishments and progress of European administrations to the 500 million citizens of the Union in an understandable and clear way
- That through the current sovereign debt crisis and global recession, the decisions of the European institutions are impacting the lives of European citizens more than ever in the past

Acknowledging:

- There is no institutionalised and directly elected assembly to form as Council of the Youth to European Institutions that can consult committees on youth issues and propose policy

- In Switzerland, when legislative proposals turn into law by the parliament, people have democratic instruments offered by the constitution to battle it. Additionally, the citizens have legislative initiative rights for constitutional adaptations, allowing for citizen initiated referenda
- The current status of the 'State of the Union' lacks adequate recognition and fails to reach European citizens effectively
- That legislation is initiated by the European Commission who is a non-elected body

YEPP calls on:

- Reducing the required signatures for the European Citizens Initiatives to 500.000 and harmonizing the technical requirements for signature collections
- Encouraging member states to broadcast the "State of the Union" Live on national public television in all 28 member states
- The direct election of the president of the European Commission as head of the European Union. Voters should be called on elections on the same day of the European Parliament elections
- Abolishing the position of president of the European Council, as it shares status with the president of the European Commission
- Abolishing the secret ballot in the European Parliament and making roll call vote mandatory. Full voting record of every MEP should be public on the Parliament's website
- Introducing school debates and school elections in secondary educational institutions