



RESOLUTION:

Increased awareness against bullying

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

Recognizing that:

- Across Europe, hundreds of thousands of children are experiencing bullying every day and a sharp rise in a new kind of bullying (cyberbullying) popped up.
- A student is being bullied or victimized when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative acts on the part of one or more students. It is a negative action when someone intentionally inflicts, or attempts to inflict, injury or discomfort upon another. ¹
- Distinction is required between bullying and playful teasing. The latter occurs usually among friends and no physical pain is involved. Nevertheless, bullying does not involve any friendly intention.
- According to the latest meta-researches, 10.3% of the victims suffered cyberbullying 2 or 3 times in a period of 2 months, while 11.3% have experienced any form of bullying in the same period. ²
- The Daphne Initiative was launched in 1997 by the EC to fund NGO projects, which aims to support victims of violence and combat that of against women, children and young people.
- With the initiative of several MEPs of the EPP Group (R. Metsola, as a flagship of the topic) and the support of every major political grouping in the European Parliament, a Written Declaration on combatting cyberbullying³ had been launched in 2016.

¹ D. Olweus, *Bullying At School* (1996)

² Peter K. Smith, professor emeritus of psychology, University of London:
http://www.gale.info/en/news/local_news/151210-ean-brings-together-eu-initiatives-against-school-bullying

³ 0123/2016 Written Declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on combatting cyberbullying and the dissemination of revenge pornography

Acknowledging that:

- This type of behaviour (bullying and harassment) can have devastating effects on the victims, like mental health problems, social stigma and in some cases even suicide.
- While most of the European mainstream political parties are already committed to anti-hate-speech legislation, more must be done to combat harassment, particularly against women, as there is no existing hate crime legislation so far.
- Cyberbullying has developed massively with the growth of social media, therefore the protection of children and young people against bullying has to be diversified.
- An official Anti-bullying Day would focus on good practices and act as a catalyst to tackle the growing problem of bullying in Europe.

YEPP calls on

- Member States to take all necessary measures, including criminal sanctions and develop anti-cyberbullying awareness with general and targeted programmes, education tools.
- The EU Commission to coordinate the exchange of best practices in fighting cyber bullying in the Member States.