



## RESOLUTION

### **Promoting Intergenerational Fairness**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Prague, 23.02.2019*

#### **Recognising that:**

- One of the main aims of the European Union is to safeguard the wellbeing of its people, and in this regard, the Union, among others, shall combat social exclusion and discrimination, promote equality of opportunities and individual freedom, and solidarity between generations. Solidarity between generations is in this extent recognized as one of the fundamental conditions for a functioning and prosperous society.
- A generational divide between younger and older people in terms of decision-making, wealth, material security and access to housing, as well as in terms of sharing the financial and fiscal burden of an aging society is growing larger in the recent years.
- Intergenerational solidarity is instrumental in tackling the problem of demographic change. Social cohesion based on honest and deep respect between generations is essential and must be the principle leading every new policy suggested and developments achieved in response to the demographic change taken place within the European Union.
- Sustainability and specifically the adoption of a sustainable social model for the future, is the most important issue policy-makers at a local, national and EU level must address and give realistic answers to, in light of the demographic change. Sustainable social development presupposes a harmonic coexistence and cooperation between all generations.
- Democracies are by definition based and therefore require the participation of the civil society as a whole. In this respect no age group should be left outside of both participation procedures as well as its representation within the processes of decision-making, in advisory boards and governments.

#### **Acknowledging that:**

- According to European Commission and Eurobarometer Surveys, more than half of Europeans consider that not everyone has a chance to succeed and that life will be more difficult for the next generation.
- Low birth rates and higher life expectancy are transforming the shape of the European Union leading to a market with a much older population structure as

well as a decreasing proportion of the working age population and an expansion of those retired.

- Figures show that senior poverty has been the point of reference for overall poverty reduction: between 2006 and 2012, pension expenditure has risen by almost 12%, despite the fact that that segment of the population has only increased by 3%. At the same time, no such rise has been aimed at young people.
- In recent decades, instead of a common perspective, common opinions and shared values, differences between young and older generations have been growing; in opinions, in attitudes, in participation. A gap between generations should not and cannot be denied. Stereotypes and segregation between generations hinder direct encounters, openness and respect as a base for new bridges; stereotypes and segregation hinder the chance to look ahead towards achieving common goals. These differences are crucial when it comes to politics and public decision-making (see falling turnout in European Parliament elections, results of the 'Brexit' referendum and subsequent reactions such as young people protesting the results carrying banners reading 'You stole my future').
- Representation especially of the younger generation is very limited in decision-making processes and especially in positions of responsibility. This fact is also undoubtedly connected to the growing youth turnout from participation and active civic engagement, leading to a greater intergenerational imbalance.
- It is vital that we look after the older generation - the generation that contributed its work and service to building the Europe we can now take for granted. Adopting policies of intergenerational strife for public spending is not the solution for the challenge of achieving a sustainable social model.

### **YEPP calls on:**

- Policy makers at every level to focus on adopting policies oriented in investing in the future. A balanced approach is needed in order to prevent the entire system from collapsing; in other words, guarantee sustainability. In this regard, policy makers should focus in including in the social security system and empowering those who could provide for all.
- The EU and Member States to focus on involving young people in the active labour market faster.
- EPP's Member Parties to promote national accessible student loan systems that guarantee equality of opportunity in terms of education, social security that does not create welfare traps, proper working conditions and flexible labour markets to counter youth unemployment.
- The EU and Member States to promote lifelong learning for all generations. To achieve a sustainable Europe, and as European societies are ageing rapidly, it is essential to keep older people in the labour market longer. For this purpose,

lifelong learning should also be addressed and adjusted to older generations and their needs.

- Member states to properly educate their citizens and provide them with the necessary professional assistance to better communicate and cater for their elderly family members' needs.
- Member states to guarantee for social service in the field of childcare as well as elderly care that are competent and well-adjusted to modern labour markets conditions.
- The EU and Member States to adopt measures that encourage labour market existing conditions to become more family-friendly, paying special attention to young families.