



RESOLUTION:

For an “EU economic diplomacy” championing European businesses competitiveness and jobs on the global stage

Adopted at the YEPP Congress in Dubrovnik on 29th April 2017

Recognizing that:

- The European Union remains the first trade power worldwide – referring to the share in world trade of goods and services – although steadily decreasing while countries such as China are strongly progressing.
- Other global powers tend to adopt aggressive “trade dominance” strategies, part and parcel of all-encompassing foreign policies.
- In our increasingly globalized economies, more than 30 million European jobs (DG trade figures) are estimated to be supported by extra-EU exports.

Acknowledging that:

- Opening up business opportunities for European enterprises worldwide is instrumental for bringing growth, competitiveness and jobs to Europe, which has been a key priority of the Juncker Commission since 2014.
- Taking advantage of its extensive diplomatic network on all the continents, an EU action in the field of “economic diplomacy” presents a clear added-value, in particular to promote European SME’s, which non-European exports remain limited.
- In the meantime, Member States already have their own diplomatic channels terms of direct support to companies. In the respect of the Treaties and based on EU’s added value, any “European economic diplomacy” initiative should therefore complement this pre-existing national effort and in no way duplicate the latter.
- European Commission services, the EEAS, the EIB and EU delegations are already very active worldwide to create incentives to trade and investment, support the internationalisation of EU businesses and SMEs.

- Further convergence, coherence, articulation and more focused use of existing policies (development, trade, innovation, industrial policy, investment plan) remain needed to advance efficiently EU economic interests on non EU-markets.

YEPP calls on:

- The European Commission, the EEAS and the EIB to develop a cohesive approach aiming at maximising the gains of free trade agreements in terms of level-playing field, removing trade barriers and advancing business internationalization.
- Above-mentioned EU institutional stakeholders to rationalize, simplify, clarify and better articulate already existing EU business support programmes and actions, in order to offer a user-friendly and coherent package of tools that European businesses can fully exploit.
- Reflections to be undertaken around the mandate of the EIB, to expand its action in the field of European businesses internationalization and adapt its financing tools in accordance.
- Coordination to be improved within Commission services and the EEAS as well as with Member States' initiatives when preparing EU missions in third country with an economic diplomacy and advocacy dimension.