



## RESOLUTION:

### **Free Trade as the Source of European and Global Prosperity**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Roeselare, 05.05.2018*

#### **Recognizing that:**

- The role of global free trade as a foundation of prosperity and growth.
- The troubling attitude towards global trade rules and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) demonstrated by leaders of some of the biggest economies in the world.
- The rise of protectionism and anti-trade discourse in the European public sphere.
- The crucial importance of high social and environmental standards in EU free trade agreements.

#### **Acknowledging that:**

- The ability of free trade to foster growth and prosperity for all parties involved.
- The power of trade agreements in promoting European values, fostering peace and increasing European normative power in setting the norms and principles for global trade.
- The criticisms directed towards free trade both in Europe and around the world.
- That the answer to this criticism isn't to refrain from new free trade initiatives.
- That in compliance with global trade rules, protectionist policies and lack of ambition in engaging in new trade negotiations would in the long-run cause severe harm to the European citizens.
- That only free trade agreements with comprehensive social and environmental protections can succeed in advancing European ideals around the world.

**YEPP calls on:**

- The European Peoples' Party (EPP) to further increase its efforts in creating a European public sphere and legislature favorable to new free trade agreements.
- The Member States to refrain from trade policies directed by protectionism and anti-trade ideologies.
- The European Commission to continue working for ambitious trade goals and new free trade agreements.
- The European Union to use trade agreements not only to remove trade barriers, but also to further European values, including human rights, rule of law and democracy.
- The European Union to stay committed to the highest levels of environmental and social standards when engaging in new and geographically more comprehensive free trade agreements.