



STATEMENT:

### **For a New Centre-Right**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council of Presidents, Vienna, Austria on the 8th of October 2016*

#### **Recognizing:**

- The European People's Party is brought together by like-minded centre-right, Christian Democratic and conservative political parties with common beliefs and a vision for a **stronger, freer** Europe.
- We have a long history of commitment and responsibility to the common European project, tracing back our roots to Europe's Founding Fathers - **Robert Schuman, Alcide De Gasperi and Konrad Adenauer.**
- The development of the EPP has reflected that of the EU itself and consolidated us as the pre-eminent European force of the centre-right, Christian Democratic and conservative political parties.
- That the EU has a problem with bureaucracy, and that those that now embody the European Union need to connect with the youth of Europe. This has resulted in the youth voting for populist, anti-European political parties.
- *That we did not do enough to address young Europeans and their everyday problems.*

## **Acknowledging:**

- From 2009 onwards, due to an unprecedented economic crisis the political order in Europe has deeply changed. Bipolar systems are disappearing in favour of multipolar systems in which extremist and populist parties have become significant actors to be seriously, taken into account. The world faced the consequences of **irresponsible governments** around the globe. Specifically, in Europe, overspending of public funds, irresponsible lending and the mountain of bureaucracy and public intervention brought our economies to a financial standstill and an unprecedented crisis.
- The promise of a responsible handling of the crisis brought EPP parties to the helm of most European countries, with a peak in **December 2011 of 19 EU heads of states**. Today that number is down to 8 heads of state in Germany, Croatia, Spain, Romania, Hungary, Ireland, Cyprus and Bulgaria.
- Our determination in balancing the budgets, encouraging entrepreneurship, promoting free trade, cutting taxes and public spending, updating education, modernising the public sector and shifting focus on productivity and efficiency has been the right solution to creating long-term, viable growth for our economies and our societies. **We haven't done enough.**
- Looking back at the last 7 years, we believe that we could have used our power more wisely, helped each other with a spirit of more trust and more solidarity, opened up to society and its concerns and be more inclusive. The emergency of the situation meant that we sacrificed the short-term prosperity of some individuals caught in this horrible transition. **We are not proud of this result.**

The centre-right has set the foundations for the new financial model of Europe, the new business plan, the new public sector. Now it's time these foundations embrace the new European society.

**We, as the new generation, are determined to lead this change. YEPP calls on:**

- *Our leaders to recognise their share of mistakes, and focus on building from these mistakes. It is clear that the EPP lost touch with many of our citizens and have failed to relay our message to society.*

- *EPP Member Parties to modernise their structures by becoming more inclusive of civil society and experts beyond the traditional partisan and government circles.*
- *EPP Member Parties to open up to society and speak the language of the citizens.*
- *EPP to ignore the sirens of populism and keep focusing on investing in result-oriented policies and the politics of reason and moderation.*
- *EPP Member Parties to work more with youth organisations, renew their lists and give space to new leaders to emerge.*
- *EPP to lead the discussion about the internal crises in the Member States, and how they are not the result or consequence of the European Union.*
- *Our leaders to encourage legislators to include the politics and functioning of the European Union in education in the Member States*
- *YEPP and its Member organisations to reassume the compromise of promoting only the most competent and deserving centre-right youngsters and never those who use politics with egoistic purposes or practising illegitimate actions.*

**YEPP calls for a new European centre-right that:**

- *Inspires citizens by what we can achieve together.*
- *Embraces a new approach in dealing with a multipolar political order.*
- *Revise its stands and narrative of economic policies.*
- *Listens to the concerns of the citizens and tackles them; that looks beyond the numbers and directly at the people.*
- *Puts the freedom of the individual to live, work and prosper, as they so desire, without being dragged down by a big public sector.*
- *Is driven by our values, as stated in our political programme, our enthusiasm and our dynamism, and secures a better future for young Europeans*

- *We believe that national diversity and different perspectives among Christian Democratic, centre-right and conservative Political parties should inspire us and in consequence to strengthen co-operation and to be more sensitive for other regions' problems.*

***We are defined by the pursuit of opportunities. The new centre-right affirms that Europe has always been a place of grand dreams and even grander realities. We look at the future with the confidence and commitment in delivering those realities for the people we represent.***

## ***Appendix: Yepp Values***

1. Human dignity
  - YEPP affirms the inalienable dignity of every human being. We regard every man and every woman as unique, irreplaceable, and free by nature. Every person has the right and the duty to be fully responsible for himself and his acts. The protection of human rights is inseparably linked with the protection of the rights of ethnic, cultural and/or religious minorities.
  
2. Economy and social policy
  - The concept of market economy and competition is central to our approach to the economic life. Together with democracy it makes it possible to achieve freedom through the decentralisation of power. The economic and social systems are inseparably linked to each other according to the principle "as much market as possible, as much state as necessary". We consider that it is vital to ensure social justice and solidarity based on partnership and participation at all levels, non-governmental and governmental, local, national, and international.
  
3. Europe
  - We believe in the European Union, as it stands for a future of freedom and security, progress, prosperity and solidarity. European Union membership must be available to all countries of the European continent that meet the requirements of democracy, human rights and market economy. Hand in hand with the enlargement must go further integration. For us there is no alternative to European integration.
  
4. Environment
  - Our concept of man calls for management of the earth with respect for the self-regenerating potential of nature. Protection of the environment and the concept of sustainable development are bound with that of responsible growth and must be incorporated into every policy, at every level of power. Political, social and economic action should be tailored to ensure that all potential, is safeguarded for future generations.
  
5. Subsidiarity
  - We believe in the sovereignty of states which enables them to work freely and as well as they can to ensure the well-being and development of their people and to defend and reinforce the international legal order. This also means, however, that states must share their sovereignty in supranational and international organisations where they cannot take effective action individually. The European Union as a decentralised community of nations and peoples, not as a unitary super

state, must take in account local, regional, national and European levels according to the principle of subsidiarity.

6. Society
  - Each human being within society depends on others. Because they are free, responsible and interdependent, people must take part in the construction of a pluralist society. The family has a central role in such a society.
7. Values
  - Our thoughts and political actions are based on fundamental, interdependent, equally important, and universally applicable values: freedom, responsibility, fundamental equality, justice and solidarity.
8. Democracy
  - We consider that democracy is the only political system supporting and protecting the integral development of the individual. There is no alternative to democracy and the rule of law.
9. Peace and security
  - We believe in the need of a common security architecture for Europe to guarantee the peace, stability and freedom of the continent.
10. Participation
  - By lending their support to the European Union it is the citizens that give it its legitimation. The European Union requires the active participation of European citizens. Europe is not - and cannot be - the affair of governments alone.